



National
Qualifications
2026

2026 Music

Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

Braille

Braille Modifications

4a

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General marking principles for Higher Music

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

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) Where candidates are asked to identify a number of answers from a list of options, and they identify more answers than required, award marks according to the detailed marking instructions for that question.
- (c) Use your professional judgement when candidates' responses do not exactly match marking instructions but carry the same meaning, for example plagal cadence/IV-I, plainchant/plainsong. Do not accept any answer that is not in the marking instructions.
- (d) Multiple-choice questions ask candidates to tick one or more boxes. Accept a cross or any other sign which makes the candidate's intentions clear.
- (e) Use your professional judgement when deciding if candidates' written notation is sufficiently accurate or not.
- (f) Accept inaccurate spelling where the candidate's intention is clear.

Marking Instructions for each question

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
1.	(a)		Lie nt Rubatd Mordeo	3	1 mark for each correct answer. Candidate responses can be listed in any order. Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		Oratorio	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(c)		Modal	1	Also accept mode.
2.		1	French horn	1	Also accept horn.
		2	Augmentation	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		3	Clarinet	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		4	Pizzicato	1	Also accept pizz.
		5	Inverted pedal	1	Also accept harmonic(s).
3.	(a)		Melodic minor scale	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		Irregular time signature	1	Also accept irregular, time changes or any indication of 7 beats in the bar.
	(c)		Harmonics	1	Also accept harmonic.
	(d)		Musique concrète	1	Do not accept other answers here.
4.	(a)		G - 4 th space E - 3 rd space	1	Pitch of both notes must be described correctly. Disregard any reference to rhythm. Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		A crotchet rest.	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(c)		Accept 5, 5 th or perfect 5 th .	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(d)		D G V I	1	Accept chord symbols or Roman numerals. Accept 5 and 1 as numbers.
	(e)		A - 2 nd space B - 3 rd line A - 2 nd space G - 2 nd line	1	Pitch of all four notes must be correct. Disregard any reference to rhythm.
	(f)		3 4	1	Do not accept other answers here.

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
5.			Arpeggio Basso continuo Concertino Sequence	4	1 mark for each correct answer. Candidate responses can be listed in any order. Do not accept other answers here.
6.			Melody/harmony Arpeggios or broken chords Counter melody Dominant 7th Interrupted cadence Major Modulation Pedal Perfect cadence Rhythm/tempo 3 beats in a bar or $\frac{3}{4}$ or simple time A tempo Anacrusis Andante or moderato Rallentando or ritardando Triplet(s) Style/texture/form Chamber music Classical Homophonic Imitation Ternary/ABA	6	Tick (✓) all correct answers up to a maximum of two concepts per heading. If the candidate chooses to write headings, do not penalise for concepts written under the incorrect heading. 1 mark for each correct answer. Also accept major scale. Also accept change of key. Also accept rall. or rit. Long lists of concepts unrelated to the music and/or extensive lists of contradictory concepts will result in penalties being applied.
7.			Romantic Sonata Minor tonality Anacrusis Compound time	5	Award 1 mark for each correct answer, up to 5 marks. Candidates must identify five concepts for 5 marks. Do not accept other answers here.

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
8.			God help my people.	5	1 mark for each correct answer. Accept SATB on line 7 or 8 (or both) but only credit once. Accept modulation on line 8 or 9 (or both) but only credit once.
			They look to you still.		
			God help the outcasts, or nobody will.		
			I ask for wealth.		
			I ask for fame.		
			I ask for glory to shine on my name.		
			I ask for love I can possess.		
			I ask for God and his angels to bless me.		
			I ask for nothing, I can get by.		
			But I know so many less lucky than I.		
			Please help my people.		
			The poor and down trod.		
			I thought we all were the children of God.		
			God help the outcasts.		
			Children of God.		

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]