



National
Qualifications
2025

2025 Music Technology

Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

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General marking principles for Higher Music Technology

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.
- (b) Do not accept any answer that is not in the marking instructions. Use professional judgement when candidates' responses do not exactly match marking instructions but carry the same meaning.
- (c) Accept inaccurate spelling of English or Italian terms, as long as the meaning is clear.
- (d) Where a question asks for a description, explanation or justification, do not award marks for simple one or two word answers.

Marking instructions for each question

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
1.	(a)		Drum fill Jazz funk	2	1 mark for each. Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> extended groove sections improvisation jazz instrumentation melodic and/or complex bass lines ostinato and/or riff prominent bassline syncopation the excerpt has a (jazz) head use of electric guitar. 	2	1 mark for each. Also accept horn section Also accept saxophone(s).
2.	(a)		<p>New Wave</p> <p>Possible music reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> electric guitar ostinato or riff simple chord structure simple vocal melody unpolished vocals use of synthesiser. <p>Possible technology reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> electric guitar minimal processing or raw sounds prominent bass line unpolished vocals use of synthesiser. 	3	<p>1 mark for correct genre.</p> <p>1 mark for a reason related to a musical feature.</p> <p>Guitar on its own is not acceptable.</p> <p>Also accept anything that infers a live sounding vocal.</p> <p>1 mark for a reason related to a technological feature.</p> <p>Accept any response which infers raw, energetic or unprocessed sounds.</p> <p>Do not award 2 marks for listing the same music or technology feature under the same heading.</p>
	(b)		Irregular time signature	1	Do not accept other answers here.
3.	(a)	(i)	Too much proximity effect.	1	1 mark for a description of the fault. Also accept the microphone is too close to the sound hole of the acoustic guitar.
		(ii)	Move the microphone further away.	1	1 mark for a detailed description of a matching correction. Also accept move microphone to appropriate area of the guitar, eg 10-20 cm from the 12th fret.

Question		Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance												
7.	(a)	<p>Examples of key innovators, attributes and technologies could include:</p> <p>Genre: Dance Music</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Key innovator</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carl Craig • Calvin Harris • Daft Punk • Frankie Knuckles • Skrillex </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key technology</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DJ decks • drum machine • sampler • sequencer • synthesiser </td> </tr> </table> <p>Genre: Electroacoustic Music</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Key innovator</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonty Harrison • Pierre Schaffer • Karlheinz Stockhausen • Pete Stollery • Edgar Varèse </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key technology</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delay unit/plugin • magnetic tape • reel-to-reel • reverb unit/plugin • sampler • triggers • use of music software • use of synthesiser </td> </tr> </table> <p>Genre: New Wave</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Key innovator</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blondie • Talking Heads • Television. • XTC </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key technology</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distortion/overdrive as an electric guitar effect • electric guitar • raw sounds or minimal processing • use of synthesiser </td> </tr> </table>	Key innovator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carl Craig • Calvin Harris • Daft Punk • Frankie Knuckles • Skrillex 	Key technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DJ decks • drum machine • sampler • sequencer • synthesiser 	Key innovator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonty Harrison • Pierre Schaffer • Karlheinz Stockhausen • Pete Stollery • Edgar Varèse 	Key technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delay unit/plugin • magnetic tape • reel-to-reel • reverb unit/plugin • sampler • triggers • use of music software • use of synthesiser 	Key innovator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blondie • Talking Heads • Television. • XTC 	Key technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distortion/overdrive as an electric guitar effect • electric guitar • raw sounds or minimal processing • use of synthesiser 	2	<p>Candidates are asked to select a genre from the list provided. No marks are awarded for this.</p> <p>For the genre selected marks are awarded for identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a key innovator (1 mark) • a key technology (1 mark) <p>Do not accept distortion or overdrive on their own.</p>
Key innovator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carl Craig • Calvin Harris • Daft Punk • Frankie Knuckles • Skrillex 															
Key technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DJ decks • drum machine • sampler • sequencer • synthesiser 															
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Question	Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
(b)	<p>Examples could include:</p> <p>Electric Drum Kit</p> <p>Example of key innovator: Graeme Edge.</p> <p>Example of their influence on the development of this technology: The electronic drum kit was DI'd</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The electronic drum kit produced sampled/synthesised percussion sounds.</p> <p>Electric Guitar (solid body)</p> <p>Example of key innovator: Les Paul.</p> <p>Example of their influence on the development of this technology: They invented an early solid-body electric guitar</p> <p>OR</p> <p>It allowed the guitar to be amplified and/or manipulated.</p> <p>Sampler</p> <p>Example of key innovator: Harry Chamberlain.</p> <p>Example of their influence on the development of this technology: They invented an early tape based sampler.</p>	2	<p>Candidates are asked to select a technology from the list provided. No marks are awarded for this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • example of a key innovator (1 mark) • example of the key innovator's development on the selected technology. (1 mark)

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
8.					1 mark for each correct answer.
		1	Pitch shift	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		2	High	1	Also accept treble.
		3	Automation	1	Also accept autopan.
		4	Minor	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		5	Delay or echo Reverb	2	Do not accept other answers here.
		6	Threshold	1	Do not accept other answers here.
9.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change in tempo • distorted bass guitar riff • electric guitars panned left and right • samples being triggered • vocals in unison and octaves. 	5	1 mark for each correct feature. Features can be listed in any order. Do not accept other answers here.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]