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# A-level MUSIC

Component 3 Composition

June 2025

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## Composition 1: Composition to a brief Composition 2: Free composition

### Issuing instructions

To be conducted between 15 September 2024 and 15 May 2025.

All completed work must be submitted to AQA by 15 May 2025.

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- appropriate facilities and materials for producing and recording compositions.

### Instructions

- Composition 1: Composition to a brief: Choose **one** of the briefs in this booklet.
- Composition 2: Free composition: This need not reference areas of study or a given brief.
- For each composition you must include a programme note (approx. 150 words).
- For each composition you must include a notated score and/or lead sheet and/or aural guide.
- For each composition you must include an audio file, preferably in .mp3 format, although .wav and other audio formats that would play on any device are also acceptable.
- Together, the compositions **must** last a combined minimum time of **four and a half minutes**. There is no maximum duration.
- If the combined minimum duration of your composition is **less than four and a half minutes** then a penalty proportionate to the severity of the timing infringement will be applied.
- You must have sufficient direct supervision to ensure that the work submitted can be confidently authenticated as your own.

### Information

- Composition 1 is marked out of 25.
  - Composition 2 is marked out of 25.
  - The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
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**Composition 1: Composition to a brief**Choose **one** of the following briefs.**0 1****Brief 1: Chorales**Candidates should complete **both** chorales.

## Chorale 1

Complete the harmonisation of the following chorale by adding parts for alto and tenor.

Measures 1-5 of the chorale. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The treble clef part begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef part begins with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes F3, E3, and D3. A fermata is placed over the final note of the treble part in measure 5.

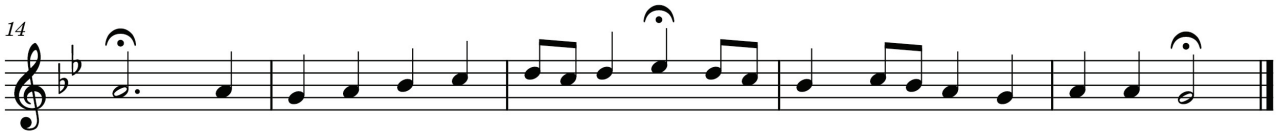
Measures 6-10 of the chorale. The treble clef part continues with quarter notes D5, E5, F5, and G5. The bass clef part continues with quarter notes C3, B2, A2, and G2. A fermata is placed over the final note of the treble part in measure 10.

Measures 11-15 of the chorale. The treble clef part continues with quarter notes G5, F5, E5, and D5. The bass clef part continues with quarter notes F2, E2, D2, and C2. A fermata is placed over the final note of the treble part in measure 15.

Measures 16-20 of the chorale. The treble clef part continues with quarter notes C5, B4, A4, and G4. The bass clef part continues with quarter notes B1, A1, G1, and F1. A fermata is placed over the final note of the treble part in measure 20.

## Chorale 2

Harmonise the following chorale melody by adding parts for alto, tenor and bass.



[25 marks]

Turn over for the next brief

Turn over ►

0 2

**Brief 2**

Compose a piece in a **progressive rock** style.

The piece will be performed at a 'Sounds of the 70s' gala concert.

The piece must include the following chord progression.

Am<sup>7</sup>                  Em<sup>9</sup>                  Fmaj<sup>7</sup>                  Cmaj<sup>9</sup>                  Abmaj<sup>7</sup>

The chord progression:

- **must** be used **at least once** in this order
- **may** be used in part
- **may** be extended and/or developed
- **may** be re-voiced and/or inverted.

The piece must include the following metres:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 4 | 4 | 4 |

The piece must be scored for:

- drum kit
- electric guitar
- bass guitar.

You may include other instrument(s) **and/or** voice(s) of your choice.

You may include lyrics in the piece.

You will **not** be assessed on the quality of the lyrics.

**[25 marks]**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 3 |
|---|---|

**Brief 3**

Compose music to underscore these **four** film clips.

The links for the four film clips can be found in the document **Film links for A-level Music 7272/C Brief 3**.

The film clips will be used to promote a winter sports holiday company. They will be released in a social media marketing campaign.

The holiday company wants the music to communicate a spirit of excitement and adventure.

Your music must be written as separate cues, one for each clip.

There must be motivic and stylistic connections between the music for the four cues.

The music may be scored for acoustic **and/or** electronic sounds/instruments/voices.

**[25 marks]**

**Turn over for the next brief**

**Turn over ►**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 4 |
|---|---|

**Brief 4**

Write a song for a musical which is set in a circus. The title of the song is 'Flying High'.

The song is for a scene involving **two** trapeze artists.

They are reflecting on the excitement of their act as well as the risks which it brings.

The song must include:

- at least one section sung by **each** of the two trapeze artists as a solo
- at least one section which is a vocal duet.

You should provide lyrics. These may be your own or someone else's (who should be acknowledged). You will not be assessed on the quality of the lyrics.

The song must make use of the following melody at least once.

You may transpose the melody to another key to suit a different vocal register.

The melody may be repeated, developed and used in any part of the song.



The song must be scored for **at least two** and **up to eight** instruments of your choice.

**[25 marks]**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 5 |
|---|---|

**Brief 5**

Compose a piece of **modal jazz**.

The title of the piece is 'Dreams of Stars'.

The piece will be performed at a late night jazz festival.

The piece must include:

- an irregular time signature for at least part of the music
- a mode of your choice which is transposed at least **once**
- at least one solo section.

The solo section(s) must be notated.

The piece must be scored for a jazz quartet of the following instruments:

- piano
- bass (acoustic or electric)
- drum kit
- a solo instrument of your choice.

The piece should last **no longer than three minutes**.

**[25 marks]**

**Turn over for the next brief**

**Turn over ►**

0

6

**Brief 6**

Compose a piece of instrumental music which is a fusion of Indian and Western styles.

The piece will be performed in the morning at the start of a conference promoting international relations.

The conference organisers would like the music to project a spirit of reflection and thoughtfulness.

The piece must make use of the following raga:

**Rag Ahir Bhairav**

The piece must contain the following features:

- at least one slow section **and** one faster section
- use of a drone/pedal in at least **one** section.

The piece must be scored for an ensemble of **up to six** instruments of your choice.

**[25 marks]**



|   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 7 |
|---|---|

**Brief 7**

Compose a piece of music in a Neoclassical style.

The piece will be performed at an art exhibition of paintings from the middle of the 20th century.

The piece must reflect images and ideas from the following extract.

*Later I stood in a wheat field and heard the wind make music from everything it touched. The top notes were the husks: fractious but nervous, giddy, little-voiced, while underneath a strong strange melody pulsed as though the grain was rigging, or a forest.*

*In all my praise and plainsong I wrote down the sounds of a man's boots from behind the mountain.*

Sinéad Morrissey  
(Extract from 'Shostakovich')

You do not need to include the text in your piece.

The piece must include:

- tertiary modulations
- harmonic surprise
- non-functional and/or unprepared dissonances.

The piece must be scored for **four** performers, in any combination of instruments **and/or** voices.

**[25 marks]**

**Turn over for the free composition**

**Turn over ►**

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**Composition 2: Free composition**

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Free compositions need not reference areas of study or a given brief.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF BRIEFS**

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