2026.M52

2026L067A2EL

Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2026

Music

Listening - Core

Higher Level

Thursday 18 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

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 *Symphonie Fantastique* by Berlioz.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

(a) Identify the percussion instrument heard in this excerpt.

Answer:

(b) Identify one rhythmic feature heard in this excerpt.

Answer:

(c) Identify and describe one instrumental technique heard in this excerpt.

Instrumental technique:
Description:

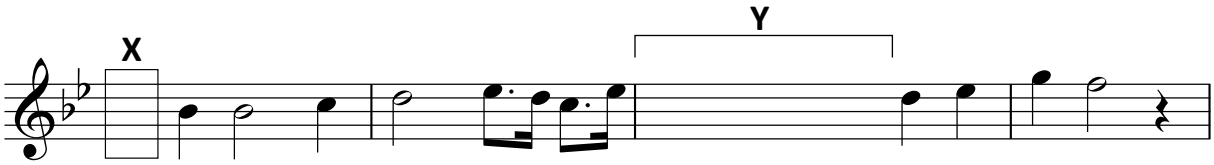
This question continues on the next page.

Excerpt 2, played three times.

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

Answer:

Excerpt 3, played three times. An outline of the score of the opening four bars of the excerpt is printed below.



(e) Insert the missing time signature at **X** on the score above.

(f) Insert the four missing notes at **Y** on the score above.

Roughwork

Excerpt 4, played three times.

(g) Describe the accompaniment heard in this excerpt.

Answer:

(h) The cadence heard at the end of this excerpt is

- ☐ a perfect cadence
- ☐ an interrupted cadence
- ☐ a plagal cadence

This question continues on the next page.

Excerpt 5, played three times.

(i) In his programme note for *Symphonie Fantastique* Berlioz described the music in this except as a 'final thought of love which is interrupted by the fatal blow'. With reference to the music in this excerpt, describe how this is depicted.

Answer:

Do not write on this page

Question 2 **(10 marks)**

Three excerpts from *Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K488* by Mozart.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

(a) Identify two features of the melody played by the piano in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

(b) The accompaniment in this excerpt features an Alberti bass. Explain Alberti bass.

Answer:

Excerpt 2, played three times.

(c) 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.

(d) This excerpt is taken from the cadenza. Explain the term cadenza with reference to the music heard in this excerpt.

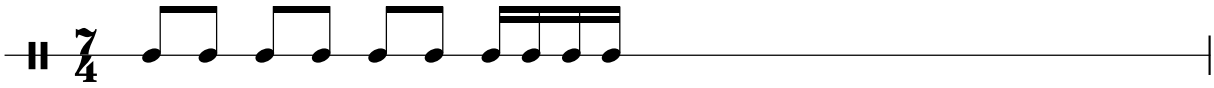
Answer:

Question 3 **(10 marks)**

Two excerpts from *Seachanges (with Danse Macabre)* by Raymond Deane.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.



(a) Complete the rhythm of the music played by the violin on the stave above, as heard in this excerpt.

Excerpt 2, played three times.

(b) (i) Identify two compositional techniques heard in this excerpt.

Compositional technique 1:
Compositional technique 2:

(ii) Describe one of the compositional techniques that you have identified above as heard in this excerpt.

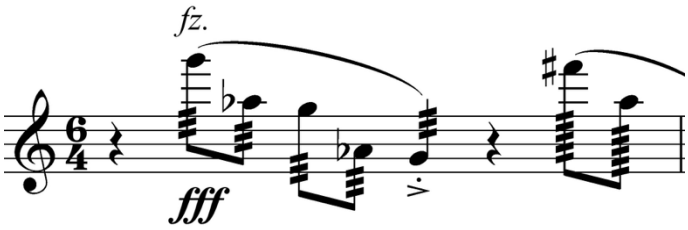
Answer:

Excerpt 2, played once more.

(c) Identify the instrumental technique, , seen on the staves below, as performed by each of the following instruments in this excerpt.

(i)

Flute in G



Instrumental technique:

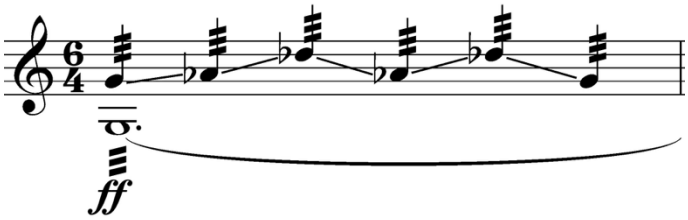
(ii)

Cymbal

Instrumental technique:

(iii)

Violin



Instrumental technique:

Question 4 **(10 marks)**

Three excerpts from *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* by The Beatles.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

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

Answer:

(b) Identify three instruments heard playing in this excerpt.

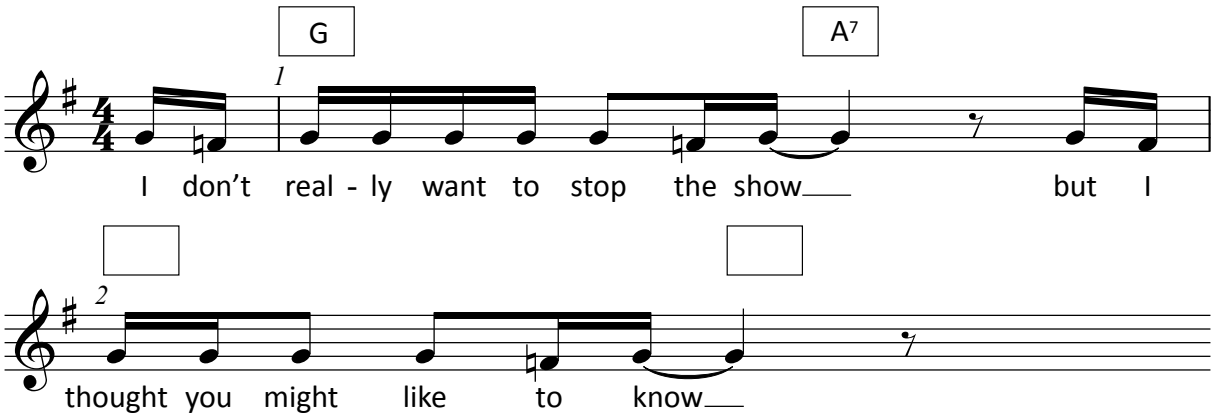
Instrument 1:

Instrument 2:

Instrument 3:

Excerpt 2, played three times. An outline score of the opening vocal melody is printed below.

(c) Identify the two missing chords in the chord boxes in bar 2.



Excerpt 3, played three times.

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

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

(e) At the end of this excerpt there is a

- ☐ falling diminished chord
- ☐ falling V^7 chord
- ☐ falling minor chord

Question 5 **(25 marks)**

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

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

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

(a) Identify the two dance tunes heard in this excerpt. In the case of each dance tune, give its time signature and one bar of rhythm associated with it.

	Type of dance	Time signature	Bar of rhythm
Dance 1			
Dance 2			

(b) Name two instruments heard in this excerpt.

Instrument 1:

Instrument 2:

Excerpt 2, played three times.

(c) (i) Name the instrument playing the melody in this excerpt.

Instrument:

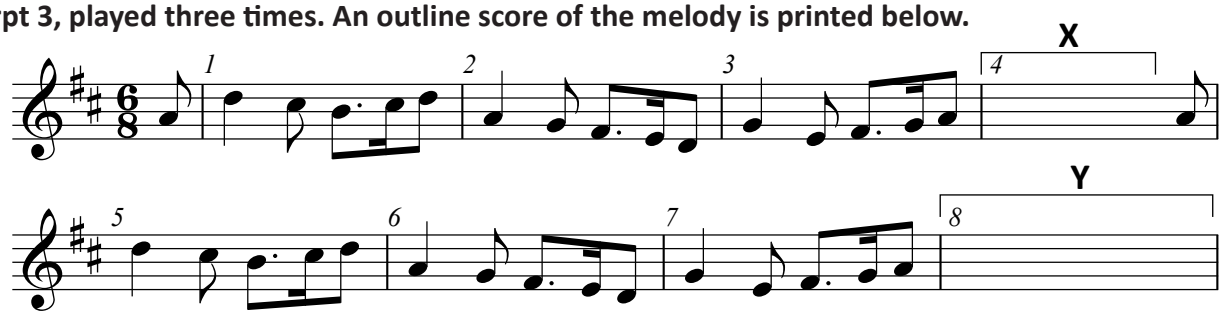
(ii) Identify one type of ornamentation played by this instrument, as heard in this excerpt.

Answer:

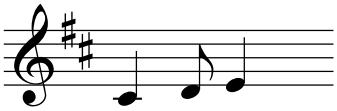
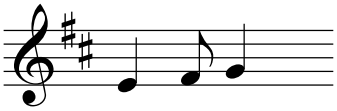
(d) Identify the style of singing heard in this excerpt.

Answer:

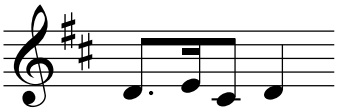
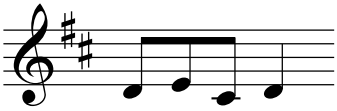
Excerpt 3, played three times. An outline score of the melody is printed below.



(e) The missing notes at **X** on the score (bar 4) are

X (bar 4)	
☐ 	☐ 

(f) The missing notes at **Y** on the score (bar 8) are

Y (bar 8)	
☐ 	☐ 

Excerpt 4, played three times.

(g) Identify two features of Irish traditional music heard in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

(h) Identify two non-traditional features heard in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

This question continues on the next page.

B Answer **one** of the following:

(i) Discuss the céilí band tradition in Irish traditional music.

(ii) Discuss the music of well-known composers that fuse Irish traditional music with another style or styles of music.

(iii) Write an account of the work of one of the great collectors of Irish traditional music.

(iv) Discuss the use of ornamentation in Irish traditional music.

(v) Discuss the contribution of Irish traditional music to the folk music in other countries.

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

Answer:

Continue your answer on pages 17 – 19. Question 6 begins on page 20.

Question 6 **(20 marks)**

Aural Skills

This question is based on six excerpts of music.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

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

Instrument:

(b) Describe the accompaniment in this excerpt.

Answer:

Excerpt 2, played three times.

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

Answer:

(d) Identify two features of the melody in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

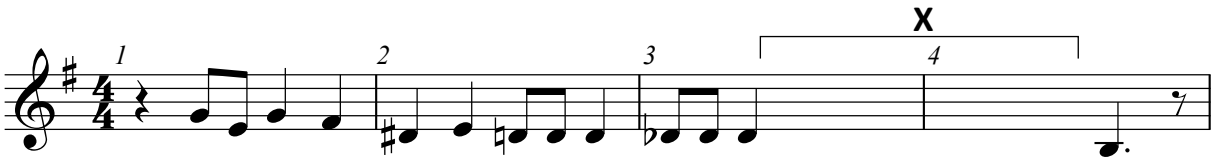
Feature 2:

Excerpt 3, played three times.

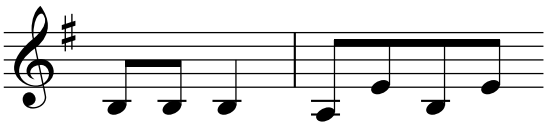
(e) Describe the texture of the music heard in this excerpt.

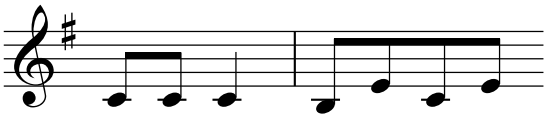
Answer:

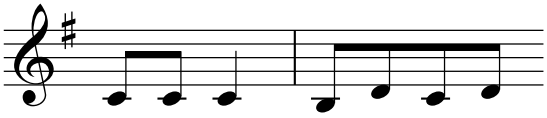
Excerpt 4, played three times. An outline score of the opening melody is printed below.



(f) The mising notes at **X** on the score above are

☐ 

☐ 

☐ 

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

Answer:

This question continues on the next page.

Excerpt 5, played three times.

(h) Tick whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
(i) The time signature is $\frac{3}{4}$	☐	☐
(ii) The tonality is major.	☐	☐
(iii) The melody contains triplets.	☐	☐
(iv) The melody is repeated a 3rd higher.	☐	☐

Excerpt 6, played three times.

(i) Identify one instrumental technique heard in this excerpt.

Instrumental technique:

(j) Identify one melodic feature heard in this excerpt.

Answer:

(k) Identify one rhythmic feature heard in this excerpt.

Answer:

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

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Leaving Certificate – Higher Level

Music Listening - Core

Thursday 18 June

Afternoon 1:30 - 3:00