



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level Music

H143/02 Composing

Section 1: Composing briefs

**To be given to candidates on or after
1 September 2016**



INSTRUCTIONS

- You must create a piece of music using **one** of the briefs from the six Areas of Study.
- Your composition is to be submitted as a recording. This is to be accompanied by a score, an annotated lead sheet or written account of the piece.
- The piece should be composed for instruments and/or voices as specified by the brief.
- Group compositions are not permitted.

INFORMATION

- The total number of marks available for this paper is **35**.
- This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Choose **one** of the following briefs.

1 Area of Study 1: Instrumental Music of Beethoven, Haydn and Mozart

Compose one or more movements of a Serenade to mark the occasion of Nikolaus I, Prince Esterházy's 75th birthday celebrations. Make use of instrumental forces appropriate to the Classical period. Your Serenade should be written for an ensemble comprising *four to ten* instrumental parts (not voices).

2 Area of Study 2: Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band

Taking inspiration from the Blues, compose a vocal ballad to be performed at a huge outdoor concert at the Hollywood Bowl, California in the summer of 2017. Instrumental backing can be kept to solo keyboard or guitar, or expanded to include a combination of acoustic and amplified instruments. You may use pre-existing lyrics or write your own.

3 Area of Study 3: Developments in Instrumental Jazz, 1910 to the present day

Choose a jazz style and compose an instrumental piece to mark the opening of an International Jazz Festival at The Sage, Gateshead. You may prefer to keep to a combination of instruments representative of a particular genre, for example a trad. jazz band, or else bring together a wider variety of instruments which could be acoustic, amplified or scat vocals (no lyrics). The style could range from the earliest forms of jazz through to more experimental forms, for example Miles Davis.

4 Area of Study 4: Religious Music of the Baroque Period

Using a sacred text in any language of your choosing, compose an Anthem to be sung by a small ensemble or large choir using a minimum of *three* vocal lines, suitable for a Christmas celebration at King's College, Cambridge. You may decide to write a piece requiring some form of instrumental backing, for example an organ or Baroque chamber ensemble, or keep to unaccompanied voices.

5 Area of Study 5: Programme Music, 1820–1910

Compose a piece of music to evoke the epic 22,000 kilometre migration of the Humpback Whale between the Arctic and the Equator. You should aim to convey the Whale-Song and journey of this magnificent mammal. You may choose to combine a large range of standard orchestral instruments typically used between 1820 and 1910, or utilise a smaller ensemble of orchestral instruments with or without the addition of piano. There should be at least four instrumental parts (no voices).

6 Area of Study 6: Innovations in Music, 1900 to the present day

With specific reference to either a) the Minimalist movement or b) Serialism of Webern, Schoenberg and Berg, compose a piece to be performed at Tate Modern as part of a David Hockney retrospective exhibition. Your choice of instruments can include acoustic and/or amplified instruments, but may also make use of singers. Computer sequenced and/or other synthetically generated sound effects may also be used to give a further dimension to the chosen idiom.

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