



Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate signature \_\_\_\_\_

I declare this is my own work.

# GCSE MUSIC

## Component 1 Understanding Music

Sample assessment material Set 1

First exam 2026

---

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen. You may use pencil for music notation.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer **all** questions in Section A.
- Answer Question 9 in Section B.
- Answer **one** question from questions 10 to 12 in Section B.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- If you need extra paper, use the Supplementary Answer Sheets.

### Information

- The marks for questions (or part questions) are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 96.
- You have **three** minutes to read through the paper before the CD is played.
- There will be suitable pauses for you to read and answer the questions.

**Section A: Listening**

Please note that Section A has been removed due to copyright expiry.

**Section B: Contextual understanding**

Answer Question 09

Answer **one** question from **Questions 10 – 12.**

0 9

**Area of study 1: Western classical tradition 1650–1910**

Beethoven: *Symphony No. 1; Movement 1 Adagio molto – Allegro con brio*

0 9

. 1 Give the meaning of 'Allegro con Brio'.

[2 marks]

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

0 9

. 2 Identify **two** dynamics used by the timpani in the Coda of the movement.

[2 marks]

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

0 9

. 3 Violin I plays two very loud (ff/fortissimo) chords at the end of the Exposition section of the movement. Identify **two** playing techniques used on these chords.

[2 marks]

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



Answer **one** question from **Questions 10 – 12.**

Do not write  
outside the  
box

1 0

**Area of study 2: Popular music**

Queen:

- *Bohemian Rhapsody*
- *Seven Seas of Rhye*
- *Love of my Life*

1 0

. 1

Identify **two** melodic features of the opening vocal line “Fear me, you Lords and Lady preachers” in the song *Seven Seas of Rhye*.

**[2 marks]**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

1 0

. 2

Identify the **two** time signatures used in the song *Seven Seas of Rhye*.

**[2 marks]**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

1 0

. 3

Identify **two** harmonic features in the Outro section of *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

**[2 marks]**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



1	1
---	---

**Area of study 3: Traditional music**

Esperanza Spalding:

- *I know you know*
- *Little Fly*
- *I Adore You*

1	1
---	---

. 

1
---

 Identify **two** dynamics used in the song *Little Fly*.**[2 marks]**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

1	1
---	---

. 

2
---

 Identify **two** harmonic intervals (eg 2nd, 3rd etc) used at the **start** of the double bass riff in the song *Little Fly*.**[2 marks]**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

1	1
---	---

. 

3
---

 Identify **two** features of tonality in the song *I Adore You*.**[2 marks]**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



1 2

**Area of study 4: Western classical tradition since 1910**

Bartók: Hungarian Sketches(one piece including the following sections):

1. *An Evening in the Village*
2. *Bear Dance*
4. *Slightly Topsy*
5. *Swineherd's Dance*

1 2

. 1

Identify **two** percussion instruments used in *Slightly Topsy*.**[2 marks]**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

1 2

. 2

Identify **two** melodic features of the piccolo part in the Coda of *Swineherd's Dance*.**[2 marks]**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

1 2

. 3

Identify **two** time signatures used in *An Evening in the Village*.**[2 marks]**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



**There are no questions printed on this page**

*Do not write  
outside the  
box*

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE  
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**

**Copyright information**

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk).

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2024 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.