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National Qualifications

2026

Music

Monday, 27 April

Instructions to Candidates

Candidates should enter their surname, forename(s), date of birth, Scottish candidate number and the name and level of the subject at the top of their first answer sheet.

Total marks – 40

Attempt ALL questions.

[Braille page 2] In this examination you will listen to excerpts of music and answer questions on what you hear.

The text of each question is printed and will also be heard on the audio file.

Listen carefully to the questions and to the excerpts.

Unless stated there is a pause of 20 seconds before an excerpt is played or next question starts.

Some excerpts are played more than once. The number of times each excerpt is played is stated in each question.

Each question begins on a new page.

An arrow in the margin indicates a new question.

[Braille page 3] Marks are shown in square brackets at the end of each question or part question.

Question numbers and answers must be clearly identified on the answer sheet.

[Braille page 4] Total marks — 40

Attempt ALL questions

Now 1.

This question features vocal music.

There are three parts to this question.

(a) Listen to this excerpt and identify three concepts in the music from those listed below. (3 print lines) [3 marks]

Read through the concepts before hearing the music.

A. Recitative

B. Added 6th

C. Lied

D. 3 against 2

[Braille page 5] E. Mordent

F. Rubato

G. Tierce de Picardie

H. Time changes

I. Da capo aria

There will now be a pause of 30 seconds.

The music will be played three times with a pause of 30 seconds between playings and a pause of 1 minute before the next question starts.

Here is the music for the first time.

Here is the music for the second time.

Here is the music for the third time.

(b) Listen to a different excerpt **[Braille page 6]** and identify the type of work. (1 print line) [1 mark]

Here is the excerpt.

(c) Listen to another excerpt and identify the tonality. (1 print line) [1 mark]

The excerpt will be played twice.

Here is the excerpt for the first time.

Here is the excerpt for the second time.

[Braille page 7] ow 2.

In this question you will hear orchestral music.

Five incomplete statements describing the music are provided.

You have to complete the statements by identifying the missing concepts. [5 marks]

The music will be played four times with a pause of 30 seconds between each playing.

After the final playing you will then have a further one minute to complete your answer.

In the first three playings a voice will help guide you through the music. This voice **[Braille page 8]** will be heard immediately before the music for each of the five statements is heard. There is no voice in the fourth playing.

The five incomplete statements are:

1. The instrument playing the melody is a/an: _ long dash _.

2. The rhythmic feature heard in the melody is: _ long dash _.
3. The instrument playing the melody is a/an: _ long dash _.
4. The Italian term for the playing technique heard in the lower strings is: _ long dash _.
5. The violins play a/an: _ long dash _.

[Braille page 9] Here is the music for the first time.

Here is the music for the second time.

Here is the music for the third time.

Here is the music for the fourth time.

[Braille page 10] ow 3.

This question features contrasting music.

There are four parts to this question.

(a) Listen to this excerpt which features a descending scale. Select one type of scale you hear from the following list. [1 mark]

A. Melodic minor scale

B. Harmonic minor scale

C. Whole-tone scale

D. Pentatonic scale

The excerpt will be played twice.

Here is the excerpt for the first time.

Here is the excerpt for the second time.

(b) Listen to a different excerpt **[Braille page 11]** and identify a concept which describes the time signature. (1 print line) [1 mark]

Here is the excerpt.

(c) Listen to another excerpt and identify the playing technique featured by the electric guitar. (1 print line) [1 mark]

The excerpt is short and will be played twice.

Here is the excerpt for the first time.

Here is the excerpt for the second time.

(d) Listen to a new excerpt and identify the style of the music. (1 print line) [1 mark]

[Braille page 12] Here is the excerpt.

[Braille page 13] ow 4.

This question is based on rock music.

You have to answer six questions about the following excerpt.

The excerpt has a 4/4 time signature. There is one sharp in the key signature. The melody begins on the note D written on the fourth line of the treble clef.

During this first hearing do not attempt to answer any of the questions.

Here is the music.

The six questions are as follows:

(a) This question is about transposition. Describe where the first two notes in bar **[Braille page 14]** 3 would be written if they were transposed one octave lower in the bass clef.

In the treble clef the notes are:

1 – G on the second line

2 – E on the first line [1 mark]

Your teacher will indicate with a snap or a tap where bar 3 begins.

(b) Describe the rest in the melody at the beginning of bar 5. Following this rest the bar is completed by six quaver notes. [1 mark]

Your teacher will indicate with a snap or a tap where bar 5 begins.

(c) Describe the interval formed by **[Braille page 15]** the first two notes in bar 9. The notes are:

1 - A in the second space

2 - E in the fourth space. [1 mark]

Your teacher will indicate with a snap or a tap where bar 9 begins.

(d) This question is about chord changes. Name two chords that you hear in bars 10 and 11:

1 - In bar 10 – the chord that is used throughout the bar

2 - In bar 11 – the first chord that you hear. [1 mark]

Choose from the following for your answers:

[Braille page 16] G Chord I

C Chord IV

D Chord V

Em Chord VI

Your teacher will indicate with a snap or a tap where bar 9 begins.

C, chord IV is used throughout bar 9.

(e) In this question you are asked to identify the first four notes you hear in bar 13.

Your teacher will indicate with a snap or a tap where the last four notes of bar 12 begin.

The last four notes in bar 12 are:

[Braille page 17] 1 - B on the third line

2 - A in the second space

3 - A in the second space

4 - G on the second line

Name the first four notes that you hear in bar 13. [1 mark]

(f) There is a time signature change in bar 20. This bar contains:

a quaver note tied from the previous bar

a quaver rest

2 crotchet rests

Your teacher will indicate with a snap or a tap where bar 20 begins.

Describe the new time signature. [1 mark]

[Braille page 18] The music will be played six more times with a pause of 45 seconds between playings and a pause of 3 minutes before the next question starts. During the next six playings you should complete your answers (a) to (f).

Here is the music for the second time. After this playing you should attempt to answer question (a).

Here is the music for the third time. After this playing you should attempt to answer question (b).

Here is the music for the fourth time. After this playing you should attempt to answer question (c).

[Braille page 19] Here is the music for the fifth time. After this playing you should attempt to answer question (d).

Here is the music for the sixth time. After this playing you should attempt to answer question (e).

Here is the music for the seventh time. After this playing you should attempt to answer question (f).

[Braille page 20] ow 5.

This question features instrumental music.

Listen to this excerpt. Select four of the following ten concepts to describe what you hear. (4 print lines) [4 marks]

A. Passacaglia

B. Arpeggio

C. Impressionist

D. Through-composed

E. Plagal cadence

F. Concertino

G. String quartet

H. Triplets

I. Basso continuo

[Braille page 21] J. Sequence

There will now be a pause of 30 seconds.

The music will be played four times with a pause of 30 seconds between playings and a pause of 1 minute before the next question starts.

Here is the music for the first time.

Here is the music for the second time.

Here is the music for the third time.

Here is the music for the third time.

[Braille page 22] ow 6.

This question is based on instrumental music.

In this question you should identify the most prominent concepts which are present in the music.

As you listen, identify at least two concepts from each of the following categories:

- Category 1 – melody/harmony
- Category 2 – rhythm/tempo
- Category 3 – style/texture/form

You will hear the music four times with a pause of 20 seconds between playings.

[Braille page 23] You may make rough notes as you listen. There will be a pause of 4 minutes at the end for you to complete your final answer. A warning tone will sound 30 seconds before the next question starts. (10 print lines) [6 marks]

Your rough notes will not be marked.

You should indicate where your final answer starts.

Here is the music for the first time.

Here is the music for the second time.

Here is the music for the third time.

Here is the music for the fourth time.

[Braille page 24] ow 7.

In this question you compare two excerpts of music.

You should select concepts which are present in each of the excerpts and then decide which five concepts are common to both excerpts.

You will hear both excerpts five times with 30 seconds between each playing.

As you listen to each excerpt, select the music concepts you hear. You may make rough notes as you listen.

After the five playings of both excerpts, you will be given 4 minutes to decide which concepts are common to both excerpts **[Braille page 25]** and to complete your final answer. A warning tone will sound 30 seconds before the start of the next question. [5 marks]

Your rough notes will not be marked.

You should indicate where your final answer starts.

Select from:

Melody/harmony concepts

Obbligato

Glissando

Minor tonality

Diminished 7th

Texture/structure/form concepts

Alberti bass

[Braille page 26] Imitation

Concerto grosso

Rhythm concepts

Anacrusis

Rubato

Compound time

Style concepts

Classical

Romantic

Concerto

Sonata

There will now be a pause of one minute before the excerpts are played.

There is a pause of 1 minute.

During the first playing of excerpts 1 and **[Braille page 27]** 2 consider which melody/harmony concepts are present in each excerpt. Select from: obbligato, glissando, minor tonality, diminished 7th

Here is excerpt one for the first time.

Here is excerpt two for the first time.

During the second playing of excerpts 1 and 2 consider which texture/structure/form concepts are present in each excerpt. Select from: Alberti bass, imitation, concerto grosso

Here is excerpt one for the second time.

Here is excerpt two for the second time.

During the third playing of excerpts 1 and 2 consider which rhythm concepts are **[Braille page 28]** present in each excerpt. Select from: anacrusis, rubato, compound time

Here is excerpt one for the third time.

Here is excerpt two for the third time.

During the fourth playing of excerpts 1 and 2, consider which style concepts are present in each excerpt. Select from: Classical, Romantic, concerto, sonata

Here is excerpt one for the fourth time.

Here is excerpt two for the fourth time.

During the fifth playing of excerpts 1 and 2, confirm which five concepts are common to both excerpts.

There will now be a pause of 1 **[Braille page 29]** minute before excerpts 1 and 2 are played for the fifth time.

Here is excerpt 1 for the fifth time.

Here is excerpt 2 for the fifth time.

You now have four minutes to identify the five concepts common to both excerpts.

A warning tone will sound 30 seconds before the start of the next question.

[Braille page 30] ow 8.

This question is based on a song from a musical.

Here is a list of five features which occur in the music:

A. interrupted cadence

B. first example of an SATB chorus in harmony

C. first example of a perfect cadence

D. solo tenor

E. modulation

During this first hearing do not attempt to answer any of the questions.

Here is the music.

[Braille page 31] The music will be played five more times with a pause of 20 seconds between playings and a pause of 1 minute to complete your answer.

You should indicate with a snap or a tap when you hear the features occur in the music. Your music teacher has a copy of the lyrics and will note where you indicated the snap or tap for each feature of the music. [5 marks]

There will now be a pause of one minute before the next playing of the music.

Here is the music for the second time. Indicate with a snap or a tap when you hear an interrupted cadence.

[Braille page 32] Here is the music for the third time. Indicate with a snap or a tap when you hear the first example of an SATB chorus in harmony.

Here is the music for the fourth time. Indicate with a snap or a tap when you hear the first example of a perfect cadence.

Here is the music for the fifth time. Indicate with a snap or a tap when you hear a solo tenor.

Here is the music for the sixth time. Indicate with a snap or a tap when you hear a modulation.

END OF QUESTION PAPER