

MUSIC

AS



# Summary of Assessment

## Unit 1: Performing 15 % - External Assessment by WJEC

### Solo and/or ensemble performance

- Performance should last between 8 and 10 minutes
- One piece should reflect a chosen area of study
- Assessed by visiting examiner

## Unit 2: Composing 15% - Assessed internally and moderated by WJEC

### Two contrasting compositions

- Compositions should last between 4 and 8 minutes
- One composition demonstrating the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition
- One free composition
- Teacher assessed and externally moderated

## Unit 3: Appraising 20% – External Assessment by WJEC

### One listening examination in two parts

- Part 1: (12%): 1 hour appraising test based on extracts of music (set works) taken from the two Areas of Study selected for study by the centre
- Part 2: (8%): 1 hour aural perception (melodic dictation, keys, chords, cadences) based on unprepared musical extracts

# Unit 1: MU1 Performing 15%

- Candidates are required to present a performance of between a minimum 8 minutes and a maximum 10 minutes in length demonstrating contrasting styles as

a member of an ensemble;

- The performance should normally consist of three or more performers of which a minimum of two must be present alongside the candidate during the presentation, (i.e. not pre-recorded on tape).
- Exceptionally a **bona fide** duo is acceptable, e.g. lieder accompaniment, piano duo (where the candidate must take the lead). Where there is an element of doubt concerning the ensemble, centres should contact WJEC.
- Care should be taken to select a suitable piece which will demonstrate the candidate's skill in ensemble playing.
- The candidate's part must not be doubled in any part of the ensemble.
- The other members of the ensemble need not be entered for the examination.
- Ensemble performances must not be conducted.

**or**

- (b) a solo performer on any instrument or voice

**or**

- (c) a combination of (a) and (b).
- One of the pieces performed must be a realisation of a composition submitted in MU2 **or** should reflect one of the Areas of Study chosen for AS / studied in MU3. *GCE AS and A MUSIC 16*
- Candidates who choose to perform one of their own compositions are advised to select a suitable piece ensuring that it allows them the opportunity to demonstrate their highest performing skills.
- Candidates are not restricted to one instrument/voice.
- The performances (solo and/or ensemble as appropriate) will be recorded and externally assessed by a visiting examiner at a centre determined by WJEC.
- Candidates are required to provide the examiner with details of the programme and photocopies of the music performed at the time of assessment.
- WJEC's examiners will visit centres to assess this unit on a specified date during April/May.

A copy of the music must be provided. The pieces performed at AS should be at a higher level than that of GCSE, showing greater technical and interpretative demands of approximately grade 5 standard. If the music played is lower than grade 5 then the mark awarded will be scaled down, and scaled up if the music is higher than grade 5.

Performances will be judged using 3 equally weighted criteria. These are:

- Accuracy of rhythm and pitch
- Technical Control
- Expression and appropriate interpretation
- Appropriate pace and fluency
- Effective use of dynamics
- Stylistic awareness
- Empathy (in ensemble playing)
- Quality of written communication is assessed with learners required to write a programme note for one of their chosen performance pieces. Learners should use appraising skills to evaluate and make critical judgements about the piece. Appropriate musical terminology will be expected and the programme note should be between 500-1000 words in length.

# Unit 2: MU2 Composing 15%

This unit will allow candidates to develop and demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of musical elements such as the fundamentals of harmonic progressions and relationships as well as showing an awareness of certain musical styles.

Candidates are required to submit **two** contrasting compositions:

One composition must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition;

One free composition.

- The total playing time of the submission should be between a minimum of 4 minutes and a maximum of 8 minutes. The use of music technology is to be encouraged in this area of study. However, unoriginal, pre-recorded music samples should be avoided: if used, they must be indicated clearly on the form provided by WJEC to accompany each composition.

Compositions should display:

- development of musical ideas
- an understanding of balance, form and structure
- appropriate use of voices, instruments and/or synthesised sounds
- sensitivity in relation to timbre and texture
- consistency of style
- technical knowledge of the medium used
- an understanding of appropriate harmonic procedures.

# Unit 3: MU3 Appraising 20%

External assessment will take the form of a 2 hour examination, divided into two parts – Parts 1 and 2. The questions will be set by WJEC and the musical extracts for Parts 1 and 2 recorded on CD. The examination will be held on a specified date in May / June.

## Part 1 (12%)

- This will consist of a 1 hour appraising test based on extracts of music taken from the set works linked with the two Areas of Study selected by the centre. The study of the chosen set works will give candidates the opportunity to explore the relationship between music and its context and to identify the influences which maintain continuity and cause change. Each extract will be played three times, with suitable pauses to allow candidates to write their responses.

Through detailed study of the set works, candidates will be required to:

- focus on aspects of the set works such as, for example, melody, harmony, rhythm, tonality, instrumentation, form and texture;
- comment on the structural, expressive and contextual aspects of the music;
- place the selected Area of Study within the broader musical perspective;
- demonstrate a depth of understanding and apply their knowledge and use of specialised vocabulary.

## Part 2 (8%)

- This will consist of a 1 hour **aural perception** test based on unprepared musical extracts taken from the Western Classical Tradition.

Candidates will be required to:

- comment on the structural, expressive and contextual aspects; this may include, for example, reference to instrumentation, texture, tonality, continuity and change;
- make judgements based on the identification of musical characteristics;
- complete a short section of a skeleton score with regard to pitch and rhythm;
- recognise cadences and name modulations (to nearly related keys and to the tonic major / minor).