



# Music

**GCSE**

**Music**

Exemplar Candidate Responses

B354 Listening Exam

Version 1

## Question 1b

Give three features of the music played by the sitar.

[3]

### Sample answer 1

(iii) Give three features of the music played by the sitar.

- 1 ..... *Impraised by performer.* .....
- 2 ..... *around Raga set of notes.* .....
- 3 ..... *Sliding between notes by hand on strings.* .....

[3]

3 marks

### Commentary

This response gained full marks.

This question is marked by giving one mark for each correct answer from the mark scheme.

The candidate has learnt the features of this genre very well. They have used their knowledge and supported it with aural perception skills in their answer.

The ticks identify the key words that have gained credit. In this style the melodic line is improvised around a raga. The candidate has heard these features within the extract and has also recognised the use of sliding between the notes by the performer.

### Sample answer 2

(iii) Give three features of the music played by the sitar.

- 1 *The sitar is what starts the intro* .....
- 2 *The sitar is more forte than the tabla* .....
- 3 *A feature is its the main instrument in the piece* .....

[3]

0 marks

### Commentary

This response gained 0 marks.

This question is marked by giving one mark for each correct answer from the mark scheme.

The candidate has not understood the basic principles of this style and has answered with points that are too vague or that

are not relevant. The answers do not address the features of what the sitar actually plays. The answer states when the sitar plays, how loudly it plays against the other instruments and what its role is, none of which have any relevance to the actual question.

## Question 1c

Give four features in the first section of the music that help to describe the fight.

[4]

### Sample answer 1 and 2

- 1 minor key
- 2 loud
- 3 fast tempo
- 4 cymbals crashing.

4 marks

- is loud.
- 1 The music is fast and this is like a fight because fighting is loud.
  - 2 The crash cymbals are like punches or gunshots.
  - 3 The music is ~~strong~~ allegro like the fight as in fights you ~~move~~ move fast.
  - 4 The fast runs played by the strings are like someone feeling.

4 marks

## Commentary

Both of these responses received full marks.

This question is marked by giving one mark for each correct answer from the mark scheme.

The first response is concise and simply lists four features that occur in the extract that help to describe the fight. The second response also does that but adds far more supportive detail about the fight scene which is not actually necessary in this case. Whilst the second answer is detailed and provides perspective the question simply asks for features of the music and so no other information is required.

Another point to note here is that although both candidates recognise the correct tempo and dynamic for the music, one uses musical terminology and the other does not. Whilst it is always good to see the use of the correct musical language, in a question of this nature it is not necessary and normal English words are quite acceptable.

### Sample answer 3

- 1 ~~Fast Dynamics~~ <sup>x</sup>
- 2 Increase in speed (accelerando)
- 3 high <sup>✓</sup> pitch violins
- 4 Trombones

1 mark

### Commentary

This response gained one mark.

This question is marked by giving one mark for each correct answer from the mark scheme.

The first point here has used inappropriate musical terminology and so receives no mark. Dynamics are not fast so it is unclear what the candidate is actually referring to. The second answer is an inaccurate statement; the music does not get faster. The

third answer is correct and so receives one mark. The fourth answer is simply a single instrument name. More detail or context as to why this instrument has been named is required in order to gain credit. Whilst detail of the scene is not required some supportive detail of the nature of the instrument or how the instrument is used to help to describe the fight is necessary here.

## Question 2b

Give three features of the solo voice that are typical of this style.

[3]

### Sample answer 1 and 2

(b) Give three features of the solo voice that are typical of this style.

- 1 Very ornamentated ✓
- 2 High pitch. ✓
- 3 They pitch bend ~~regularly~~ ✓

[3]

3 marks

(b) Give three features of the solo voice that are typical of this style.

- 1 Vibrato ✓
- 2 Scatting ✓
- 3 Hold sustains a note ✓ in one lyric.

[3]

3 marks

## Commentary

These responses both received full marks.

This question is marked by giving one mark for each correct answer from the mark scheme.

A lot of very good answers were seen to this question from candidates of all ability ranges. Here are two such examples which show excellent aural perception. There were many answers within the mark scheme for this question and these two responses show six of the possibilities.

## Question 2h

Describe the steps and movements of this dance which are reflected in the music heard.

[3]

### Sample answer 1 and 2

They would be in time with the  
beat and make side to side movements  
mostly.

0 marks

4 beats so dancers can do  
a routine and dance with  
movements to the beat.

0 marks

### Commentary

These responses both received 0 marks.

This question is marked by giving one mark for each correct answer from the mark scheme.

These answers are too vague and could refer to any dance from the area of study. The responses need to focus on the music from the extract which in this case was Bhangra and write about the steps and movements of this dance in particular.

## Sample answer 1 and 2

fast moving, partner dance, in time with the music and emphasis on beats 1 and 3.

0 marks

It starts off with the instruments, then the voice comes in at the intro of the song, then when the instruments change tempo and dynamics, which then the voice does as well, then the backing voices come in. [3]

0 marks

## Commentary

These responses both received 0 marks.

This question is marked by giving one mark for each correct answer from the mark scheme.

Both of these responses are either too vague or inaccurate. In the first response fast moving is vague and partner dance is inaccurate. The second response does not talk about the dance steps at all and so is an irrelevant answer and not worthy of credit.

## Sample answer 4

Dances often dance in groups. The movements are quite fast and there are some acrobatic flips. It is lively and upbeat and it is often danced in a circle.

3 marks

Very energetic and strong movements - can be acrobatic. Typically danced in lines or circles. Jumping and clapping on the accents of beats. Hopping on spot & hand movements. [3]

3 marks

## Commentary

These responses both received full marks.

This question is marked by giving one mark for each correct answer from the mark scheme.

Both answers here show that the candidates have a good knowledge of the dance steps and movements of this style. The first is clear and accurate and gives exactly enough correct information to gain full marks. The second answer is over and above what is required but unfortunately only three marks are available for this question.

## Question 3a

This film music extract is called The Hill of Sorcery. It starts calmly and gradually introduces an evil wizard. Write a paragraph, using sentences, explaining how the music conveys this scene. You may wish to refer to instruments, rhythm, melody, texture, tempo and any other features that are relevant. [3]

### Sample answer 1

The extract begins quietly with tremolos in the string section played by the cellos to add tension with a simple melody played by the violins. This is calm but soon disturbed by the bass and brass which change the tonality to minor and add texture and dynamics. Here we hear the liet motif played by the clarinet, before a large crescendo aided by a timpani roll that makes it scary as we meet the evil wizard. At this point the tempo accelerates from legato largo to vivace and the rhythms become shorter and woodblock play repeated rhythms. The string section play semiquavers while the brass play triplets that create cross rhythms that make the piece unsettling and evil like the wizard. Accidentals are used throughout the piece but more are introduced as the wizard appears. The shape of the melody throughout begins with a small range and grows as the piece progresses.

9 marks

### Commentary

This response gained full marks.

This question is the only question on the paper that is marked using bands or levels and where the quality of written communication is taken into account. There are three levels of response: 1 – 3 is a limited range of points that may lack organisation, 4 – 6 is several points showing some understanding, some organisation and some links to the programme and 7 – 9 needs a good range of points that show understanding and that are clearly expressed. It should be made clear at this point that not everything that is in the mark scheme needs to be written in order to gain full marks. The marks scheme outlines the events within the music to help the examiner but as the candidate only hears the extract four times it would be impossible for all the points made in the mark scheme to be written about by the candidate. An answer that has some of the points from the mark scheme and that shows a good level of understanding of the music with some accurate and appropriate detail is what is required to gain marks in the top band.

The answer here has been written by a candidate but in order to be able to highlight the various points that have been made it has been word processed. The yellow highlights denote musical information and the green highlights denote the links to the programme.

This response is expressed clearly and shows a chronological understanding of the music. The answer starts in a very detailed way but does become a little more vague as it progresses. This is typical as candidates find it hard to sustain the level of detail throughout their answer. This does not preclude them from full marks if the detail at the beginning is good and further information is accurate although a little more basic.

This candidate starts with many excellent points; tremolo strings, melody by the violins, minor, added instruments, a melody by the clarinet, a crescendo and timpani roll. There is use of named instruments and detail of how they play, musical language is used and alongside this links to the programme are given. Some more accurate observations follow with excellent aural perception, particularly of the semiquavers against the triplets. The last part is more general but none the less an accurate account of what happens.

This answer does not contain all the points from the mark scheme by any means but it is clear that the candidate has listened to this music and heard a great many features and expressed them clearly.



## Sample answer 2

The piece starts with strings, with cellos and violas introducing a drone-like harmony, before violins enter with a short melody. The lower strings and brass then move lower, and the <sup>clarinet and oboe</sup> wood section takes the ~~main~~ melody which creates a warm sound. This section is also major, ~~and the~~ all parts play legato, and the tempo is slow. The piece ranges of the piece gets bigger as it modulates to minor, with the strings getting higher and the brass and timpani getting lower. The tempo gets faster, and the piece dynamics get louder as it goes into the next section. The brass then play rising chromatic scales, and the strings take on a tremolo accompaniment. The texture in the first section is relatively thin, but as the wood changes, the texture becomes [9] thicker.

5 marks

## Commentary

This response gained five marks.

This question is the only question in the paper that is marked using bands or levels and where the quality of written communication is taken into account.

The candidate here writes with an extremely good level of detail about the music but fails to give any links to the programme. This means that in line with the mark scheme only 5 marks are available. Had this candidate added points regarding how the music links with the progression of the story then this would have been a top band answer.

### Sample answer 3

the initial string melody and accompaniment are quiet, legato, and at a slow tempo. It slowly gets louder, and the percussion joins in, reflecting the wizard's power. The texture thickens, with brass joining in. The tonality modulates to a minor key, showing he is evil. The increase in tempo and dynamics could indicate that he is angry. Towards the end, the staccato strings, along with the percussion, provide a stark contrast when compared to the beginning, giving the music a sense of urgency, as if the wizard is about to cast a spell. These portray that he is evil, as his mood changes very suddenly. [9]

4 marks

### Commentary

This response gained four marks.

This question is the only question in the paper that is marked using bands or levels and where the quality of written communication is taken into account.

The candidate starts quite well with correct information about the dynamic, articulation and tempo. There is no detail regarding the initial string melody and accompaniment apart from the idea that it is quiet, legato and slow. Naming specific instruments and giving detail of what sort of rhythms are used,

the shape of melody, the range of the melody and the style of the accompaniment that they hear would make this a far better answer. Very general statements are then made regarding the progression of the music with the recognition that the music gets louder, thicker and percussion is added. Whilst this all is correct it is all limited in specific detail. The candidate then goes on to explain how this portrays the story and then states that the end provides a contrast. Unfortunately the candidate does not explain or describe the contrast that they hear and no detail is given.

This is a middle level response.

### Sample answer 4

The strings at the beginning give a calm feel. Adding the flute and the crescendo ~~adds~~ creates intensity and this is also done by the use of the brass instruments. It is a moderate speed. The brass gives a minor feel. The accelerando towards the end shows the evil wizard being introduced.

3 marks

### Commentary

This response gained three marks.

This question is the only question in the paper that is marked using bands or levels and where the quality of written communication is taken into account.

This answer was typical of a lot of candidates. They wrote a few basic points; strings start at a moderate speed, there is

a crescendo and accelerando with use of brass instruments and a minor feel. The flute is inaccurate although a woodwind instrument is added. There is some accurate aural perception but it is very limited despite the fact that musical vocabulary has been used.

This is clearly a bottom band answer.

## Question 4a

Using the given rhythm, fill in the missing notes in bars 2,3, 4 and 5.

[10]

### Sample answer 1

9 marks

### Commentary

This response gained nine marks.

This question was marked in the following way: Every correct note gained one mark and every correct shape gained one mark. Candidates often gained credit with a mixture of correct notes and shapes:

This candidate gained credit for nine correct notes. Only the second note is wrong.

## Sample answer 2 and 3



8 marks



7 marks

## Commentary

These candidates gained eight and seven marks respectively.

This response gained nine marks.

This question was marked in the following way: Every correct note gained one mark and every correct shape gained one mark.

These candidates gained their marks from a mixture of correct notes and correct shapes. The first response has four correct notes – the first one and the last three – and four correct shapes between the notes A and D in bars three and four. This makes eight marks in total. The second response has 4 correct shapes at the beginning of bar 3 and the last three notes are correct making a total of seven marks.

## Sample answer 4



3 marks

## Commentary

This candidate gained three marks for the last three notes which are correct.

Examiners always mark to the candidates benefit where possible and so in this case the first section is completely ignored and the last three notes, which are clearly placed by the candidate, are given credit.

## Sample answer 5



4 marks

## Commentary

This candidate gained four marks.

Unfortunately many candidates did not understand or were not able to write using leger lines.

In this answer the first note is unclear and assumed to be an incorrect E; there is a correct shape between notes 2 and 3 in bar 3 but the rest of the notes, although move down, do not have the correct number of leger lines and so are inaccurate and not able to gain credit. The last 3 notes are correct. One correct shape and three correct notes give a total of 4 marks.

## Question 4b (ii)

Circle three notes that are next to each other and that move chromatically.

[1]

### Sample answer 1

0 marks

0 marks

0 marks

### Commentary

All three candidates gained 0 marks.

Few candidates understood the concept of chromatic notes. As in the first example the candidate appears to have circled three random notes. In the second example they have recognised that chromatic notes should move stepwise but have not

actually realised that there would have to be an accidental on one of the notes for them to be able to be chromatic. In the third example the candidate has not remembered to apply the correct rule to an accidental within a bar so both the G's would be sharp not just the first one.

## Question 5c (i)

Using the grid below, give differences and/or similarities for each feature as it is used in both extracts.

(i) The tempo

[2]

### Sample answer 1

	A	B	Both	
(i) The tempo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Slow, relaxed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Faster than A</li> <li>◦ Steady</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Stay the same throughout</li> </ul>	[2]

0 marks

### Commentary

This candidate gained full marks.

Whilst the initial answers from this candidate are incorrect the statement regarding the tempo not changing in both extracts is completely accurate and will be credited.



## Question 5c (ii)

Using the grid below, give differences and/or similarities for each feature as it is used in both extracts.

(ii) The bass line

[4]

### Sample answer 1 and 2

<p>(ii) The bass line</p>	<p>Both extracts feature a walking bass, but in A it is played by the double bass, and B it is played by the bass guitar. It is plucked in both extracts.</p> <p>The bass in both extracts is continuous.</p> <p>In both extracts the bass line provides the harmony.</p>
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4 marks

<p>(ii) The bass line</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 1426 1034 2036"> <p>A Bass guitar plays walking bass on each crotchet The bass line does not change</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1034 1426 1406 2036"> <p>B The bass guitar plays on each beat as a walking The bass line changes towards the end. The bass line becomes more syncopated</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>A Bass guitar plays walking bass on each crotchet The bass line does not change</p>	<p>B The bass guitar plays on each beat as a walking The bass line changes towards the end. The bass line becomes more syncopated</p>
<p>A Bass guitar plays walking bass on each crotchet The bass line does not change</p>	<p>B The bass guitar plays on each beat as a walking The bass line changes towards the end. The bass line becomes more syncopated</p>		

4 marks

## Commentary

Both these candidates received full marks.

Marks are awarded by giving one mark for each correct answer from the mark scheme, but because this question is a comparison question both extracts must be referred to correctly to receive full marks and. The marks can be awarded equally ie. 2 marks for each extract, or there can be three marks for one extract and one for the other or visa versa.

Candidates often approach this style of comparison in different ways. The first candidate has written across the box in more of a prose style whilst the second has separated the box into extract A and extract B, either approach is perfectly acceptable.

These candidates gained marks for straight forward correct aural observations; they both stated that extract A and extract B had a walking bass, the first went on to correctly identify the instruments playing and the second recognised that extract A did not change whilst extract B did.

## Question 5c (ii)

Using the grid below, give differences and/or similarities for each feature as it is used in both extracts.

(i) The tempo

(ii) The bass line

[4]

### Sample answer 1

<p>(ii) The bass line</p>	<p>a walking Bass plucked playing ascending and descending phrases on notes of two chords of the blues scale with flatted 3th and 7th.</p> <p>b walking Bass playing notes that change direction a lot and are disjoint, with leaps. The notes are notes of two chords of the blues scale.</p>
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[4]

2 marks

### Commentary

This answer shows how a candidate can gain 3 marks for one extract and just one for the other. It should be noted that however many correct features were written about one of the extracts if there was no correct information about the other extract then full marks is not possible.

## Question 6d

Give four features of the music played after the downward leap that show the man rushing around, perhaps playing a joke on someone. [4]

### Sample answer 1

- 1 ... ~~staccato~~ notes <sup>used</sup> legato notes
- 2 ... trills and runs used / repetition / sequences
- 3 ... high pitch melody
- 4 ... melody ascends in scale like pattern [4]

4 marks

### Commentary

This response gained full marks.

This question is marked by giving one mark for each correct answer from the mark scheme.

In a response such as this examiners mark positively and where there are inaccurate statements these are largely ignored.

Hence the fact that point three has been given no credit does not matter and the correct answers that follow are credited.

Where simple 'right or wrong' questions are asked, particularly one mark questions, this approach is not possible, but where aural perception of a specific nature in a longer question is required it is.

### Sample answer 2 and 3

- 1 ... ~~staccato~~ staccato notes
- 2 ... ~~trills~~ but suddenly ~~loud~~ sudden increase in pitch
- 3 ... ~~high~~ pitch, ~~staccato~~ scale & chromatic note
- 4 ... sudden crescendo

4 marks

- 1 ... The music ~~is~~ the music plays fast high notes
- 2 ... The dynamics ~~is~~ increases
- 3 ... More instruments are added
- 4 ... More instruments play staccato notes

4 marks

## Commentary

These responses both received full marks.

This question is marked by giving one mark for each correct answer from the mark scheme.

Both of these responses give clear and concise answers from the mark scheme. They do not give any comment on the man that the music from the extract is about but that is not required here so a concise answer is probably preferable.

### Sample answer 4 and 5

- 1 ..... It ..... changes ..... notes ..... constantly ..... change.....
- 2 ..... large ..... number ..... of ..... instruments ..... play ..... one ..... note.....
- 3 ..... It ..... has ..... an ..... increase ..... tempo.....
- 4 ..... It ..... changes ..... from ..... high ..... to ..... low ..... pitch ..... constantly.....

0 marks

- 1 ..... The ..... string ..... instruments ..... become ..... faster.....
- 2 ..... The ..... monophonic ..... melody ..... at ..... the ..... start.....  
connotes him sneaking around.
- 3 ..... The ..... rhythm ..... the ..... string ..... instruments ..... play.....  
connotes footsteps.
- 4 ..... The ..... melody ..... speeds ..... up ..... as ..... it ..... he ..... is.....  
running faster. [4]

0 marks

## Commentary

These responses gained 0 marks.

This question is marked by giving one mark for each correct answer from the mark scheme.

Both of these responses are vague and/or inaccurate. Candidates are not always good at expressing exactly what they mean and they are not always able to successfully describe

what they hear. This is a skill that needs to be practised and built up over time. The first candidate's statement that the notes change is true of all music. More specific detail on how the notes change is required. The second and fourth points are too vague and the third inaccurate. The second candidate also gives inaccurate information in the first, second and third points. The second point is too vague – what the rhythm of the strings is actually like should be addressed.



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