



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

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MUSIC (PRINCIPAL)

9800/43

Component 43 Free Composition

For Examination from 2016

SPECIMEN MARK SCHEME

MAXIMUM MARK: 100

The syllabus is approved for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

Free Composition

1 Contrast of materials and range of compositional techniques (25 marks)

Assessed under this heading:

- the nature and degree of contrast between the two compositions
- the quality of the basic musical materials (whether melodic, harmonic or rhythmic)
- the variety of techniques used in the two compositions to combine, extend and connect the materials.

DESCRIPTORS	MARKS
Very clear contrast between compositions with strong, confidently shaped materials, which display a broad range of sophisticated compositional techniques.	21–25
Clear contrast between compositions with good materials, which display a range of competent compositional techniques.	16–20
Fairly clear contrast between compositions with moderately good materials, which display a small range of adequate compositional techniques.	11–15
Some contrast between compositions with weak materials, which display a limited range of compositional techniques.	6–10
Little contrast between compositions with weak materials, which display some attempt to use a few compositional techniques.	1–5
Very little contrast between compositions which display substantial weaknesses in all areas, or no work presented.	0

2 Structure (20 marks)

Assessed under this heading:

- the control of continuity, contrast, timing, etc. as a means of expressing the structure of both small-scale elements (phrases, sections) and larger formal aspects of the compositions.

DESCRIPTORS	MARKS
Excellent control of clearly articulated structure.	16–20
Good control of coherent structure.	11–15
Moderate control of mainly coherent structure.	6–10
Weak control of structure.	1–5
Little sense of structure, or no work presented.	0

3 Use of medium and texture (20 marks)

Assessed under this heading:

- the idiomatic understanding and inventive use of the instruments and/or voices employed
- the construction of effective textures, figurations, etc.

DESCRIPTORS	MARKS
Wholly idiomatic and inventive use of instruments/voices with entirely effective textures.	16–20
Mainly idiomatic and inventive use of instruments/voices with generally effective textures.	11–15
Competent use of instruments/voices with practicable textures.	6–10
Some understanding of instruments/voices with some passages of workable texture.	1–5
Little understanding of instruments/voices and weak sense of texture, or no work presented.	0

4 Notation and presentation (15 marks)

Assessed under this heading:

- the clarity, legibility and accuracy of the scores
- attention to expressive detail in the notation.

DESCRIPTORS	MARKS
Wholly accurate scores with careful attention to all expressive details.	13–15
Accurate scores with attention to most expressive details.	10–12
Mainly accurate scores with attention to some expressive details.	7–9
Moderately accurate scores with intermittent attention to expressive detail.	4–6
Partially accurate scores with little attention to expressive detail.	1–3
Inaccurate or incomplete scores with weak attention to expressive detail, or no work presented.	0

5 Commentary (20 marks)

Assessed under this heading:

- the description of the expressive intention of each piece
- the explanation of the ways in which contrast between the pieces was achieved
- the account of the process of composition
- the appropriateness of the music studied in preparation for the compositions
- the explanation of the ways in which this listening was (or was not) helpful
- the evaluation of the compositions.

DESCRIPTORS	MARKS
Comprehensive and detailed commentary on all significant issues.	16–20
Detailed commentary on most significant issues.	11–15
Moderately detailed commentary on some significant issues.	6–10
Limited commentary on a few relevant issues.	1–5
Superficial commentary on insignificant issues, or no work presented.	0