



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**To be given to candidates on or after  
1 September 2023 for assessment in June 2024**

## **A Level Music**

**H543/03, 04** Composing

Section 1: Composing briefs



### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- Choose **one** of the briefs. Create a piece of music from the brief you have chosen.
- You must submit your composition as a recording and include a score, an annotated lead sheet **or** a written account of the piece.
- Group compositions are **not** allowed.

### **INFORMATION**

- The total mark is **35**.
- This document has **2** pages.

Choose **one** brief

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

Compose an Overture for a classical style Opera. Use forces which would have been familiar to Mozart and write for a minimum of eight instrumental parts. The Overture will be performed at La Scala, Milan, as part of a gala concert in the summer of 2024.

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

Compose a song for a new Billie Holiday tribute act launching in the spring of 2024. The song can use pre-existing lyrics, or you can write your own. The backing band should consist of forces appropriate to the area of study and have at least four instrumental parts. The first performance will take place at Bill's Place, 133rd Street, New York, where Billie Holiday first performed as a teenager.

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

Compose an instrumental jazz piece which will be used as the signature tune for a documentary series tracing the life and work of Benny Goodman. The programme will be broadcast on a worldwide streaming network in the summer of 2024. The piece should have a minimum of five instrumental parts and use forces appropriate to the Swing era.

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

Compose a sacred choral work with a celebratory theme, to be performed in a service scheduled to take place in June 2024 at Westminster Abbey, London. Write for SATB choir with orchestral accompaniment. The orchestral forces should reflect Baroque traditions and have a minimum of six instrumental parts. Words can be borrowed from an existing text or you may write your own.

**5 Area of Study 5: Programme Music, 1820–1910**

Compose an orchestral piece which depicts a season, such as a Scottish autumn, a Canadian winter, or an Indian monsoon. Drawing inspiration from the Romantic era, and using forces appropriate to the area of study, create a piece which has a clear narrative and contrasting moods. There should be a minimum of eight instrumental parts. The composition will be used as part of an advertising campaign by the tourist board of a region or country of your choice.

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

Compose a set of two contrasting dances which will draw on the ideas or traditions of one of the Celtic nations – Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Man or Brittany. Write for any number, variety, or combination of instruments. The composition will be used at a music festival in Penzance, to celebrate the life of British composer Malcolm Arnold, who was made a Bard of Gorseth Kernow in 1969, and took the Bardic name, *Trompour* (Trumpeter).

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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