

A Level Music
H543/03, 04 Composing
Section 1: Sample Composition Briefs

**To be given to candidates on or after
1 September of the academic year the qualification
will be awarded.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

- You must create a piece of music using **one** of the briefs from the six Areas of Study.
- Your composition is to be submitted as a recording. This is to be accompanied by a score, an annotated lead sheet or written account of the piece.
- The piece should be composed for instruments and / or voices as specified by the brief.
- Group compositions are not permitted.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The total number of marks available for this paper is **35**. This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Choose **one** of the following briefs.

1. Area of Study 1: Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven

Compose a Minuet and Trio movement for an ensemble of acoustic instruments. This music will form part of the soundtrack of a TV documentary. You should use two, three or four acoustic instruments **or** one acoustic instrument accompanied by keyboard.

[35]

2. Area of Study 2: Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band

Write a song for performance at a public concert celebrating 1930s Swing entitled, 'Swing-Song'. You should use a solo singer with Big Band accompaniment of no more than ten players. Each of the 'sections', rhythm, brass and saxophone, should be represented. You may select existing words or write your own for use as lyrics.

[35]

3. Area of Study 3: Developments in Instrumental Jazz 1910 to the present day

Compose a piece for a small jazz ensemble to be performed at a festival of jazz ensembles. You could use any jazz techniques from 1910 to present day **or** choose to work in a more avant-garde style. You should use at least four instruments which can be acoustic or amplified.

[35]

4. Area of Study 4: Religious Music of the Baroque Period

Compose a piece for a choir to be performed at a service of celebration. Your choir should have three or four parts and can be unaccompanied **or** accompanied by a keyboard instrument. You may choose any appropriate words.

[35]

5. Area of Study 5: Programme Music 1820–1910

Compose a set of three short pieces under the collective title of 'Pastoral scenes'. You may write for a single polyphonic instrument such as guitar or piano **or** for a small ensemble of no more than four instruments. The music is to be performed on the occasion of a viewing of 19th century fine-art paintings prior to auction.

[35]

6. Area of Study 6: Innovations in Music 1900 to the present day

Compose a motif and make use of motivic transformations to complete a soundtrack for a video game. You can write for any combination of instruments. Make use of any appropriate musical techniques you have studied within this Area of Study. The music can be composed using any medium that uses acoustic **or** amplified instruments **or** a combination of acoustic and amplified instruments.

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