

To be given to candidates on or after
1 September 2026 for assessment in June 2027

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 **4** pages.

Choose **one** brief

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

Compose an Allegro first movement of a Cello Concerto to celebrate the great cellist, Mstislav Rostropovich who was born 100 years ago in 1927. Write for solo cello and orchestra using forces which would have been available to Josef Haydn. The piece will be performed by the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra in their home concert hall, Gewandhaus, during the summer of 2027.

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

Compose a song to celebrate the success of the close harmony group, The Andrews Sisters. Write in Boogie-Woogie style for any three voices and a band with at least four instrumental parts. You can write your own lyrics or borrow them from any source. The song will be performed by a newly formed cover group at the London Palladium in August 2027.

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

Compose a piece to celebrate the life and pianistic skills of Duke Ellington. Write in Swing style for piano and an instrumental group of your choice with a minimum of five instrumental parts altogether. The piece will be performed at the Chicago Jazz Festival in September 2027 by Jazz Performance students from the University of Illinois.

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

Compose a celebratory Te Deum in homage to George Frederick Handel. Your piece should be for SATB chorus and have an orchestral accompaniment appropriate to the area of study. The piece will be performed by the English Baroque Players and Monteverdi Choir at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the BBC Proms series in August 2027.

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

Compose an orchestral piece to celebrate the life and work of explorer, film maker and oceanographer, Jacques Cousteau. Your piece should depict the ever-changing sea life and multitude of colours found at the Great Barrier Reef in the Coral Sea, Australia. Your piece will be performed at the Sydney Opera House by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in December 2027.

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

Compose a piece to celebrate the 90-year anniversary of the birth of British artist, David Hockney. Choose one example of his work as a stimulus and write in any style to convey the character and concept of the artwork. You may use any combination of instruments, acoustic or electronic and write for any number of parts. Your piece will be performed by local professional musicians at Salts Mill, Shipley in September 2027.

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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