

Subject: GCE Music Technology

Exam Board: Edexcel

Component 3

1 hour 30 mins

Sequencing and DAW

- Uses of sequencing in tracks.
- Humanising techniques (e.g. iterative quantize)
- Appropriate quantize values / quantize techniques.

Recording and Capture

- Sources of unwanted noise
- Understand the development of recording technology and the production practices of different eras, including how production techniques have changed over time.
 - Direct to tape mono recording (1930-1963)
 - Early multitrack recording (1964-1969)
 - Large-scale analogue multitrack (1969-1995)
 - Digital recording and sequencing (1980-present day)
 - Digital audio workstation and emerging technologies (1996-present day)

Effects and Processing

- Identify effects on individual instruments
- Describe parameters of an effect by ear
- Advanced production techniques e.g. side chain compression, filter sweep.
- Describe effects and processes used during mastering

Synthesis

- Oscillator settings (e.g. wave shape)
- Filter settings (e.g. filter type)
- Envelope settings
- Other settings (e.g. arpeggiator, portamento)

Audio Editing/Sampling

- Sampling techniques.
- Sample rate and bit depth and how they affect sound quality.

Technical Numeracy

- Make frequency calculations.
- Annotate and interpret technical graphs.

Comparison Question – 15 marks (Q5)

- Evaluate the production techniques heard in two songs/two versions of a song.
 - Capture
 - Instruments and Style
 - Dynamics
 - Effects Processing
 - Reflection

Extended Response – 20 marks (Q6)

- Evaluate the impact that a particular effect, production technique or technology has had on popular music through the years, identifying and describing examples from a specific track.

Component 4

2 hours 15 mins

Sequencing and DAW

- Quantize values.
- Adjusting rhythm and pitch.
- Manipulating pitch bend data.
- Rhythmic dictation.

Recording and Capture

- Microphone selection (type, frequency response, polar pattern)
- Microphone placement

Synthesis

- Recreate a synthesiser sound from scratch
 - Match oscillator shape and octave.
 - Match filter settings, including filter envelopes.
 - Match amplitude envelope settings.
 - Velocity controlled filters.
 - LFO/modulation settings.

Audio Editing/Sampling

- Use corrective EQ.
- Correct out of time sections of an audio track.
- Repair notes/phrases from material elsewhere.
- Compile a part from multiple audio files, by ear.
- Create new backing vocal parts by retuning lead vocals.
- Analogue to digital conversion/Nyquist theorem.

Technical Numeracy

- Analyse MIDI file and record technical details.
- Convert numbers from decimal to binary.
- Annotate and interpret technical graphs.

Mixing Question (Q5)

- Produce a final mix, including:
 - Compress, noise gate, side chain compression/gate
 - EQ whole track, EQ specific phrase, filter sweep
 - Automated pan, automatic double tracking
 - Identify an effect and recreate it
 - Balance the levels of the mix
 - Produce a final stereo mix (bounce the track)

Essay Question (Q6)

- Evaluate a recording setup, mixing, synth or effects rig for a particular task.

Useful revision resources:

A Level Music Technology revision guide https://www.amazon.co.uk/Edexcel-Level-Music-Technology-Revision/dp/1785586343/ref=sr_1_1?crid=38QJ01HIE0JPV&dchild=1&keywords=a+level+music+technology+revision+guide&qid=1615995196&srefix=a+level+music+technolo%2Caps%2C175&sr=8-1

Quizlet Sets for Tier 3 Vocabulary

Component 3

Music Technology revision- Component 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAKLguSjD-U>

Component 4

Revision Videos - Practical Skills

- Mixing (Q5) practice tasks and support videos
- Audio Editing practice tasks and support videos
- Sequencing practice tasks and support videos
- Specimen Paper Walkthrough
- Component 4 Revision - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDtV3Pk0sTA>

Revision Tips

Component 3

- Take the time to check your equipment fully before the exam starts. Make sure you have your headphones on the right way around!
- Remember the 'CIDER' acronym to help you with Question 5.
- Answer 'explain' questions using the DEE format (describe, explain, example). You can only get so many marks for 'describing' only.

Component 4

- Take the time to read the instructions during the setup process. Make a note of the tempo and the first track you need to import. Add a stereo master fader at this point too.
- Take a highlighter into the exam and highlight key words, bar numbers etc.