



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**To be given to candidates on or after
1 September 2022
for assessment in June 2023**

GCSE (9–1) Music

J536/03, 04 Practical Component

Composition Briefs

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) Task



INSTRUCTIONS

- Choose **one** of the composition briefs.
- Choose a stimulus to use as a starting point for your composition.
- Create a piece of music for the brief and stimulus you have chosen.
- Use the complete stimulus in your piece. You must develop and extend the stimulus.
- Submit your composition as a recording and include **one** of the following:
 - an accurate hand-written score
 - an accurate computer-generated score
 - an annotated lead sheet
 - a written account of your piece
 - (an) annotated full-colour screenshot(s) of your complete composition.
- If any part of the recording is **not** performed by you, each additional performer must play exactly what you submit in the score, annotated lead sheet or written account.
- Group compositions are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark is **30**.
- This document has **8** pages.

Guidance

Choose a composition brief, and then choose a stimulus from **one** of the following options to use as a starting point for your composition:

1. Note pattern
2. Note pattern
3. Rhythmic phrase
4. Rhythmic phrase
5. A short story
6. An image
7. A set of words
8. A chord sequence

You will find that some of the stimuli are better suited to certain Areas of Study and there are some restrictions on which stimuli you can use with some of the briefs.

Where relevant, the stimulus may be transposed.

Your composition can be for any appropriate combination of instruments and/or voices.

You may need to provide some additional information, particularly for Area of Study 4, to make sure that the moderator has a clear idea of your intentions for the composition.

Choose **one** of the following composition briefs:

Area of Study 2: The Concerto Through Time

- Choose either one of the note patterns **or** one of the rhythmic phrases and create one of the following:
 - a piece for a solo instrument with a continuo accompaniment
 - a piece for a solo instrument with a piano accompaniment
 - a piece for a solo instrument with a small ensemble to accompany.The composition should be suitable to play at a school music festival.

Area of Study 3: Rhythms of the World

- Choose one of the given stimuli and create a piece in a world music style that you are familiar with. If your piece is in a style that is not from one of the areas of study then please provide some supporting information. Your piece should be suitable to play at the opening of an international sporting event.

Area of Study 4: Film Music

- Create a short scene based on the image or the short story and create a descriptive piece to accompany it. Alternatively you may use one of the other stimuli and create your own scene and create a descriptive piece to accompany it. (Relevant supporting information **must** be provided, detailing your scene.) Your piece will be played as part of a young composers competition.

Area of Study 5: Conventions of Pop

- Create a popular song that might be played at a shopping centre as people are busy moving in and out of the shops. You may use any of the stimuli and your piece may be a ballad, a rock song or any other appropriate popular style.

Having chosen an Area of Study brief, now choose **one** of the following stimuli to use as a starting point for your composition:

1 Note pattern

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: D1, B, G, F#, G, E, D.

2 Note pattern

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The notes are: G, Bb, A, C, D, Bb, A.

3 Rhythmic phrase

A rhythmic phrase in 4/4 time signature. The notes are: quarter note, quarter note, beamed eighth notes, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note.

4 Rhythmic phrase

A rhythmic phrase in 3/8 time signature. The notes are: quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, beamed eighth notes, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note.

5 A short story

Everything is calm and peaceful. Gradually the leaves on the trees begin to rustle as

6 An image



7 A set of words

The stars are bright in the moonlit sky,
The fact that you love me, I don't know why.
These moments are precious with you by my side,
Let's stay together as through life we glide.

8 A chord sequence

The image shows a musical staff in G major (one sharp) with four chords: G, D, Bm, and A7. Above the staff, each chord is represented by a guitar fretboard diagram with its name and fingering: G (000032), D (xx0232), Bm (x24422), and A7 (x02020). Below the staff, the corresponding chords are shown as vertical stacks of notes on a five-line staff.

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