



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Junior Cycle Final Examination 2025

Music

Common Level

Friday 13 June Morning 9:30 - 11:00

280 marks

Examination Number

----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Date of Birth

		/			/		
----------------------	----------------------	---	----------------------	----------------------	---	----------------------	----------------------

For example, 3rd February
2005 is entered as 03 02 05

Centre Stamp

Instructions

Write your examination number and date of birth in the boxes on the front cover.

There are **six** questions in this examination paper. Answer all questions.

- Write your answers in blue or black pen. You may use pencil for staff notation.
- Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet.
- Before the examination begins, listen carefully to the test excerpt. If you cannot hear the recording clearly, inform the Superintendent immediately.
- There will be suitable pauses throughout for you to read and answer questions.
- You will have five minutes at the beginning to read the paper.

Question 1

Excerpt 1, played twice.

(a) Listen to the excerpt and answer the questions below.

(i) The instrument that plays the main melody is a _____.

(ii) It belongs to the _____ family.

Excerpt 2, played twice.

(b) The accompaniment is based on a

2-note motif

☐

3-note motif

☐

4-note motif

☐

Excerpt 3, played three times.

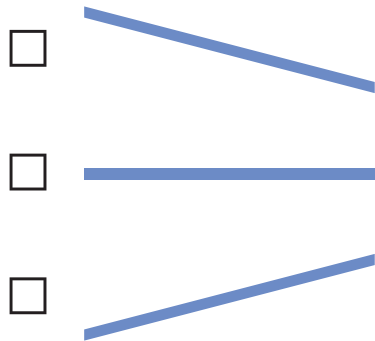
(c) Number the order in which the instruments are heard.

Instrument	Order in which they are heard
Double Bass	
Drum Kit	1
Piano	
Saxophone	

This question continues on the next page.

Excerpt 4, played twice.

(d) Which of the graphics below represents the shape of the melody?



Excerpt 5, played three times.

(e) Describe two features of the music played on the double bass in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

- You have **five** minutes to answer part **(f)**.
- There is no music on the recording for this question.

(f) Improvisation is one of the features of Jazz music, which can be heard in **Excerpt 4**.

(i) Explain the term improvisation.

Answer:

(ii) Describe a musical feature of a harmonic or rhythmic accompaniment that you have composed.

Answer:

(iii) Describe how you recorded this accompaniment.

Answer:

Question 2

(a) Excerpt 1, played once only.

- Listen to the excerpt and follow the score below.
- Answer the questions below and on the next page.

(i) Insert the missing time signature on the score at X.

(ii) What are the letter names of the three notes at Y (bar 5)?

Note 1: _____	Note 2: _____	Note 3: _____
---------------	---------------	---------------

(iii) These three notes form the chord of

A major

☐

D major

☐

B minor

☐

(iv) Name one note on the score which is not part of the chord you chose in part (iii).

Note name:

(v) The small note before the crotchet is an example of



- ☐ Articulation
- ☐ Ornamentation
- ☐ Syncopation

Excerpt 2 and Excerpt 3, played twice.

(b) With reference to musical features, describe two differences between **Excerpt 2** and **Excerpt 3**.

Difference 1:

Difference 2:

This question continues on the next page.

(c) Excerpt 4, played three times.

(i) The tonality in this excerpt

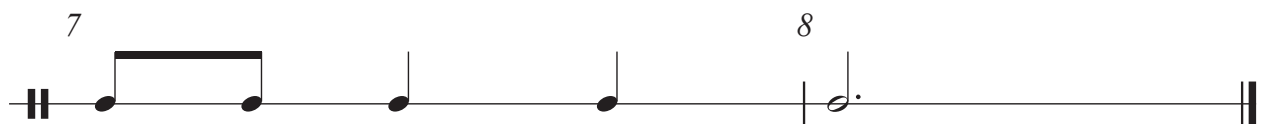
- ☐ changes from major to minor
- ☐ changes from minor to major
- ☐ is in a major key throughout
- ☐ is in a minor key throughout

(ii) Describe the accompaniment heard in this excerpt.

Answer:

Excerpt 5, played five times.

(d) Insert the rhythm for the **eight** missing notes in bars 5–6 on the staff below.



Roughwork

Do not write on this page

Question 3

(a) Excerpt 1, played three times.

(i) The form of the music in this excerpt is

AABB

☐

ABAB

☐

ABBA

☐

(ii) This form is known as

Answer:

Excerpt 2, played three times.

(b) Describe the texture of the music in this excerpt.

Answer:

This question continues on the next page.

(c) Fill in the **five** missing notes in bars 1–2 using the given rhythm. You may use staff notation or tonic solfa.

[illegible]

- You have **eight** minutes to answer parts **(d)** and **(e)**.
- There is no music on the recording for these questions.

(d) Name two pieces of music that you have studied that are similar in period and style by different composers from different countries.

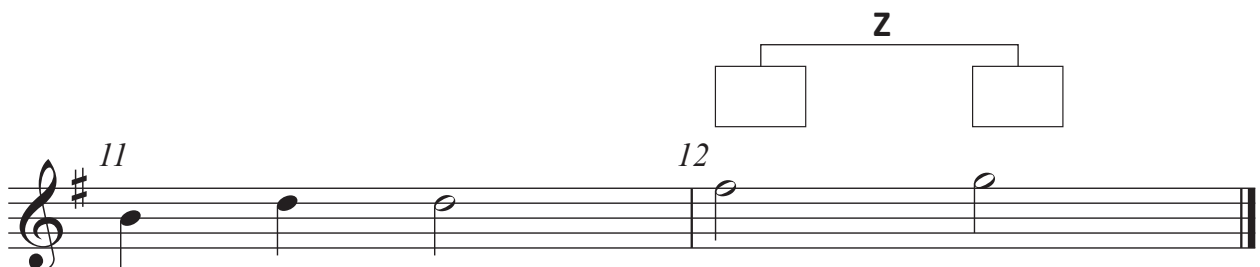
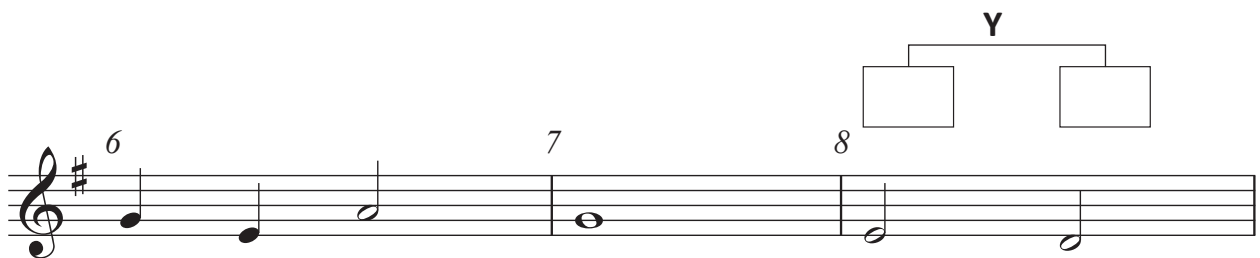
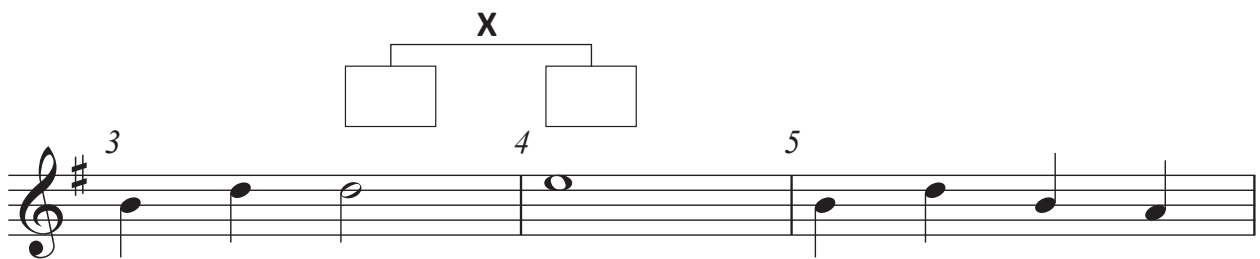
Composer 1:
Piece of music:

Composer 2:
Piece of music:

This question continues on the next page.

Composing Task

(e) Insert suitable chord symbols in the boxes provided below to create cadences at **X**, **Y** and **Z**.



Chord bank grid – key of G major

Notes of chord	D	E	F $\sharp$	G	A	B	C
	B	C	D	E	F $\sharp$	G	A
	G	A	B	C	D	E	F $\sharp$
Chord symbol	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F $\sharp^\circ$
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii $^\circ$

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff displays seven triads, each consisting of three black dots representing notes. Below each triad is a Roman numeral: I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, and vii°. The triads are: I (D, F#, A), ii (E, G, B), iii (F#, A, C), IV (D, F, A), V (F, A, C), vi (D, F, A), and vii° (E, G, B).

Roughwork

[illegible]

Question 4

(a) Excerpt 1, played three times.

(i) Explain the term 'found sounds'.

Answer:

(ii) Identify two found sounds that can be heard in this excerpt.

Found Sound 1:

--

Found Sound 2:

--

(b) Excerpt 2, played three times.

(i) Select the rhythm which matches the body percussion heard in this excerpt.

☐

☐

☐

(ii) Describe two musical features of the backing vocals in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

This question continues on the next page.

Excerpt 3, played once only.

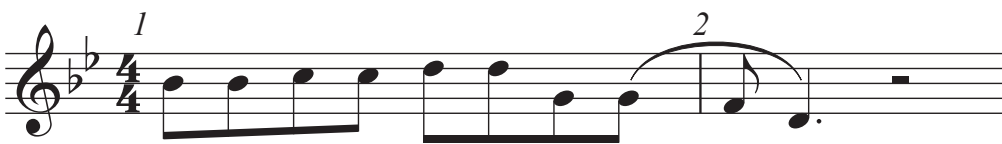
- (c) This excerpt features many processing effects. Name a processing effect that you have studied and describe its effect on the music.

Processing Effect:
Description:

Excerpt 4, played three times.

- (d) Select the melody which matches the vocals heard in this excerpt.

☐ 
Tom-my used to work on the docks_____

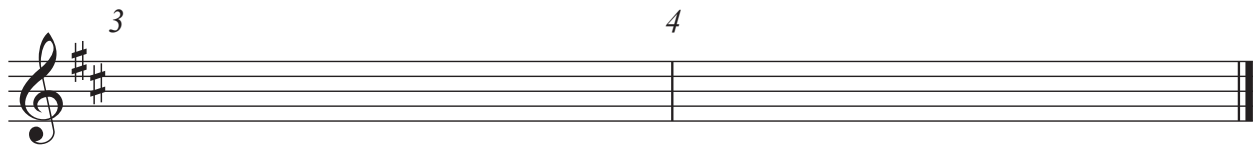
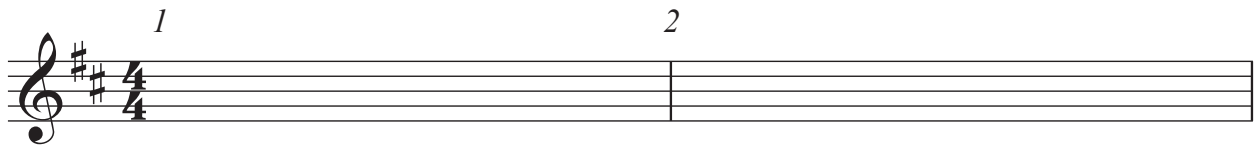
☐ 
Tom-my used to work on the docks_____

☐ 
Tom-my used to work on the docks_____

- You have **eight** minutes to answer part (e).
- There is no music on the recording for this question.

Composing Task

(e) Compose a melody in the key of D major. End on the keynote/doh.



Roughwork

[illegible]

Question 5

(a) Excerpt 1, played three times.

(i) The accompaniment in this song is based on an ostinato. Explain this term.

Answer:

(ii) Describe two other layers of sound that are added to the ostinato.

Layer 1:

Layer 2:

Excerpt 2, played three times.

- The ticked boxes in bars 1–4 show where chords change.

(b) Tick five boxes in bars 5–8 where you hear a chord change.

☒ ☐ ☒ ☐

So far _____ from the

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

stars _____

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

And I wan-na tell you ev - 'ry - thing, the words I ne-ver got

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

_____ to say the first time a - round. _____

This question continues on page 23.

Do not write on this page

- You have **five** minutes to answer part **(c)**.
- There is no music on the recording for this question.

(c) All of the artists in this question were winners or nominees of an award in the RTÉ Choice Music Prize Competition.

(i) Describe two musical features that you feel are important in a song to make it worthy of winning this award.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

(ii) Give an account of the time allocated to Irish artists and performers on a variety of local or national media.

Answer:

Question 6

Excerpt 1, played three times.

(a) Tick whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
(i) The tempo of the excerpt is very fast.	☐	☐
(ii) The main melody features repeated notes.	☐	☐
(iii) The melody features ornamentation.	☐	☐
(iv) The accompaniment features mainly broken chords.	☐	☐

Excerpt 2, played twice.

(b) Describe two ways in which this arrangement of the song is different to the arrangement that you heard in **Excerpt 1**.

Difference 1:

Difference 2:

(c) Excerpt 3, played three times.

(i) What is the pulse of the music?

3	4
☐	☐

(ii) Identify one feature of the melody.

Answer:

(iii) Identify one feature of the rhythm.

Answer:

You have two minutes to complete the examination paper.

Roughwork:

Do not write on this page

Do not write on this page

Copyright notice

This examination paper may contain text or images for which the State Examinations Commission is not the copyright owner, and which may have been adapted, for the purpose of assessment, without the authors' prior consent. This examination paper has been prepared in accordance with Section 53(5) of the *Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000*. Any subsequent use for a purpose other than the intended purpose is not authorised. The Commission does not accept liability for any infringement of third-party rights arising from unauthorised distribution or use of this examination paper.

Junior Cycle Final Examination – Common Level

Music

Friday 13 June

Morning 9:30 - 11:00