



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Junior Cycle Final Examination 2026

Music

Common Level

Friday 12 June Morning 9:30 - 11:00

280 marks

Examination Number

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Date of Birth

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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. There is space for extra work/roughwork at the end of the booklet. Label any such extra work clearly with the question number and part.
- Before the examination begins, listen carefully to the test excerpt. If you cannot hear the recording clearly, inform the Superintendent immediately.
- This examination booklet will be scanned, and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.
- There will be suitable pauses throughout for you to read and answer questions.

Do not write on this page

Question 1

Excerpt 1, played three times.

(a) Select the correct answer to complete each sentence.

A. in harmony	B. a repeated note	C. <i>a cappella</i>
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(i) At the beginning, the singer is singing . . .
(ii) The electric guitar joins in playing . . .
(iii) At the end, the voices sing . . .

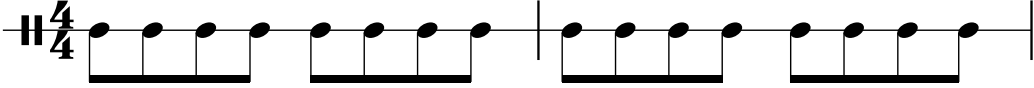
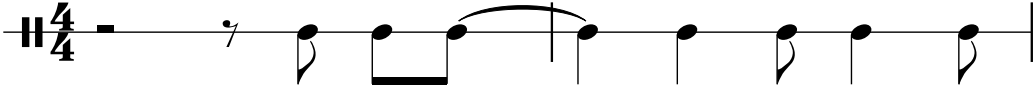
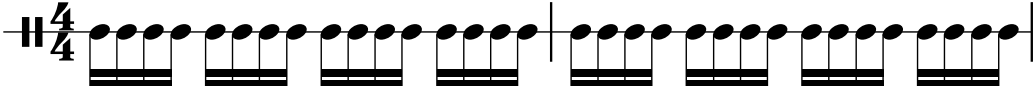
Answer

(b) This song features different textures. Describe **one** way the texture of the music changes in this excerpt.

Answer:

Excerpt 2, played twice.

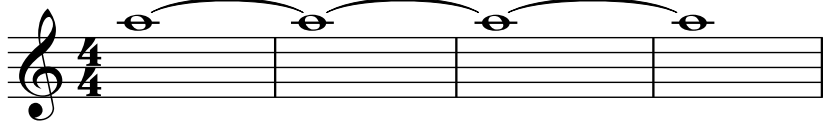
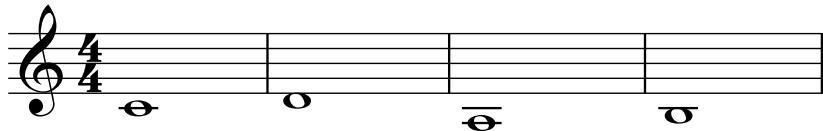
(c) Identify the order in which the following motifs are heard in this excerpt. Write your answer in the boxes using the numbers 1, 2, 3.

Order ↓	
	(i) 
	(ii) 
	(iii) 

This question continues on the next page.

Excerpt 3, played twice.

(d) Name **one** instrument that performs each of these musical ideas in the accompaniment.

	Instrument
(i) 	
(ii) 	
(iii) 	

Excerpt 4, played three times.

(e) Identify and describe one change that occurs in this excerpt.

(i) Change:	Tempo	Dynamics	Metre
	☐	☐	☐

(ii) Description:

(f) All of the excerpts heard in this question are cover versions of songs by the Irish band *U2*.

Describe **one** principle of music property rights that a musician must consider before making a cover version of another artist's original music.

Music Property Principle:

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Question 2

(a) Excerpt 1, played twice.

(i) The melody is sung by

sopranos
and altos

☐

sopranos
and tenors

☐

tenors
and basses

☐

(ii) The supporting voices feature

sustained
notes

☐

canon

☐

call and
answer

☐

(b) Excerpt 2, played three times.

(i) This excerpt features

sustained
notes

☐

canon

☐

call and
answer

☐

(ii) This excerpt uses only vocals.

Describe one feature of any voice type in this vocal performance. Refer to a voice type (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) and a feature in your answer.

Answer:

This question continues on the next page.

- You have **eight** minutes to answer part (c).

(c) Composing Task

- Insert suitable chord symbols in the six empty boxes provided.
- Do not repeat the same chord in adjacent boxes.
- Do not use Roman numerals.

Ignite

Emile Deedes-Vincke

There are times when you might fall, and

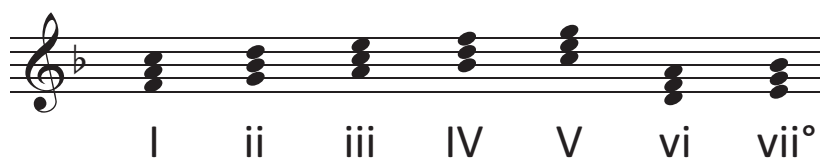
times that you must al - ways stand tall. And the

light may start to fade, but

there's still mus - ic left to be made.

Chord bank grid – key of F major

Notes of chord	C	D	E	F	G	A	B $\flat$
	A	B $\flat$	C	D	E	F	G
	F	G	A	B $\flat$	C	D	E
Chord symbol	F	Gm	Am	B $\flat$	C	Dm	E $^{\circ}$
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii $^{\circ}$



Roughwork

Question 3

Excerpt 1, played three times.

(a) Fill in the eight missing melody notes in bars 3 and 4 using the given rhythm.

The musical notation shows four bars of music in 4/4 time. The first staff is a piano part with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The second staff is a vocal part with a soprano clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first bar is marked with a '1' and a '4/4' time signature. The second bar is marked with a '2' and a '4/4' time signature. The third bar is marked with a '3' and a '4/4' time signature. The fourth bar is marked with a '4' and a '4/4' time signature. The piano part has a bracket labeled 'X' over the first two bars. The vocal part has a bracket labeled 'X' over the first two bars. The piano part has a bracket labeled 'X' over the first two bars. The vocal part has a bracket labeled 'X' over the first two bars.

Roughwork

Two sets of empty musical staves for roughwork, each consisting of five lines.

Excerpt 1, played once more.

(b) (i) Name the three notes at **X** on the score on page 12.

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

(ii) These notes form the triad of

A minor

☐

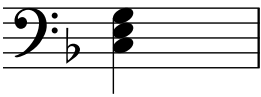
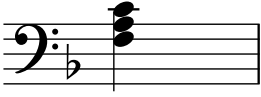
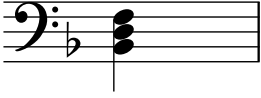
F major

☐

D minor

☐

(iii) This triad, written on the bass stave, is

	☐
	☐
	☐

This question continues on the next page.

(c) Excerpt 2, played three times.

(i) Describe **one** musical feature of the music in this excerpt.

Answer:

Excerpt 3, played three times.

(d) Describe **two** features of the music (not the lyrics) in this excerpt which support the idea of a rainstorm coming to an end.

(i) Feature 1:

(ii) Feature 2:

This question continues on page 16.

Do not write on this page

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

- ☒

☒☒

1



5

X

F

G

C

- Cadence:

Chord symbol	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B°
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°

Excerpt 5, played three times.

- Listen to the excerpt while following the score below.
- Answer the questions on the next page.

$\text{♩} = 72$

p *mp*

X **Y** *8va*

mf *mp*

mf *mp* *mf* *dim.* *accel.*

- (f) There are **three** missing time signatures on the score at X, Y and Z. Insert the top number to complete these time signatures.

(i)	X	4
(ii)	Y	4
(iii)	Z	4

- (g) Insert the correct term or symbol in the boxes below to match the definitions (using the score on page 18). The first has been completed for you as an example.

Symbol/Term	Definition
(i) 	Rest for half a beat.
(ii)	A tempo marking.
(iii)	Gradually speeding up.
(iv)	Play the notes one octave higher.
(v)	Gradually getting quieter.

This question continues on the next page.

Excerpt 5, played once more.

- (h) (i) Identify **one** musical challenge the musicians would have to consider when rehearsing this piece.

Answer:

- (ii)** Propose **one** way this challenge can be overcome/refined.

Answer:

[illegible]

Question 4

(a) Identify the type of instruments playing in each excerpt.

(i) Excerpt 1, played once only.

Strings	Wind	Reed	Percussion
☐	☐	☐	☐

(ii) Excerpt 2, played once only.

Strings	Wind	Reed	Percussion
☐	☐	☐	☐

(iii) Excerpt 3, played once only.

Strings	Wind	Reed	Percussion
☐	☐	☐	☐

(iv) Excerpt 4, played once only.

Strings	Wind	Reed	Percussion
☐	☐	☐	☐

This question continues on the next page.

(b) Excerpt 5, played three times.

(i) The pulse of the music is

3
☐

4
☐

(ii) The singer enters on the

upbeat
☐

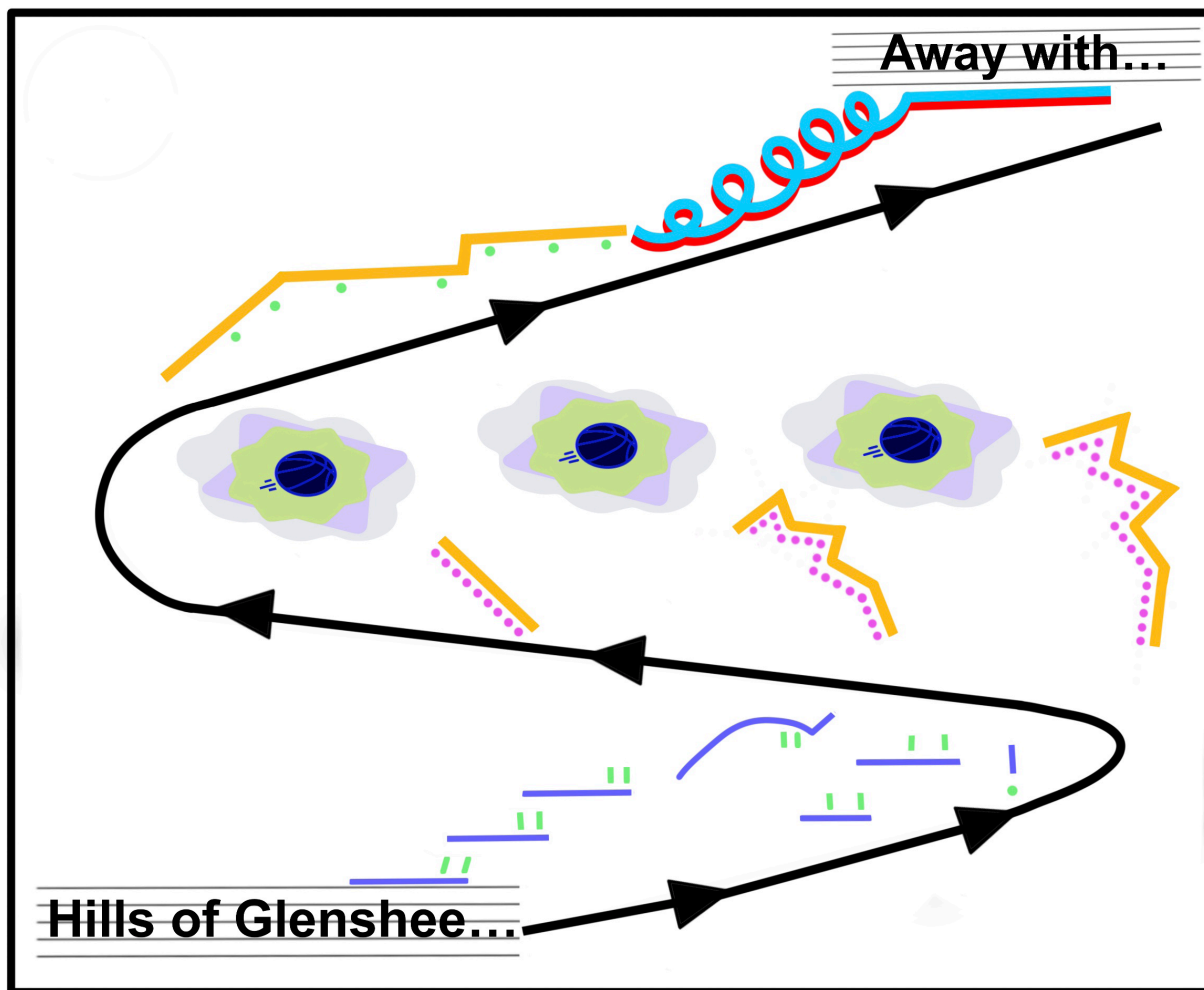
downbeat
☐

backbeat
☐

Roughwork

(c) Excerpt 6, played three times.

- The musicians performed from a graphic score for this excerpt.



- (i) With reference to the graphic score, describe **one** way the music in this excerpt reflects the graphics.

Description:

This question continues on the next page.

Excerpt 7 and Excerpt 8, played twice.

- (d)** With reference to musical features, describe **two** differences between the music of **Excerpt 7** and **Excerpt 8**.

(i) Difference 1:

(i) Difference 1:

(ii) Difference 2:

(ii) Difference 2:

Roughwork

Question 5

(a) Excerpt 1, played three times.

(i) The form of this piece is

AABB

☐

ABAB

☐

AABA

☐

(ii) This form is known as

unitary

☐

ternary

☐

binary

☐

(b) Excerpt 2, played twice.

(i) Identify two rhythmic features of the music in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

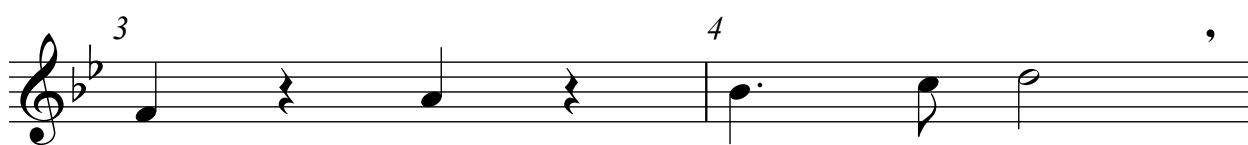
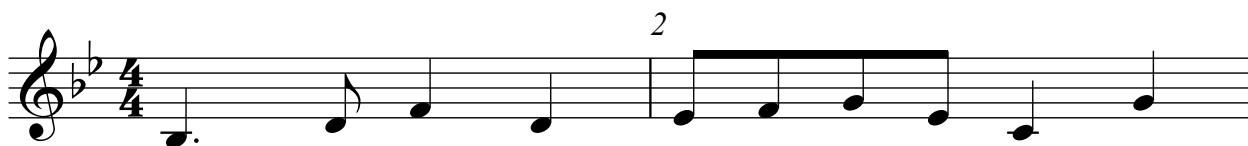
Feature 2:

This question continues on the next page.

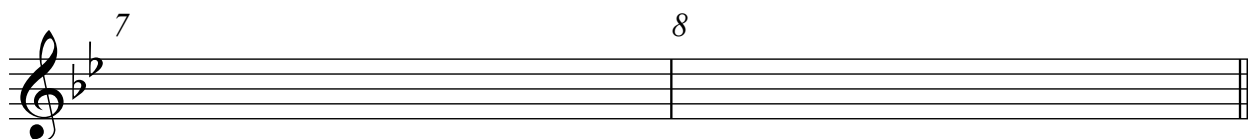
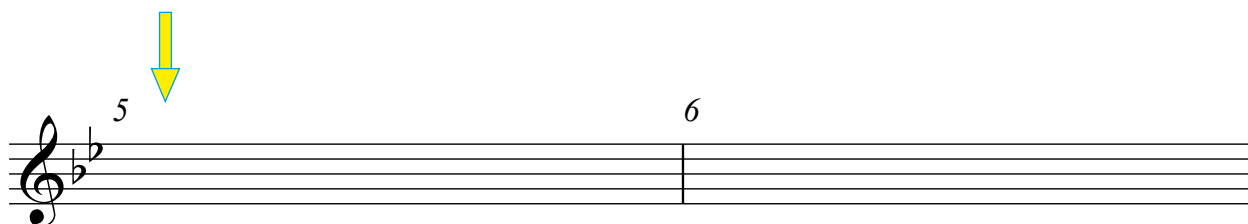
- You have eight minutes to answer **(c)**.

(c) Composing Task

- (i)** Compose your own phrase in the key of B flat major in bars 5–8.
End on the keynote/doh.



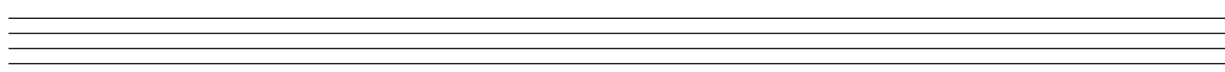
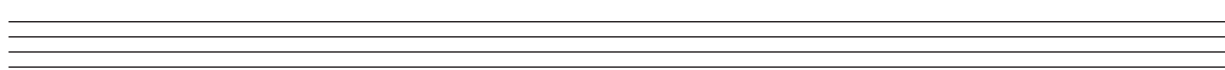
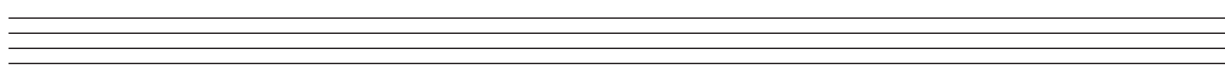
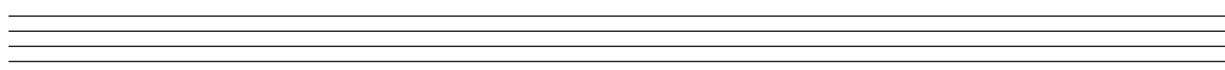
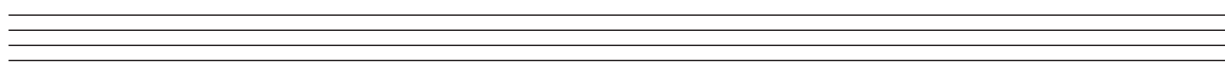
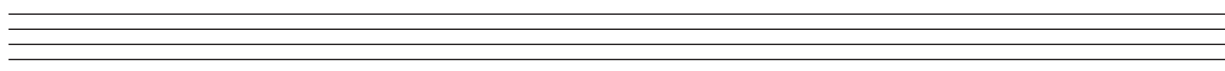
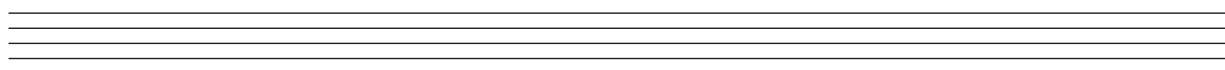
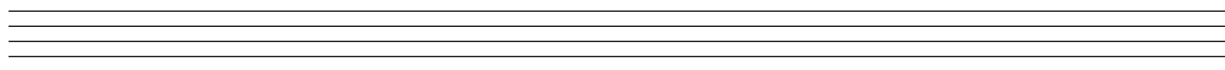
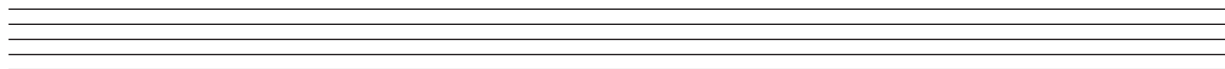
Start here



- (ii)** Which brass instrument is best suited to the range of this melody?

Answer:

Roughwork



Question 6

(a) Excerpt 1, played three times.

(i) The tonality of the introduction is

major

☐

minor

☐

(ii) Select the correct bar of rhythm to complete the opening line of the song.

1

2

The snow glows white on the moun-tain to - night_ not a

3

4

foot - print_____ to be seen_____

☐	snow glows white on the
☐	snow glows white on the
☐	snow glows white on the

(b) Excerpt 2, played three times.

Tick whether the statement is true or false.

- Line 1 Let it go, let it go, when I'll rise like the break of dawn,
Line 2 Let it go, let it go, that perfect girl is gone,
Line 3 Here I stand in the light of day,
Line 4 Let the storm rage on,
Line 5 The cold never bothered me anyway.

	True	False
(i) The cymbals enter in line 2.		
(ii) There is melisma heard on 'day' in line 3.		
(iii) The strings play a rising motif from line 3 to line 4.		
(iv) The song ends with vocals only.		

This question continues on the next page.

Excerpt 3, played twice.

(c) This is a different version of the same song using processing effects.

(i) Name a processing effect that you have studied and describe its effect on the music.

Processing Effect:
Description:

(ii) Describe **one** way you adapted an existing piece of music.

Answer:

You have two minutes to complete the examination paper

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Junior Cycle Final Examination – Common Level

Music

Friday 12 June

Morning 9:30 - 11:00