

NCEA LEVEL 2 MUSIC: EXTERNAL EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE

Materials of Music

Performance directions

Tempo:

<i>grave</i>	extremely slow, solemn
<i>adagio</i>	slow
<i>lento</i>	slow
<i>largo</i>	slow
<i>larghetto</i>	rather slow (but not as slow as largo)
<i>largamente</i>	broadly
<i>maestoso</i>	majestic
<i>moderato</i>	moderately
<i>andante</i>	at a medium, walking pace
<i>andantino</i>	slightly faster than andante
<i>scherzo, scherzando</i>	playful, joking
<i>allegretto</i>	fairly quick
<i>allegro</i>	quick, fast (cheerful)
<i>vivace, vivo</i>	lively, quick
<i>presto</i>	lively, fast (faster than allegro)
<i>allargando</i>	broadening (getting a little slower)
<i>rallentando (rall.)</i>	getting gradually slower
<i>ritardando (retard. or rit.)</i>	getting gradually slower
<i>ritenuto (riten. Or rit.)</i>	held back
<i>accelerando</i>	gradually getting faster
<i>stringendo</i>	gradually getting faster
<i>a tempo</i>	in time (back to the original tempo)
<i>L'istesso tempo</i>	at the same speed as the preceding movement
<i>doppio tempo</i>	in double time
<i>doppio movimento</i>	in double time
<i>assai</i>	very (allegro assai – very fast)

Dynamics: see aural notes

Structure:

<i>da capo (D.C)</i>	repeat from the beginning
<i>dal segno (D.S.)</i>	repeat from the sign %
D.S al Coda	repeat from the sign and then to the coda P
<i>fine</i>	the end (Da Capo al fine – repeat from the beginning and go to the end)

Expression:

<i>ad libitum, ad lib.</i>	at choice, a passage may be played freely
<i>agitato</i>	agitated
<i>anima</i>	spirit, soul (<i>con anima</i> – with feeling, spirited)
<i>animato</i>	animated
<i>ben</i>	well (<i>ben marcato</i> – well marked)
<i>brio</i>	vigour (<i>con brio</i> – with vigour)
<i>cantabile</i>	in a singing style
<i>come sopra</i>	as above
<i>come prima</i>	as at first
<i>comodo</i>	convenient (<i>tempo comodo</i> – at a comfortable speed)
<i>con fuoco</i>	with fire
<i>con moto</i>	with motion, rather fast
<i>dolce</i>	sweetly
<i>energico</i>	energetic
<i>espressivo</i>	expressive
<i>giocosso</i>	merry, playful
<i>giusto</i>	right, exact, strict
<i>forza</i>	force
<i>legato</i>	smoothly
<i>leggiero</i>	light, nimble
<i>ma</i>	but
<i>marcato</i>	accented, marked
<i>marziale</i>	in a military style
<i>mesto</i>	sad
<i>meno</i>	less
<i>molto</i>	very, much
<i>mosso</i>	movement
<i>non</i>	not
<i>pesante</i>	heavy
<i>piacevole</i>	in a pleasing manner
<i>piu</i>	more
<i>poco</i>	a little
<i>poco a poco</i>	little by little
<i>prima, primo</i>	first (<i>tempo primo</i> – at the original tempo)
<i>risoluto</i>	resolutely, bold, strong
<i>ritmico</i>	rhythmically
<i>rubato</i>	with some freedom of time, not always strictly in tempo
<i>seconda, secondo</i>	second
<i>senza</i>	without
<i>sempre</i>	always
<i>sf, sfz (sforzando)</i>	forced, accented
<i>sopra, sotto</i>	above, below
<i>sostenuto</i>	sustained
<i>staccato (or stacc.)</i>	detached
<i>subito</i>	suddenly
<i>tanto</i>	so much
<i>tenuto</i>	held
<i>tranquillo</i>	tranquil, calm
<i>tremolo</i>	rapid repetition on a single note or 2 note
<i>troppo</i>	too much (<i>allegro ma no troppo</i> – fast but not too much)
<i>triste, tristamente</i>	sad, sorrowful
<i>volta</i>	time (<i>prima volta</i> – first time, <i>seconda volta</i> – second time)

Instrumental directions:

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Guitar, Harp

<i>arco</i>	bow
<i>pizzicato</i>	plucked
<i>con sordini (con sord.)</i>	with mutes
<i>senza sordini</i>	without mutes
<i>spicatto</i>	bounce the bow on the string (off the string)
<i>col legno</i>	play with the wood of the bow
<i>sul tasto</i>	play over the fingerboard
up bow	↗
down bow	↘
<i>portamento</i>	sliding from one note to the next on the same string a
<i>slur</i>	on a string instrument implies that all the notes are to be played in one bow.
<i>double stopping</i>	where a string player plays two notes at once
<i>triple stopping</i>	where a string player plays three notes at once
<i>sul G</i>	play on the G string
<i>sul ponticello (sul pont.)</i>	play near the bridge
Violin strings:	G, D, A, E
Viola and cello strings:	C, G, D, A (viola 1 octave below middle C, cello 2)
Cello strings:	E, A, D, G
Guitar:	will generally be written with chords Tab style (know how to read this) Six strings tuned to E, A, D, G, B, E

Woodwind: Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Cor anglais, Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone

<i>flutterzunge</i>	flutter tonguing
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Brass: French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba

<i>con sordini (con sord.)</i>	with mutes
<i>senza sordini</i>	without mutes

Percussion: Drum Kit, Triangle, Cymbals, Bass Drum, Timpani, Snare Drum, Xylophone, Gong (Tam Tam), Tubular Bells

<i>tremolo</i>	sometimes notated as a trill, or a note with tremolo sign above it
<i>senza corda, scordato</i>	without snares
<i>sec</i>	dampen cymbal sound immediately
<i>laissez vibrer</i>	leave cymbal sound to vibrate

Piano	Can be classed as String or percussion!! Other keyboards include celesta, organ, electric keyboard	
	<i>una corda</i>	literally means 'one string' press the left pedal (soft pedal)
	<i>tre corda</i>	literally means 'three strings' release the left pedal
	<i>con ped. or col ped.</i>	With the pedal – the damper or sustain pedal press the right pedal
	<i>mano</i>	hand (<i>mano sinistra, m.s.</i> – left hand <i>mano destra, m.d.</i> – right hand)

Voice: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass (SATB)

<i>a capella</i>	unaccompanied
<i>sprechstimme</i>	sung speech

Transposing instruments

Double Bass: Sounds an octave lower than written

Piccolo Sounds an octave higher than written

Clarinet (in Bb) Sounds a major 2nd lower than written

Clarinet (in A) Sounds a minor 3rd lower than written

Cor anglais Sounds a perfect 5th lower than written

Alto Saxophone (in Eb) Sounds a major 6th lower than written

Tenor Saxophone (in Bb) Sounds a major 2nd + an octave lower than written

Baritone Saxophone (in Eb) Sounds a major 6th + an octave lower than written

French Horn Sounds a perfect 5th lower than written
(sometimes if it written in bass clef it sounds a perfect 4th higher)

Trumpet (in Bb) Sounds a major 2nd lower than written (be careful it doesn't say in C!!)

Time and key signatures

Time signatures: see Aural notes

Key signatures: you are expected to recognise keys up to five sharps and flats and be able to notice modulations.

Clefs

Treble Violin, Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Cor anglais, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone,
Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Trumpet, Xylophone
(*sometimes* cello)

Alto: Viola (*sometimes* trombone)

Tenor: (*sometimes* trombone, cello)

Bass: Cello, Double Bass, Bassoon, Trombone, Tuba, Timpani

Elements and features

Key terms:

Structure:	Binary Form	(AB)
	Ternary Form	(ABA)
	Rondo Form	(ABACA)
	Strophic	(In verses)
	Blues	(12 bar I – I – I – I – IV – IV – I – I – V – IV – I – I)
	Sonata Form	(Intro, Exposition, Development, Recapitulation, Coda)
	Through composed	Develops from beginning to end – no revisiting of ideas
	Cadenza	Florid, ornamental passage, generally intended as a means of technical display

Texture:	Monophonic	All instruments/voices playing in unison/octaves
	Homophonic	All instruments/voices playing in harmony
	Polyphonic	Several different lines of music, often interweaving

Motivic/thematic development:

Describe the motif / theme first – go for the obvious, rhythmic and melodic
Length of note patterns, pitch patterns melodic shape (line, rise and fall), intervals,
then discuss the compositional devices that have been used to develop the material

Compositional Devices:

Ostinato
Pedal Notes
Sequence (ascending or descending)
Variation
Inversion
Imitation
Fragmentation
Diminution
Repetition
Retrograde

Timbre:

What effects have been used? (see instruments section)
What will the combination of instruments sound like? – Light, heavy etc...

Harmony:

Analysis of chords
Always start at the bottom and work up – list all the notes (or write their names beside them on the score) and then work out what the triad is. Then looking at the note in the bass decide if it is an inversion or not.

Instrumentation:

What instruments are playing? How are they grouped?
 Be familiar with the standard orchestral groups from the different eras
 Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th Century
 With rock music – lead parts, rhythm, harmony

Ensembles:

Rock Band	Lead guitar, rhythm guitar, bass, drums, keyboard. synthesised sounds, vocals (lead and backing)
Big Band	Alto Sax (x2), Tenor Sax (x2), Baritone Sax, Trumpets (x4) Trombones (4), Guitar, Keyboard, Bass, Drums
Wind Quintet:	Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, French Horn, Bassoon
Brass Quintet:	Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba
String Quartet:	Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello
Piano Quintet:	Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello
Saxophone Quartet:	Soprano Sax, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax
Concert Band:	(also known as Military Band and Symphonic Band) Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone (x2), Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, Trumpets, Cornets, Trombones, Tubas, Percussion
Brass Band:	Cornets, Flugel, Tenor Horns, Baritones, Euphoniums, Trombones, Bases (Tubas), Percussion

Word Painting:

How has the composer used the music to emphasise the nature of the words:
 e.g. rising pattern if words are talking about going up
 sfz, accents with a word like crashing (or using a cymbal on the
 word perhaps)

Scale patterns:

Major
 Harmonic minor
 Melodic minor
 Chromatic
 Pentatonic
 Blues
 Modes (Aeolian, Dorian, Locrian, Phrygian etc...)