

MSO

CLASSROOM

STYLE & COMPOSITION

EXTERNAL EXAM QUESTIONS THROUGH THE YEARS

DIFFERENT WAYS OF USING THIS RESOURCE

1. Go to the [VCAA website](#) and find out what recording they used for the below questions. YouTube/Spotify/etc.
2. Pick a question and a recording of your choosing.
3. Collate all of the feedback you have received from your teacher throughout the year into one doc.
4. Write the most detailed response you can free of any time limit.
5. Having written a detailed response, give yourself 5 minutes to complete the question again.
6. Listen to a recording and brainstorm/plan your response.
7. Ask a friend or a teacher for feedback.
8. Set 5 minute time limit to answer the question.
9. Get a friend to pick a recording and a question.
10. Give yourself 1 minute to answer a question.
11. Read your answer to a friend, a family member or a pet. Answer any questions they have about terminology.
12. Pick 3 recordings and 3 questions. Set a timer for 15 minutes.
13. Ask a family member to pick a recording and pick two questions.
14. Create a Google Doc for you and a friend to complete a question.
15. Have a piece of chocolate after every question you complete. (Actually make that two pieces — you deserve it!)

[Music Style and Composition: Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports](#)

2020

OUTCOME 1 – LISTENING RESPONSE

1. Identify four ways in which repetition is used in excerpt 1a.
2. Discuss how elements of music and/or compositional devices are used to create the character of this excerpt.
3. Describe the use of tone colour in this excerpt.
4. Referring to the layers of sound, discuss the structure/form of this excerpt. You may use a diagram or chart to present the order of musical events.
5. Describe the characteristics of the main melody in excerpt 3a.
6. Explain how interest is created and maintained in excerpt 3b. In your response, refer to variation.
7. There are two contrasting sections in this excerpt. Explain how rhythm/time and texture are used to create contrast between the two sections in this excerpt. You may include a diagram or chart.
8. Describe the treatment of articulation in this excerpt.
9. Describe the treatment of dynamics in this excerpt.

OUTCOME 2 – STUDIED WORKS

1. Explain how the composer/creator uses contrast to create the structure/form of this work. You may include a diagram or chart.
2. Identify one contextual issue associated with this work.
3. Explain how the contextual issue identified in part a influenced the creation of this work. In your response, refer to elements of music and/or compositional devices.
4. Select two elements of music from the list below and analyse their treatment in the work you studied in Unit
 - a. melody
 - b. harmony
 - c. tonality
 - d. instrumentation
 - e. rhythm/time.

2019

OUTCOME 1 – LISTENING RESPONSE

1. Describe the use of contrast and repetition in this excerpt.
2. Describe the structure/form of this excerpt. You may include a diagram or chart.
3. Describe the treatment of harmony and rhythm/time in this excerpt.
4. Explain how texture and tone colour are used in combination to create interest in this excerpt.
5. Describe the treatment of the solo melody in excerpt 4a.
6. Discuss how the solo melody from excerpt 4a is developed in excerpt 4b.
7. Discuss how Holst uses elements of music and/or compositional devices to create a dramatic mood that reflects *the Bringer of War*.

OUTCOME 2 – STUDIED WORKS

1. Identify the style of this work.
2. Describe two characteristics of the style of this work.
3. Explain how one of the characteristics described in part b. is evident in this work.
4. Explain how two elements of music are used to create contrast in this work. In your response, refer to contrast on micro, medium and global levels.
5. 'It is important to understand the context in which a work was created in order to truly understand its meaning.' Discuss this statement with specific reference to the work you studied in Unit 4. You may focus your response on one or more of the following:
 - a. contextual issue(s)
 - b. music style
 - c. compositional device(s)
 - d. element(s) of music.

2018

OUTCOME 1 – LISTENING RESPONSE

1. Explain how the composer has created a sense of drama in this excerpt.
2. Describe the treatment of rhythm/time in excerpt 2a.
3. Discuss the use of tone colour in excerpt 2b.
4. Describe the structure/form of this excerpt. In your response, refer to melody. You may include a diagram or chart.
5. Describe the treatment of harmony in this excerpt. You may include a diagram or chart.
6. Discuss how interest is maintained in this excerpt. In your response, refer to elements of music and compositional devices.
7. Describe the use of texture in excerpt 5a.
8. Discuss how the second section of excerpt 5b contrasts with the first section.

OUTCOME 2 – STUDIED WORKS

9. Identify two contextual issues associated with this work.
10. Explain how the contextual issues identified in part a have influenced this work. In your response, refer to elements of music and compositional devices.
11. Discuss how compositional devices are used to structure/create the form of this work. You may include a diagram or chart.
12. Identify two characteristics of the music style of this work.
13. Describe how the treatment of two elements of music contributes to the music style of this work.

2017

OUTCOME 1 – LISTENING RESPONSE

1. Describe the layers of sound in this excerpt. You may include a diagram or chart.
2. Identify and describe two melodic motifs used in excerpt 2a.
3. Discuss the use of repetition in excerpt 2b.
4. Describe the ways in which articulation, dynamics and tone colour are used to create contrast in this excerpt.
5. Describe two ways in which melodic material is used in excerpt 4a.
6. Discuss the ways in which the composers/creators create tension in excerpt 4b. In your response, refer to compositional devices and elements of music.
7. Describe the use of rhythm/time and meter in excerpt 5a.
8. Discuss how instrumentation and texture are used to create a sense of movement and energy in excerpt.

OUTCOME 2 – STUDIED WORKS

9. Discuss the ways in which the composer/creator uses repetition and variation at both global and micro levels in this work.
10. Identify a contextual issue associated with this work and describe how its influence can be seen in this work.
11. Identify the music style of this work and explain how the composer's/creator's use of one or more compositional devices – repetition, variation, contrast – contributes to the music style.
12. Describe the structure/form of this work. You may include a diagram or chart.
13. Explain how the composer/creator uses one of the following elements of music in this work:
 - tone colour
 - rhythm/time.

2016 (Previous study design)

OUTCOME 1 – LISTENING RESPONSE

1. Discuss how the composer evokes a sense of energy and busyness in this excerpt.
2. Explain how the voices are used in this excerpt.
3. Describe the treatment of rhythm/time in this excerpt.
4. Discuss how contrast is used in this excerpt.
5. Describe the treatment of melody in excerpt 4a.
6. Describe how the composers develop music ideas in excerpt 4b. In your response, refer to texture.

STUDIED WORK

7. Discuss how contrast is achieved in this work. In your response, refer to form/structure.
8. Describe how this other work is representative of a music style. In your response, refer to melody and harmony.
9. Describe two contextual issues related to this work.
10. Discuss the impact of one of the contextual issues described in part a. on this work.
11. Explain how repetition and variation are used to create interest in this other work.

2015 (Previous study design)

OUTCOME 1 – LISTENING RESPONSE

1. Describe how rhythm and tone colour are used in this excerpt.
2. This excerpt is a rondo made up of seven sections that include repeated material. Describe each section in this excerpt. In your answer, make clear the similarities and differences between the sections.
3. Describe the instrumentation used in this excerpt.
4. Discuss how interest is maintained in this excerpt. In your answer, refer to contrast.
5. Explain how the composer uses pitch to build intensity in this excerpt. In your answer, refer to melody, harmony and tonality.

STUDIED WORK

6. Explain how musical features in this work are representative of its style.
7. Discuss how a contextual issue has influenced the creation of this other work.
8. Describe how the composer/creator uses texture and tone colour in this other work.
9. Explain how repetition and variation are used to create the form/structure of this work.
10. 'Music's only function is to entertain.' Discuss this statement in relation to this other work. In your answer, you are free to agree or disagree with the statement above and you may focus your response on one or more of the following:
 - contextual issue(s)
 - music style
 - compositional device(s)
 - element(s) of music.

2014 (Previous study design)

OUTCOME 1 – LISTENING RESPONSE

1. Discuss how layers of sound are used in this excerpt. In your answer, refer to melody and instrumentation.
2. Explain how the composer creates a sense of tranquillity in excerpt 2a.
3. Explain how the composer creates contrast in excerpt 2b.
4. Describe how rhythm/time is used in this excerpt.
5. Discuss the use of repetition in this excerpt. In your answer, you may refer to the repetition of:
 - formal sections
 - phrases
 - melodic shapes
 - intervals
 - harmonic patterns
 - timbres.

STUDIED WORK

6. Describe the structure of this work.
7. Explain how the composer/creator treats two of the following elements of music:
 - articulation
 - harmony
 - tonality
 - tone colour.
8. Describe the style of this other work.
9. Discuss how this other work is representative of the music style that you described in part a.
10. Discuss how two contextual issues influenced the way the composer/creator created this work.
11. Explain the composer/creator's use of variation in relation to melody and rhythm in this other work.

2013 (Previous study design)

OUTCOME 1 – LISTENING RESPONSE

1. Describe how the composer creates interest in this work.
2. Describe the structure of this excerpt. You may use a diagram in your response.
3. Describe how the lead singer is accompanied throughout the excerpt.
4. Discuss how the composer develops melody in this excerpt
5. Describe how dynamics are used in this excerpt. You may use a diagram in your response.
6. Describe how articulation is used in this excerpt.
7. Explain how the composer has created a sense of drama in this work.

STUDIED WORK

8. 'Unless Australian composers create music that engages listeners, their music will remain in the archives.' Discuss this statement in relation to the Australian work that you have studied. In your answer, refer to one contextual issue.
9. Describe two musical terms* that can be used to support analysis of this other work.
* *This refers to the terminology that is used to describe elements of music and compositional devices. Examples of such terms are 'riff', 'phrase', 'mode', 'sequence', 'inversion', 'ostinato' and 'ternary'.*
10. Discuss how the composer has developed musical ideas in this other work. Refer to the two terms that you described in part a.
11. Discuss how the composer's use of melody and tone colour is representative of a particular music style.
12. Explain how the composer uses two compositional devices in this work.

2012 (PREVIOUS STUDY DESIGN)

OUTCOME 1 – LISTENING RESPONSE

1. Describe how contrast is created in this excerpt. In your answer refer to tone colour and texture.
2. Describe how the composer creates a sense of both stillness and movement in this work. In your answer refer to melody, harmony and rhythm.
3. Describe the rhythm of the accompaniment in this excerpt
4. Explain how the vocal line changes across the excerpt. In your answer you may refer to
 - phrasing
 - tessitura
 - motive
 - influence of text
 - tone colour
 - pitch centre.
5. Explain how musical material is used to build intensity in this excerpt.
6. This work features a set of variations on the tune *Pop Goes the Weasel*. Discuss three ways in which variation is used in this work.

STUDIED WORK

7. Identify two significant contextual issues associated with this work.
8. Discuss how one of these contextual issues has influenced this work.
9. Describe two ways in which the composer/creator uses contrast in this other work.
10. 'The way in which repetition is used to develop a work is often typical of a particular music style.' Discuss this statement in relation to the work.
11. Explain how the composer/creator uses two of the following elements of music in this other work.
 - melody
 - structure
 - articulation
 - tone colour
 - tonality
 - rhythm.

2011 (PREVIOUS STUDY DESIGN)

OUTCOME 1 – LISTENING RESPONSE

1. There are a number of sound sources used in this excerpt. These include piano, percussion, bass guitar, rhythm guitar, brass and vocals.
 - a. Describe the role in the ensemble of three of these sound sources.
 - b. Describe the melodic contour of one of these sound sources.
 - c. Describe the rhythm of one of these sound sources.
2. Describe the melody of this excerpt. In your answer you may refer to:
 - horizontal pitch patterns
 - intervals
 - phrasing
 - tessitura
 - melodic shape
 - motives.
3. Explain how tone colour and texture are used to create contrast in this excerpt.
4. Describe the structure of this excerpt. In your answer refer to melody.
5. Discuss three ways the composer varies musical material.
6. Describe how rhythm and harmony are used in this piece.

STUDIED WORK

7. Discuss how the composer attempts to sustain the audience's interest throughout the work. In our answer you may refer to: Elements of music and/or compositional devices.
8. Describe how this work is representative of a particular style. In your answer refer to harmony, texture and contrast.
9. “To fully understand a piece of music you must have an appreciation for when, where and why it was composed”. Discuss this statement in relation to the studied work.
10. Describe a significant characteristic of the music style of this work.
11. Explain how repetition and variation have been used to develop structure and melody in this work.