

Experimenting with music

IB DP Music Experimenting with music full package

1. Experimenting at a glance

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IB Music experimenting with music: the experimentation report (a rationale and a commentary for each process, supporting practical musical evidence) - 30 percent SL / 20 percent HL. Theory connected to practice, evidenced.

Must-know: the loop (question, trial, evidence, verdict) with one variable changed at a time; two areas of inquiry in a local and/or global context; creating and performing both evidenced; the rationale written before the outcome.

2. The loop

The loop

Practice repeats; an experiment changes one thing against a question, keeps the evidence (two takes side by side, a sketch, a version) and reaches a verdict. Failed trials are kept: a verdict on what did not work is still a finding, and the writing happens while the experiment is live.

Worked: a fixed four-note melody (C4 D4 E4 G4) with the question of what a sustained C3 below changes; recorded twice, the melody and rhythm fixed while texture and harmony move.

3. Two inquiries, real contexts

Two inquiries, real contexts

A second experiment tests accent: the same eight notes with the accent on every second beat, then displaced to every third; listeners' taps follow the accent, so the heard metre follows the accent, not the notation. Both worked experiments sit in listening and performance, local context.

The report needs a second inquiry: a global-context technology experiment (a DAW transformation of unfamiliar repertoire) completes the two-area requirement.

4. Rationale and commentary

Rationale and commentary

The rationale says why: the question and what motivated it, written before the outcome is known. The commentary says what the evidence shows, element by element, quoting the takes rather than summarising them; the verdict is honest about failure.

Worked: the rationale (a fixed melody isolates the added part so the change is heard alone); the commentary (monophonic take one, two-part take two, the E4 reinterpreted); the verdict (texture and harmony move while melody stands still).

Check yourself

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The loop closed on every experiment.

Two inquiries, local and/or global.

Creating and performing both evidenced.

Rationale before outcome; failure kept; evidence quoted.