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# GCSE MUSIC

Component 1 Understanding music

June 2024

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## Teachers' Notes

## Confidential

Issuing instructions

**To be given immediately to the Examinations Officer and the teacher(s)  
responsible for GCSE Music**

**Monday 17 June 2024**

**Afternoon**

**Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes**

These instructions must be used in conjunction with the General Regulations and the Instructions for conducting the June 2024 examinations.

## Requirements

Materials required:

- CD and CD player
- Question Paper/Answer Books.

## Preparation of digital audio files

Storing digital audio files on a school or college's computer network:

You may download listening materials from our secure extranet site (Centre Services), onto a secure area of the school/college network, no earlier than **one working day** before the exam. If a listening exam is scheduled for a Monday, we will make the files available for download on the Friday prior to the exam. For any exams scheduled for the Monday immediately after the half-term holiday, we will make the files available for downloading on the Friday immediately before the holiday.

Whenever possible, a member of staff from the centre's ICT department or the exams officer should undertake this task. The material must be downloaded to the secure part of a centre's network, ie part of the network which is only accessible to ICT staff and not to candidates, until the permitted time.

The confidential materials we supply for the purposes of the GCSE Music exam must be returned to the centre's secure storage facilities as soon as the download to the secure network has been completed.

Appropriate measures must be in place to ensure that this material is kept totally secure until the time of the exam. Once the listening material has been downloaded, the exam room/area must not be left unsupervised or unlocked. Access to the internet, data stored on the hard drive or any portable media such as floppy disks, CDs or memory sticks is not permitted during the exam.

The use of headphones is permissible in situations where the listening material has been downloaded onto a school or college's computer network and is controlled directly by the invigilator who will be listening to the recording during the test, for example in a language laboratory. Candidates must not under any circumstances have individual control of the recording and invigilators must ensure that this regulation is met.

## Before the examination

1. Download the digital audio file. Alternatively, a CD of music excerpts will be provided for this paper. **The excerpts must not be played before the examination and must be kept in secure storage.**
2. Each centre will be supplied with **two** copies of the CD.
3. The equipment being used to play the music should be checked and serviced in advance of the examination date. If possible, spare equipment should be available in case of an emergency.
4. The equipment should be set up and tested at least 30 minutes before the start of the examination.

5. The Question Paper/Answer Books should be distributed to candidates before the excerpts are played.
6. **Reading time:** candidates must be given **three** minutes to read through the paper before the excerpts are played. Pauses are included in the playing time. Candidates are **not** allowed to make notes during this reading time.

### The examination

7. Start the CD/audio file. This is the **beginning** of the 1 hour 30 minutes examination. The CD/audio file contains a few minutes of silence towards the end but runs for the first 1 hour of the examination and covers the questions in Section A. Please ensure that candidates receive the full 1 hour 30 minutes examination time even if there is silence on the CD/audio file.
8. The CD/audio file must be played without a break. Any interruption must be reported in writing to AQA, stating the exact point in the CD/audio file where the interruption occurred, and the duration of the interruption.
9. Once the CD/audio file has finished playing, candidates should spend the remaining 30 minutes of the examination time answering questions in Section B. Candidates **must** answer Question 09 and **one** question from Questions 10–12.

### After the examination

10. At the end of the examination, the Question Paper/Answer Books should be sent to AQA using the address labels provided.
11. The CD/audio file is produced for the purposes of the examination only. Any use of the CD or digital audio files outside of this specific purpose will result in a serious breach of copyright law. After the examination has taken place, all CDs **must** be returned to Patrick Donlon, Despatches, AQA, Stag Hill House, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7XJ. Furthermore, the CD may not be copied or made available via an intranet, website or VLE. If you have any queries, please contact the Music subject team by calling 01483 437750 or emailing [music@aqa.org.uk](mailto:music@aqa.org.uk)
12. The digital audio file **must not** be retained by the centre. It should be deleted from the centre's computer network after the exam.

### 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)

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