Revision practice

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Music · SL

1 Musical analysis and context

- texture
- timbre

■ Question 1

What changes most directly when a sustained part is added?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

The texture and harmonic context of the phrase.

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: The same melody played by a solo instrument and a layered ensemble can feel different. Texture and timbre change the musical experience without changing every pitch.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Create a short original four-note phrase. Play it alone, then add a sustained note underneath. Compare texture, tension and balance, and connect what you learn to a researched musical example with appropriate attribution.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

Do not generalize a musical culture from one recording or claim a score proves how every performance sounds. / The exploration portfolio needs diverse actual musical material, practical exercises and sources.

2 Controlled creative experimentation

- accent
- experimentation

■ Question 1

Why keep pitches fixed in the first experiment?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

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To make the effect of the rhythmic change easier to identify.

Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: A creator changes rhythm, instrumentation and tempo at once and cannot tell which change matters most. A focused experiment makes the learning clearer.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Keep the pitches and instrument fixed while changing the rhythm of an original phrase. Record both versions and explain how accent changes its character. Then choose a new experiment informed by that result and connect it to a local or global context.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

The experimentation report supports actual musical evidence in creating and performing, not a hypothetical plan alone. / School confirms current submission details, contexts and areas of inquiry against the guide.

3 Resolved work and programme notes

- programme notes
- improvisation

Question 1

What belongs in programme notes?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

Relevant context and intentions that help interpret the actual musical work.

Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: A polished performance still needs clear evidence of what was created and what was performed. Programme notes help an audience understand the selected work without replacing it.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Choose a manageable original composition or improvisation and a performance with contrasting material. Record a rehearsal, identify one weak transition and refine it. Programme notes explain a specific musical choice and its context; the recording demonstrates the result.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)

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- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

The course requires engagement with all four areas of inquiry. / Do not create a written mock exam for presenting; teacher supervises real practical submissions and checks attribution and recording rights.

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