

A-level
MUSIC

Specimen 2018

Composition: Externally Set Brief

Students must choose **one** of the following briefs:

0	1
---	---

Brief 1 - Chorales.

Candidates should complete **both** exercises suitable for a performance in church:

Exercise 1 Complete the following harmonisation by writing parts for alto and tenor:

Measures 1-4 of the chorale. The treble clef part begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef part begins with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is common time (C).

Measures 5-8 of the chorale. The treble clef part continues with a half note D5, followed by quarter notes C5, B4, and A4. The bass clef part continues with a half note D4, followed by quarter notes C4, B3, and A3. Measure 5 is marked with a '5' above the treble staff.

Measures 9-12 of the chorale. The treble clef part continues with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes F4, E4, and D4. The bass clef part continues with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes F3, E3, and D3. Measure 9 is marked with a '9' above the treble staff.

Measures 13-16 of the chorale. The treble clef part continues with a half note C5, followed by quarter notes B4, A4, and G4. The bass clef part continues with a half note C4, followed by quarter notes B3, A3, and G3. Measure 13 is marked with a '13' above the treble staff.

Exercise 2 Harmonise the following chorale melody by adding parts for alto, tenor and bass:

The image shows a musical score for Exercise 2. It consists of four staves of music, all in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is written on the first staff. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (half), E5 (half), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half), D4 (half). The second, third, and fourth staves are blank, intended for the student to write the alto, tenor, and bass parts respectively.

[25 marks]

0	2
---	---

Brief 2

Write an instrumental rock piece, or pop song based on the following bass line or chord progression suitable for a band/artist making their debut public performance.

You may like to use the two halves separately in different sections.

Em G A B⁷ Em Gm/E Am⁷ B⁷

[25 marks]

0	3
---	---

Brief 3

Compose a piece for no more than six instrumentalists that underscores the following scene for a premiere:

0'00" A quiet, empty forest in daylight

0'15" A close camera shot of a pair of feet running through the trees

0'30" The figure stops and looks at his watch

0'35" The man starts running again

0'50" The man comes to a river and stops ... he hesitates, wondering what to do

1'00" He suddenly runs at the river and leaps over it (shown in slow motion)

1'10" He continues running

1'25" As he exits the forest he sees the back of a cloaked figure in front of him

1'35" The figure turns round slowly lowers her cloak ...

1'45" They embrace

2'00" End of scene.

[25 marks]

0 4

Brief 4

Set the following lyrics as a solo number for a female lead singing about her man at their wedding party:

I tried very hard to avoid his advances –
 His bunches of flowers and boxes of chocs;
 I tried very hard to ignore all his glances
 At lunches; for hours I was foxed by his socks.
 He took me to Egypt and I stayed in denial,
 He took me to Paris where I acted insane;
 But although I tried very hard to resist,
 In the end I found that I couldn't desist;
 He always cheers me up when I feeling low,
 I long to hear his voice when he says hello,
 He makes me laugh and makes my life
 A special place, now he calls me wife.

[25 marks]

0 5

Brief 5

Write a piece for a trio or quartet based on the following chord progression for performance at a jazz club:

D^Δ Em⁷ G^Δ A^{7(sus4)} D^Δ C^{#11} Bm⁹ Em⁹ A⁷

[25 marks]

0	6
---	---

Brief 6

Write a piece suitable for a village festival for a band of folk musicians.

There should be **two** melody instruments, a bass instrument and an un-tuned percussion instrument.

The structure of the piece should be verse-chorus; one of the sections should be based on a drone.

[25 marks]

0	7
---	---

Brief 7

Compose a piece for **three** instruments that explores at least **two** of the following motifs for a premiere public performance:

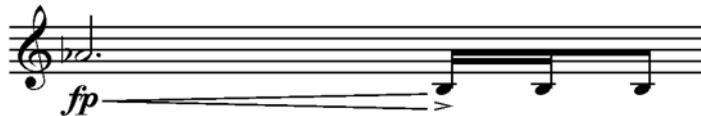
A



B



C



[25 marks]