



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

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

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 one of the given stimuli and create an instrumental piece for one, two or three solo instruments. Add an accompaniment of your choice. Your composition will be performed at the opening of a new café.

Area of Study 3: Rhythms of the World

- Choose **either** one of the note patterns **or** one of the rhythmic phrases **or** the chord sequence and create a piece in any world music style that you have studied. Your composition should be suitable to perform on United Nations Day.

Area of Study 4: Film Music

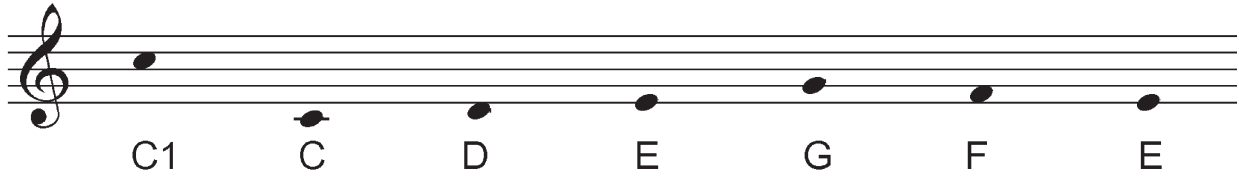
- Using one of the given stimuli create a descriptive piece that could be performed during the interval of a play. You **must** provide relevant supporting information, appropriate to the stimulus that you have chosen:
 - A description of how you have used the image, **or**
 - Your continuation of the short story, **or**
 - An outline of your own story if you have used one of the other stimuli.

Area of Study 5: Conventions of Pop

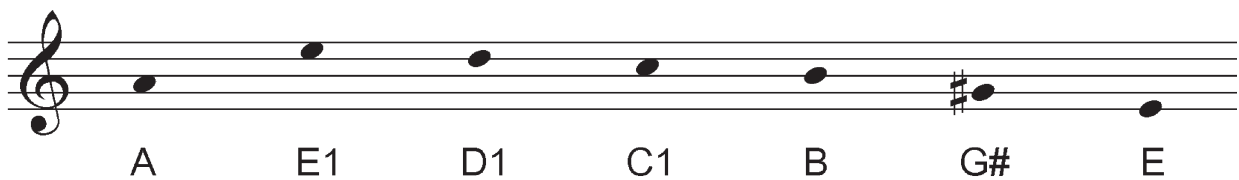
- Choose **either** one of the rhythmic phrases **or** the words **or** the chord sequence and create a song in a style of your choice. Your song will be performed during a concert in a local park.
You **must** provide words for your song appropriate to the stimulus you have chosen:
 - Rhythmic phrases – write your own words
 - Words – use the stimulus words and extend them as you wish
 - Chord Sequence – write your own words

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



2 Note pattern



3 Rhythmic phrase



4 Rhythmic phrase



5 A short story

It was midnight. The tower stood out against the moonlit sky. Above the tower they saw.....

6 An image

7 A set of words

Every step is a small step closer
To where I want to be.
Things knock me back but I keep on going
To the place I want to be.

8 A chord sequence

The image shows a musical staff in G major (one sharp) with four chords: G, C, Em, and D7. Above the staff are four guitar chord diagrams. Below the staff are four chord symbols represented by black dots on the lines of the staff.

G
○○○

C
x○○○

Em
○○○○

D7
xx○○

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