**OCR**

Oxford Cambridge and RSA

# A LEVEL

## Examiners' report

# MUSIC

**H543**

For first teaching in 2016

## H543/01/02 Summer 2024 series

# Contents

# Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

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# General overview

It is always a pleasure listening to candidates' performances which are the culmination of many years of practice and preparation, and examiners reported hearing a very wide variety of instruments also. Teachers and accompanists are thanked for their work and dedication in helping candidates flourish in this component.

Most centres uploaded the necessary video recordings, scores and coversheets to the repository successfully and on time. However, there were some anomalies, where items were missing, or were in an unhelpful format, or could not be opened. This delays the marking of candidates' work. There are still some submissions on memory sticks being sent to examiners by post. As mentioned previously, examiners are advised not to open these, and centres are contacted by OCR with alternative ways to upload the material.

Scores that appear as one continuous PDF document are the most helpful, and centres are urged to do this. The least helpful are photographs of individual pages that then have to be opened individually. Sometimes pages are upside down or there are pages missing.

Cover sheets need to be included, as examiners cannot assess candidates' work if they do not know which pieces are intended for each section.

Videos also need to be compressed; some took an extremely long time to download due to their size.

| Important specification guidance |
|---|
| Centres do need to ensure that a candidate's recital is recorded as one complete, unedited performance on one occasion only. |

| Candidates who did well generally: | Candidates who did less well generally: |
|---|---|
| • performed music that was appropriate to their level of competence<br><br>• played for the appropriate amount of time<br><br>• took time to check the balance of backing tracks<br><br>• tuned carefully throughout the recital<br><br>• demonstrated sound stylistic awareness and critical understanding of the music being performed, including improvised solos<br><br>• submitted accurate scores that reflected what was performed, and differences/additions clearly annotated<br><br>• performed with a sense of stage presence and outward facing communication<br><br>• were clearly seen on the video, not hidden behind pianos or music stands<br><br>• showed secure ensemble and balance with accompanist. | • performed music that was too difficult for them<br><br>• did not perform for at least the minimum time required<br><br>• performed for considerably over the minimum time, often tiring.<br><br>• performed with a backing track that was too loud or too soft, or had an audible click track<br><br>• submitted scores that bore little resemblance to what they actually performed<br><br>• did not include sufficient rhythmic, structural, and performance details on tab scores<br><br>• did not tune carefully and often enough<br><br>• performed with their backs to the camera or into the music stand<br><br>• lacked outward projection and communication of the musical message<br><br>• showed limited stylistic awareness. |

## Most common causes of centres not passing

Very few candidates do not pass in this area, as it is usually a strength. If they don't, it is usually due to insufficient knowledge of the music, lack of technical control and musical detail.

Please make sure the duration of the pieces reach the minimum requirements as detailed in the specification.

## Common misconceptions

Candidates do not need to announce their pieces.

## Avoiding potential malpractice

Make sure the whole recital is recorded in one unedited take as stated in the specification.

## Helpful resources

OCR can help with uploading recital materials.

## Additional comments

Any performance on a second instrument needs to be at least of the same level as the first instrument.

# Supporting you

## Teach Cambridge

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**Don't have access?** If your school or college teaches any OCR qualifications, please contact your exams officer. You can forward them this link to help get you started.

## Reviews of marking

If any of your students' results are not as expected, you may wish to consider one of our post-results services. For full information about the options available visit the OCR website.

## Access to Scripts

We've made it easier for Exams Officers to download copies of your candidates' completed papers or 'scripts'. Your centre can use these scripts to decide whether to request a review of marking and to support teaching and learning.

Our free, on-demand service, Access to Scripts is available via our single sign-on service, My Cambridge. Step-by-step instructions are on our website.

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