2025.M52

2025L067A2EL

Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2025

Music

Listening - Core

Higher Level

Thursday 19 June Afternoon 1:30 - 3:00

100 marks

Examination Number

Date of Birth

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

Centre Stamp

The 2025 examination papers were adjusted to compensate for disruptions to learning due to COVID-19. This examination paper does not necessarily reflect the same structure and format as the examination papers of past or subsequent years.

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.

Question 1 **(25 marks)**

Five excerpts from *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture* by Tchaikovsky.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

(a) Identify the theme heard in the excerpt.

Answer:

(b) Identify the section of the work from which the excerpt is taken.

Answer:

(c) Name one instrument playing the theme in the excerpt.

Instrument:

(d) The cadence heard at the end of the excerpt is

- ☐ a perfect cadence
- ☐ an imperfect cadence
- ☐ a plagal cadence

This question continues on the next page.

Excerpt 1, played once more and Excerpt 2, played three times.

(e) Identify two differences between the music in **Excerpt 1** and the music in **Excerpt 2**. Refer to both excerpts in your answer.

Difference 1	
Excerpt 1	Excerpt 2

Difference 2	
Excerpt 1	Excerpt 2

Excerpt 3, played three times.

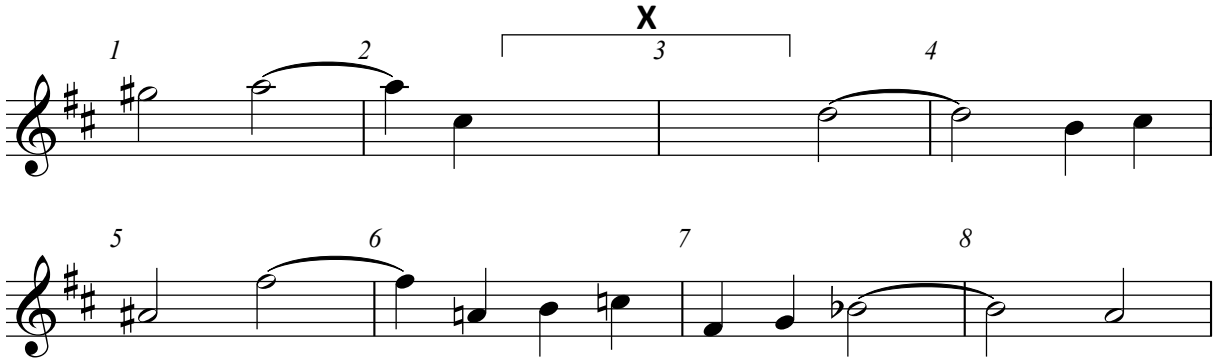
(f) Identify three features of the music in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

Feature 3:

Excerpt 4, played three times. An outline score of the excerpt is printed below.



(g) Insert the four missing notes at **X** on the score above.

Excerpt 5, played three times.

(h) Describe the texture of the music heard in this excerpt.

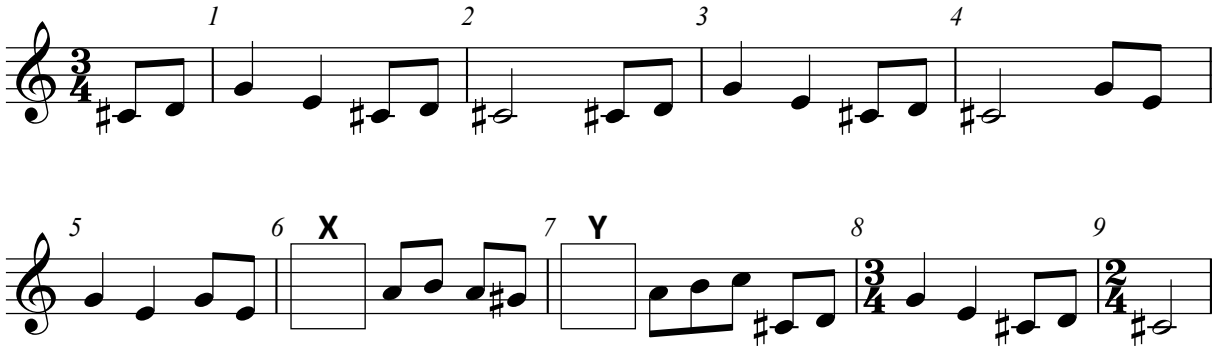
Answer:

Question 2 **(10 marks)**

Two excerpts from *Piano Quartet No.1* by Gerald Barry.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times. An outline score of the excerpt is printed below.



(a) Identify the instrument which plays the melody in this excerpt.

Instrument:

(b) Identify the instrument which plays the accompaniment in this excerpt.

Instrument:

(c) Insert the missing time signatures at **X** and **Y** on the score above.

(d) The music of the accompaniment in this excerpt is based on

- ☐ two different pitches a 5th apart
- ☐ two different pitches a 7th apart
- ☐ two different pitches an octave apart

Excerpt 2, played three times.

(e) (i) A compositional technique used in this excerpt is

- ☐ canon
- ☐ retrograde
- ☐ augmentation

(ii) Describe the compositional technique which you have identified above as heard in this excerpt.

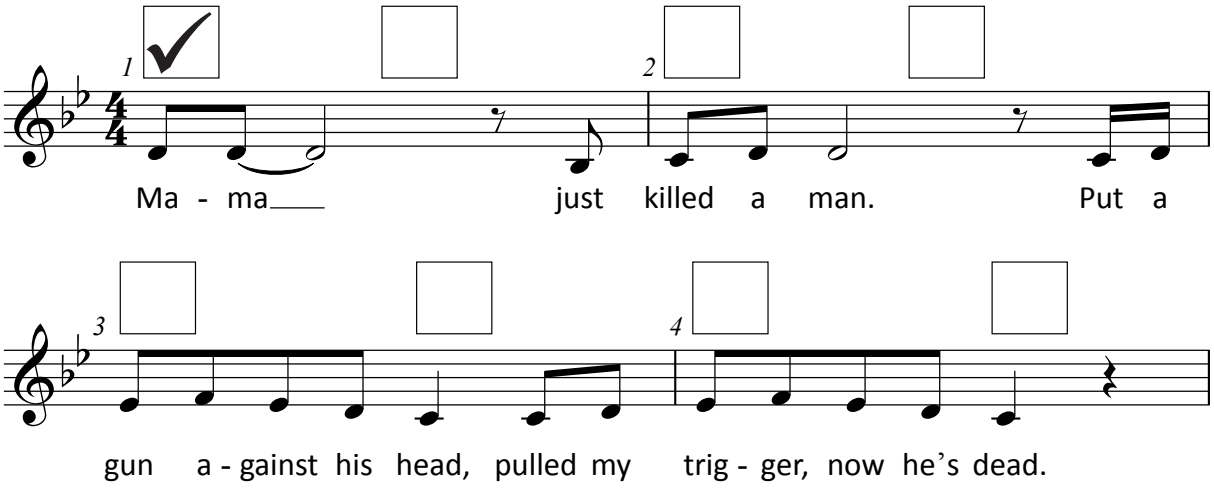
Description:

Question 3 **(10 marks)**

Two excerpts from *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Freddie Mercury.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times. An outline score of the vocal melody is printed below.



- The ticked box in bar 1 indicates the first chord of the excerpt.

(a) Tick three boxes in bars 2–4 where a chord change is heard.

Excerpt 2, played three times. The opening lyrics are printed below.

Line 1	Galileo, Galileo, Galileo, Galileo,
Line 2	Galileo Figaro. Magnifico.
Line 3	I'm just a poor boy, nobody loves me.
Line 4	He's just a poor boy from a poor family,
Line 5	Spare him his life from this monstrosity.

(b) Identify two features of the vocal music heard in lines 1–5.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

(c) Name a recording technique used in this excerpt. Describe this recording technique with reference to the music in this excerpt.

Recording technique:
Description:

(d) Describe how the words ‘for me’ are emphasised in the music towards the end of the excerpt.

Answer:

Question 4 **(10 marks)**

Two excerpts from Cantata *Jesu, der du meine Seele* BWV 78 by J.S. Bach.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

(a) Identify the tonality of the music in this excerpt.

Answer:

(b) Identify a feature of the music played by the continuo in this excerpt.

Answer:

(c) Describe one feature of Baroque music as heard in this excerpt.

Answer:

Excerpt 2, played three times.

(d) Identify the voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the order in which they enter in this excerpt.

1	
2	
3	
4	

(e) This excerpt features a Tierce de Picardie. Explain Tierce de Picardie with reference to the music in the excerpt.

Answer:

Question 5 **(25 marks)**

Irish Music. Answer **A** and **B**. Note that **B** contains a choice of questions.

A. This section is based on three excerpts of music.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

(a) Identify the style of singing in this excerpt.

Answer:

(b) Identify two features of this style of singing as heard in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

(c) Using letters, write down the form of the music in this excerpt.

Answer:

Excerpt 2, played three times.

(d) Identify the type of dance tune heard in this excerpt. Give its time signature and one bar of rhythm associated with it.

Type of dance	Time signature	Bar of rhythm

(e) Name two instruments which play the melody in this excerpt.

Instrument 1:

Instrument 2:

Excerpt 3, played three times.

(f) This excerpt is a fusion of different styles of music. Discuss, with reference to the music heard in the excerpt.

Answer:

This question continues on the next page.

B Answer **one** of the following:

(i) Discuss the use of fusion in Irish traditional music.

(ii) Describe three significant developments that have taken place in Irish traditional music in the 20th century.

(iii) Write an account of sean-nós singing in Irish traditional music.

(iv) Write an account of the dance music tradition in Irish traditional music.

(v) Give an account of the harp or fiddle in the context of Irish traditional music.

Indicate your choice of question (i) ☐ (ii) ☐ (iii) ☐ (iv) ☐ (v) ☐

Answer:

Continue your answer on pages 15 – 17. Question 6 begins on page 18.

Question 6 **(20 marks)**

Aural Skills

This question is based on five excerpts of music.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

(a) The metre of the music in this excerpt is

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

(b) Describe the accompaniment in the excerpt.

Answer:

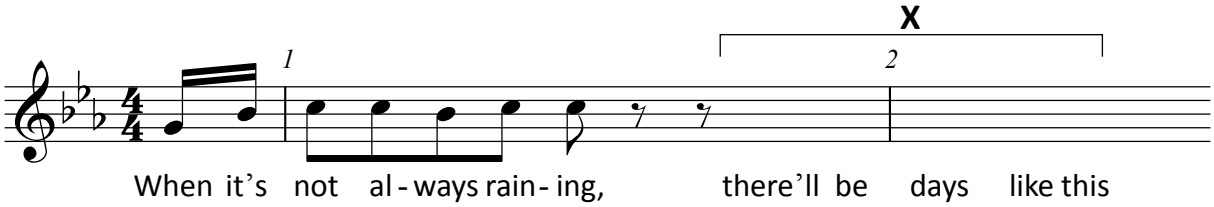
Excerpt 2, played three times.

(c) Describe the texture of the music heard in this excerpt.

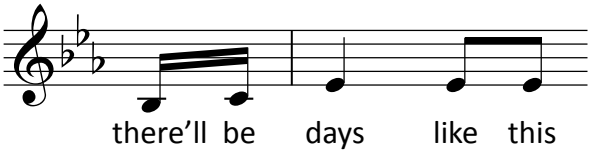
Answer:

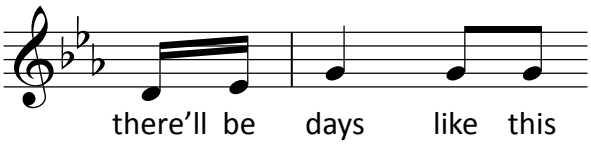
This question continues on the next page.

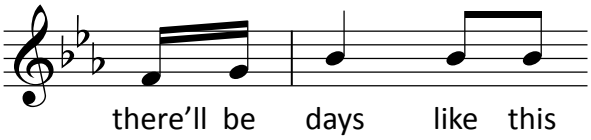
Excerpt 3, played three times. An outline score of the opening vocal melody is printed below.



(d) The missing notes at **X** on the score are

☐ 

☐ 

☐ 

(e) Identify the key of the music in this excerpt.

Answer:

Excerpt 4, played three times.

(f) How many bars of music are heard in the introduction?

Answer:

(g) Identify two features of the vocal music heard in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

Excerpt 4, played once more and Excerpt 5, played three times.

(h) Describe two differences between the music heard in **Excerpt 4** and the music heard in **Excerpt 5**. Refer to both excerpts in your answer.

Difference 1	
Excerpt 4	Excerpt 5

Difference 2	
Excerpt 4	Excerpt 5

You have two minutes to complete the examination paper.

Extra work / Roughwork

Extra work / Roughwork

Extra work / Roughwork

Extra work / Roughwork

Extra work / 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.

Leaving Certificate – Higher Level

Music Listening - Core

Thursday 19 June

Afternoon 1:30 - 3:00