

# Eduqas Music GCSE Listening and Appraising Examination (40%)

As you know, your listening and appraising exam will consist of 8 questions – 2 on each area of study:

Area of Study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Area of Study 2: Film Music

Area of Study 3: Music for Ensemble

Area of Study 4: Popular Music

Each question is worth 12 marks and will be divided into smaller sections, each being worth one, two or three marks.

The Eduqas GCSE Music exam is designed to test your ability to respond to a range of musical situations, combining both practical knowledge and theoretical understanding.

1 mark questions.	Think about the context, period or style of the music and select an appropriate response. Only enter/select one answer. Only the first answer will be marked (even if the second one is correct). In a multiple choice question if more than one answer is selected, 0 marks will be given (even if one of the selected answers was correct).
2 or 3 mark questions.	Enter each answer on a separate line. If multiple answers are on one line only the first will be marked. Don't repeat answers For example: 'accelerando' and 'gets faster' as these mean the same thing.
Comparison questions.	Read the question carefully. Are they asking for similarities or contrasts – make sure you know. Be specific about which extract you are referring to and make your points clearly; one at a time.
Giving musical examples.	Use specific bar/beat numbers as references For example: Bar 36, beat 2 to bar 37, beat 1.

## Tips:

- **Practice listening to different pieces of music** regularly to familiarize yourself with common musical elements and styles.
- **Learn the set works** in detail, including their structure, instruments, and the stylistic features associated with each. **There will always be a 12 mark question allocated to each of the set works – Bach Badinerie and Toto's Africa.**
- **Revise your music theory** regularly, including scales, intervals, chords, and notation.
- **Develop your analytical skills** by regularly analyzing pieces of music, writing down your observations, and comparing them to other pieces.

# Long Answer Question Prompt Sheet

There will be also be one 'long answer' question which is worth 10 marks. Here you will be expected to comment on how the musical elements are combined and used to create specific effects or portray emotions or stories. Use the prompt sheet below to structure your answers:

Start with your 4 "Easy Wins"!

1. What is the **tempo** at the beginning? Does it get faster, slower or stay consistent in the middle section? What is the tempo at the end?
2. What are the **dynamics** at the start of the piece? Does it get louder, quieter or stay the same towards the middle section? What are the dynamics like at the end?
3. What is the **tonality** of the piece? Does is sound happy (major), sad (minor) or is it ambiguous? Does this change in the middle section? What is the tonality at the end of the piece?
4. What **instruments** can you hear playing the main melody? What instruments are accompanying in the background? Does this change in the middle section or at the end? Are the instruments using any specific techniques that you can hear?

Now sprinkle in the detail

## Rhythm

Do you hear any rhythmic devices? syncopation, triplets, dotted rhythms, swung rhythms, use of rests or silence etc. Can you tell what the metre is?

## Structure

Is there a discernible structure within the extract. Do any of the musical ideas repeat?

## Melody

What shape is the melody? ascending, descending, fanfare, conjunct, disjunct?

Can you identify and specific intervals? E.g. perfect 5ths? What is the range of the melody? Is the melody legato or staccato? Can you hear any repeated ideas?

## Texture

What is the texture at the start of the extract? (Monophonic, **homophonic**, polyphonic)

Does this change? Thicker, thinner, layering. Do you hear any imitation between parts?

(Remember, homophonic is the most common)

## Harmony

Do you hear any cadences at the ends of sections. Do they sound finished or unfinished?

(Remember, perfect cadence is the most common)

Can you hear any pedal notes? How quickly does the harmonic rhythm change? Do you hear any dissonance?

(If it sounds like "normal" music you can say it is Diatonic.)

## Practice Answering Long Questions

- Use the prompt sheet to complete one of the long answer questions below.
- You can listen to the extract 4 times. You then have 6 minutes to complete your answer
- Start by filling in your MAD TSHIRT table
- Next convert your answer into sentences.
- REMEMBER, you MUST link your musical points to the emotion in the question – don't just say *what* the music does, say *why* it does it. e.g. the slow tempo and minor tonality combined with the legato descending melody line all help to create a feeling of sadness as the character mourns the loss of their friend.

	Beginning	Middle	End
MELODY			
ARTICULATION			
DYNAMICS			
TEXTURE			
STRUCTURE			
HARMONY			
INSTRUMENTATION			
RHYTHM			
TEMPO/TIME SIGNATURE			

### Suggested Listening

- 1) Star Wars Theme [https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_D0ZQPqeJkk](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=_D0ZQPqeJkk)

Listen from 0:00 to 1:16

*Explain how the composer has created a feeling of energy and excitement.*

- 2) Spring <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=l-dYNttdgl0>

Listen from 0:00 to 1:12

*This piece represents Spring. Explain how the composer has captured the feeling of new life and Spring.*

- 3) Romeo and Juliet Theme <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=TEVGLXVhhns>

Listen from 0:50 to 2:30

*The piece is the theme for the two main characters. Explain how the composer creates a feeling of love and longing.*

- 4) Shrek <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7m-WkTeMSFI>

Listen to 36:46 to 38:14

*This piece is the soundtrack for the flight of the dragon. Explain how the composer creates a feeling of magic and excitement.*