



Examiners' Report June 2012

GCSE Music 5MU03 01

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Introduction

This paper is based on the study of twelve prescribed works over four Areas of Study. Every year two questions are set on each Area of Study (Qus 1-8). The final question choice (either Qu. 9 or 10) is a short 25 minute essay. For question 9 this will be taken from a work from Area of Study 1 or 2 and question 10 will then feature a work from either Area of Study 3 or 4. Music heard in the examination is familiar music as it is taken from the set works. The questions aim to mix listening and perception tests with factual and historical information learnt through the two year study of the twelve set works.

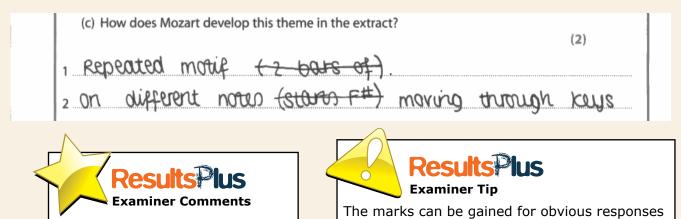
Question 1 (a)

This question was well answered in the main, although many candidates included the oboe which was not playing at this point.

Question 1 (c)

This proved to be a demanding question with many poor responses. It was hoped that candidates would have studied the conventions of a sonata form movement and the basic ideas of the development of motifs, modulation to distant keys, and in this case, dialoguing. Too many candidates just talked about the dynamics in the extract.

A good response



i.e it is repeated and modulates.

Question 1 (d)

Two credit worthy points.

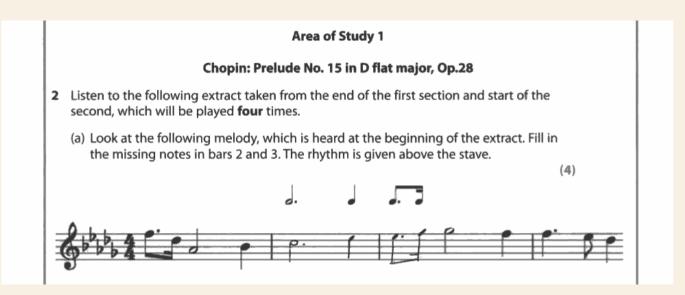
It was pleasing that many candidates heard the pedal point. At this level, 'pedal' alone is sufficient for the mark, although many correctly said 'dominant pedal.'

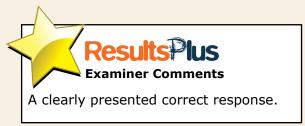
Question 1 (e)

A simple context question. Mostly correctly answered.

Question 2 (a)

This melody was straightforward as the main theme of the Prelude. Stepwise completion of the melody should have been easy, although many still clearly did not know the notes or started on the wrong note (and thereby got every note wrong!)



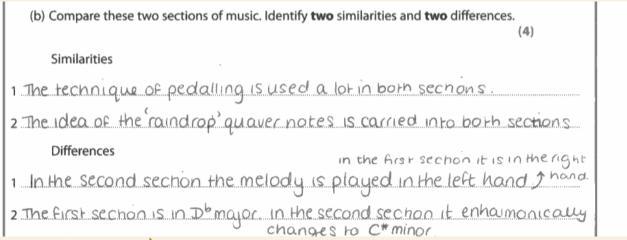




Question 2 (b)

These similarity/difference questions can be demanding and really do differentiate the ability range of the candidates. There were many possible responses. The easiest option would be to state -the same metre, tempo, pedal notes and different keys (major/minor) and melody in rh in section A and Ih in section B. There were many other possibilities too. These types of listening questions need to be practised regularly.

An excellent full mark response.





This was a textbook answer going for the obvious mainstream responses.



Always refer to the basic musical elements in the answers ie. melody, rhythm, pitch, tempo etc.

Question 2 (c) (i)

This question about articulation should have been straightforward. Most candidates found this easy.

Question 2 (c) (ii)

Question about form should have been straightforward. Most candidates found this easy.

Question 3 (b)

Nearly all candidates achieved one mark for 'woodwind', but not everyone selected 'brass' as the second response.

Question 3 (c)

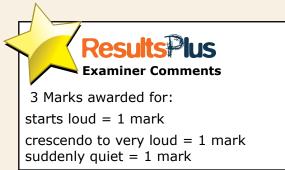
Excellent responses here for the Clarinet!

Question 3 (d)

Any question on dynamics should be answered chronologically. For three marks, it makes sense to comment on dynamics at the beginning, middle and end. It is obvious too, that for three marks the dynamics are sure to change (getting louder or softer). This is an easy mark too.

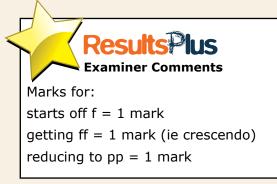
A clear, chronological response to the question.

(d) Describe how the dynamics change during this extract.
Starts loud (1), crescendoes to year loud (1).
Starts loud (f), crescendoes to very loud (f). Then suddenly quiet (p) with a diminwendo to very
quiet (pp) enforced by the clarinet playing on its own in a
(a) When was this piece composed? But a cross in the correct how



A simple, yet effective response attracting three marks!

(d) Describe how the dynamics change during this extract.	(3)
Starts Off F (lond) gettin	a 'FF' (very
loud) and then reducing to is	p' (very
quiet)	



Question 4 (b)

Well answered with most mentioning a change of key/ tonality

Question 4 (c)

Good response here with the response of the studio effect of 'panning'

Question 4 (d)

Many candidates knew minimalist techniques per se, but key to the question was '**used** in Electric Counterpoint'. Therefore phasing, note subtraction and looping were all incorrect *in this case*.

1 Note addition	
2 Layering	
3 Rhuthmic displacement 4. Ostrato	



(d) Name three minimalist techniques used in Electric Counterpoint.	(3)
1 Phasing	
2 Note addition	
3 Note Subtraction.	



An answer with three general minimalist techniques, but only one of which is used in the set work (note addition)

Question 4 (e)

A simple question really. 'Electric' because the piece uses electric guitars and 'counterpoint' because that is the texture of the music. This said, not many candidates scored two marks. Most scored zero or one.

(e) State **two** musical reasons why *Electric Counterpoint* is a good title for this piece.

(2)

1 Lots a payphony and contrapuntal textures are used.

2 All the quitars used are electric quitars





Always go for the obvious responses first. Questions are not designed to catch candidates out!

Question 5 (a)

Most candidates were able to find two correct responses, most common being reverb and delay.

Area of Study 3

Moby: Why does my heart feel so bad? from the album Play

- 5 Listen to the following extract taken from the last chorus, which will be played three times.
 - (a) State two ways in which Moby makes the vocals sound distant in the first half of the extract. (3. The sound is quiet beneath terreter louder chords on synthesise).
 - Much use of reverto a delay on sound
- 2 EQ (equelisation) to create 'distant feel' on sample



A replete answer with four correct responses:

- 1.Reverb
- 2.Delay
- 3.Quieter
- 4.EQ



Learning the key studio effects in this piece made this a straightforward question.

Question 5 (b)

Well answered in the main.

Question 5 (c) (i)

chord correctly identified in the majority of cases.

Question 5 (c) (ii)

chord correctly identified in the majority of cases.

Question 5 (c) (iii)

chord correctly identified in the majority of cases.

Question 5 (c) (iv)

chord correctly identified in the majority of cases.

Question 5 (d)

Most candidates said 'major' but sadly many said 'F major' which is incorrect.

Question 5 (e)

A demanding question. Many candidates thought that the vocal sample was *louder* rather than *clearer* or more prominent in the mix. Many also thought that the reverb had been totally removed, which was not the case. It had been reduced. Disappointing too that hardly any spoke about the re-triggering of the sample. This is mentioned clearly in the analysis.



An observant response noticing the reduction in reverb and delay.

(e) State two ways in which Moby has altered the vocal sample in the second half of the extract.

1 The Sample has been re-triggered
2 It doesn't have as much reverb.



A rare observation of the re-triggering of the sample.

Question 6 (a)

This question and 6(b) proved to be the most challenging on the paper. Like question 2(b) on the Chopin work, candidates find these similarity and difference questions demanding. The two verses selected were highly contrasted and there was plenty to say about each.

Area of Study 3

Jeff Buckley: Grace from the album Grace

- **6** Listen to the following two extracts of verses two and three of the song, which will each be played **three** times.
 - (a) Identify **two** differences and **two** similarities between the **vocal lines** of the two verses.

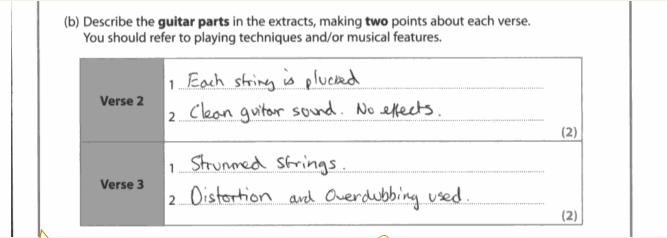
Differences	Similarities
1 Buckleysings in a	1 Both in annihilanihangita
higher register in verse 3	give a sad moved.
2 The dynamics are louder	2 Singsmostly:
in werse 3 in the voice.	sylabically.
(2)	0 (2)



Three credit worthy responses. Two for differences and one for similarities.

Question 6 (b)

As this piece focuses heavily on guitars it was hoped that playing techniques would have been studied. On a basic level 'strumming' (both verses) and 'plucking' (verse 2) were credited. Drop D tuning was credited in both verses. There were also other details such as glissando (both verses), clean sound (verse 2) and distorted (verse 3) plus many others in the mark scheme.





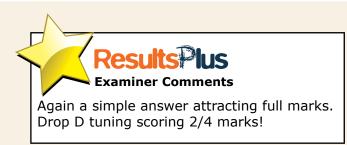
A simple yet effective answer covering the main techniques.



Always go for the most obvious responses!

(b) Describe the guitar parts in the extracts, making two points about each verse. You should refer to playing techniques and/or musical features.

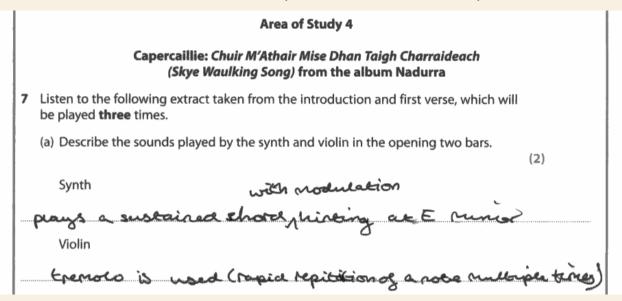
Verse 2	1 More plucked notes 2 Softer Strumming Drop D tuned	(2)
Verse 3	1 Strumming harder on the chords 2 volume is turned up Drop D tuned	(2)



Question 7 (a)

Many candidates lost marks as they talked about chords in the plural, and 'trilling' on the violin (trilling has two different pitches).

This said, the correct term of tremolo was prevalent in candidate responses.





A good full answer. with four points for the two marks!

sustained = 1 mark modulation = 1 mark E minor = 1 mark tremolo = 1 mark max. 2 marks given

Question 7 (b)

Many candidates just named instruments they knew were in the piece, rather than *heard in the extract*.

Average mark here was about 2 out of 4.

(b) Name four other instruments	(b) Name four other instruments heard in this extract.	
		(4)
1 boweouki	maanna maann	oundered the second sec
2 arm kit		
3 mulitzer pieno	hannan markan hannan marka	
4 bass quitar		



Question 7 (d)

Clearly not many candidates knew what a lament was! They simply wrote down features of walking songs in general, as was asked for in a question on this work from the 2011 paper.

The simple responses required were that the music is slow (1) and in a minor key (1) with sad lyrics (1).





Question 8 (a)

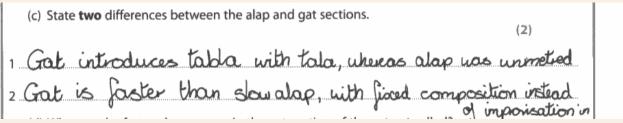
'Bansuri' was a common response. Too many said just 'flute.'

Question 8 (b)

Tambura was a common response.

Question 8 (c)

This is a straightforward question testing knowledge of the conventions of the *alap* and *gat* sections in any raga performance. Many achieved the 2 marks.





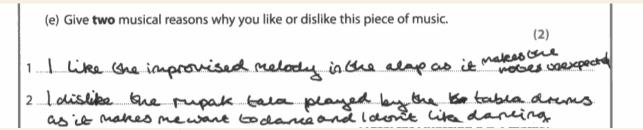
Question 8 (d)

'Tan' was a common answer.

Question 8 (e)

Candidates could give two 'likes' or two 'dislikes' or one of each.

Responses to this question must have a musical reason. 'I dislike the music because I find it boring' is not a musical reason.







Always refer to a musical element. The answer here refers to 1) melody and 2) rhythm.

Question 9 (a)

'Romeo and Juliet' was the common response.

Question 9 (c)

This essay had plenty of credit worthy points. The examples below show a weak answer and a first class response.

*(c) Comment on how Bernstein uses the following musical elements in Something's Coming.

• Melody

• Rhythm

• Harmony/Tonality

• Structure

• Instrumentation

Remember to use correct musical vocabulary where appropriate.

(10)

The Structure Of this Piece is in terms and comments of the second of the secon

The Instrumentation as is essent Vocals

a support is appeared showing how
he feet it speeds apand slows down

I tuse a word painting in sertain fraises.

the Harnow is monophonic molody and according to The Picece it Quite thick has a line Signiture of 3 but Sounder



Just two points.

Melody

Word painting = 1 mark

Rhythm

No marks

Harmony/Tonality

No marks

Structure

No marks

Instrumentation

- 3 instruments quoted = 1 mark
- 2 bullet points achieved, maximum mark out of 4.

A first class answer.

- *(c) Comment on how Bernstein uses the following musical elements in Something's Coming.
 - Melody
 - Rhythm
 - · Harmony/Tonality
 - Structure
 - · Instrumentation

Remember to use correct musical vocabulary where appropriate.

(10)

The melody varies quite a lot throughout the piece. There ere the solo roice is inhoduced with an augmental 4th or hitme which becomes a common feature in both the word and instrumental part. It continues with a melody that is bard on the opening rift which is symposted before oringing accented quarter, pulting emphasis on important word such as 'down' and 'shy'. The second section seen the opening rift reintenduced in the vocal line but at a slower pare and provides symposhion with the orchastra. The third rection introduces a more lyrical melodic idea which is higher in the singer: They wife and is mainly comprised of Gong-hold notes

Beenslein uses a lot of syncopatrion The between the orchestra and the solo ringer or within the orchestra inelf. This is made clearer from the introduction where the box line emphasises each beat of the 3/4 boar equally while the rift is syncopated. Push-rhythms are a common feature of the prese. The tried quarer before the crotchest drives or pushes the piece forward which emphasises Tony's articipation for Something coming.

Sme jazz is a major influence, a lot of jazz harmony s wed in the otherwise simple D major key. Extended chards and blue notes are commonly weed in the long hold notes played by the Jaccompanying brass and which seems to supplement his use of jazz harmony. Can rencommon occurrence then and instead of hiding it. Occasionally the place hims at botomabity, displaying notes of both D major and C major scales. before it generately modulates to For example, when it modulates to C, there are still F#s weed in the orchestra.

The structure comprises of the intro which in troduces the syncopated ritterent and then goes onto the three differing occhion, which each introduce different welodic ideas and either a non time signature or key. The outro is populad until it fades. The instrumentation makes use of a full or hestra which play quietly so as not to drown out the stanger. The troops use mutes and the stringsoften use pixzicato to emphase emphasise this. The or hestra mainly accompanies the solo singer and emphasizes the accords of the vond line with or hestra hits. They also add atmosphere, for example, the strings playing high, ghostly tremelos when tony strys that 'the air is humming'.



Melody

Augmented 4th = 1 mark, opening riff = 1 mark, long held notes = 1 mark, blue notes = 1 mark

Rhythm

syncopated = 1 mark, accented quavers = 1 mark, cross rhythm = 1 mark, push rhythms = 1 mark

Harmony/Tonality

augmented in instrumental part = 1 mark, jazz harmonies = 1 mark, D major key = 1 mark, extended chords = 1 mark, bitonality = 1 mark

Structure

introduction = 1 mark, outro = 1 mark

Instrumentation

full orchestra = 1 mark, brass use mutes = 1 mark, strings pizz = 1 mark, strings tremolo = 1 markAll bullet points answered with at least 2 credit - max. 10 marks given

Question 10 (a)

'Ostinato' was frequently given as the correct answer.

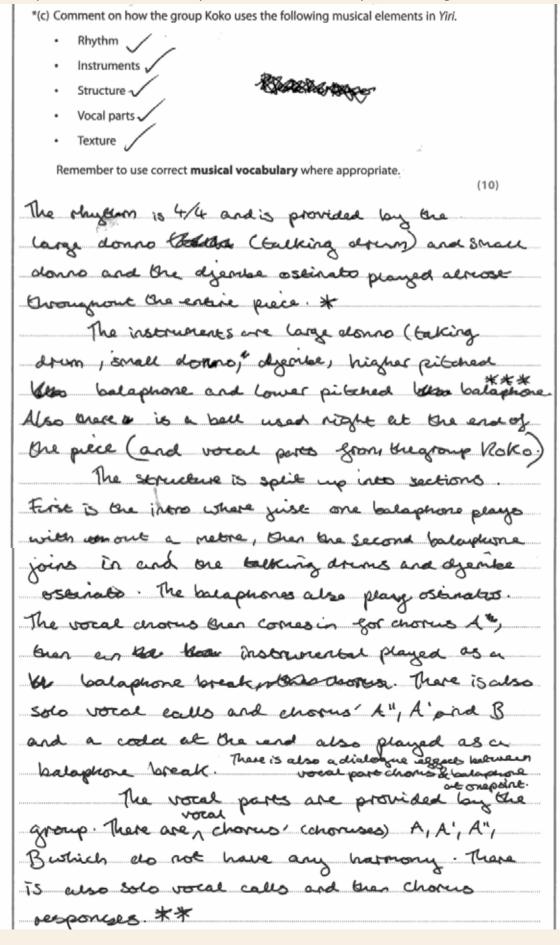
Question 10 (b)

'Burkino Faso' or Africa was correct here.

Question 10 (c)

A straightforward essay question with plenty of credit worthy responses available.

An example of an excellent response and a weak response are given below for comparison.



The tecens is gairy simple the The irono is monophonic and is provided balaphone. When the second balaphone joins heterophonic Cas the nelody and see solo vocal talking drums and d I E is upbeat and creates an egget perta torric 米牧 女 on which (high pitch loces prons) rolls



An excellent response with many points answering all 5 bullet points. Marks for:

Rhythm

ostinato = 1 mark

Instruments

talking drum/djembe/donno = 1 mark, balofon = 1 mark, bell end = 1 mark,

Structure

intro = 1 mark, instrumental = 1 mark, coda at end = 1 mark, chorus = 1 mark, vocal calls then chorus responses (call and response) = 1 mark

Vocal parts

solo vocal calls = 1 mark, and chorus (chorus responses) = 1 mark, G flat major = 1 mark, pentatonic = 1 mark

Texture

monophonic = 1 mark, heterophonic = 1 mark

Max. 10 marks given.

The rythm in yiri is very apparent, it keeps a Steady I throught the Piece which is what makes it good to dance to.

The instruments are basic rudinentary drums and vocats. Some of the different drums are the dun dun's which keep the rythm.

In another language, Viri means wood, which mans that this song is about wood and how worderful getting wood is. It is Stuctured as ABCD etc., also known as through composed. The vocal parts are sury by a group of roudy africars, in a call I response

Style. This is when one vocalist Says
Something and the others reply through Song.
The texture is simple at first but builts
up to a myriad of drums I voices. The
entire piece was Composed for african
tribesness to play, dance to, and all join
in. This particular recording is from a band
named Koko.



A weak answer with only 3 points worthy of marks ie.

Rhythm

Instruments

drums = 1 mark, dun duns = 1 mark

Structure

call and response = 1 mark

Vocal parts

Texture

Paper Summary

In order to improve their performance, candidates should bear in mind the following advice.

Candidates should listen to the prescribed works as much as possible to internalise the complete structure of the music.

- Candidates should practice listening to extracts (of approximately one minute duration) from different sections of the piece and not just the opening bars
- There are many facts on each of the twelve pieces. Candidates should create key fact cards or similar summarising the salient points which are then often tested in the questions
- For dictation questions (which includes chord sequences, rhythms etc), the principal melodies in the pieces should be studied and used as practice dictation exercises
- The weakest answers are often of the compare and contrast or similarities and differences nature. Practice these using any of the verses/choruses, section A to section B etc. in the set works.
- The essay question can effectively be thoroughly prepared. Key fact cards on the musical elements, such as structure, harmony, texture, rhythm, melody etc. will be invaluable.
- Finally there are now many practice paper resources to aid efficient revision and preparation for this paper. As in any subject at GCSE level, it is the quality and quantity of revision that will determine the degree of success on 5MU03.

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