



National
Qualifications
2025

2025 Music Technology

National 5

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

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General marking principles for National 5 Music Technology

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles you must apply when marking candidate responses to questions in this paper. These principles must be read in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidate responses.

- (a) Marks for each candidate response must **always** be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the detailed marking instructions for this assessment.
- (b) Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.
- (c) Do not accept any answer that is not in the marking instructions. Use professional judgement when candidates' responses do not exactly match marking instructions but carry the same meaning.
- (d) Where a candidate has provided more than one answer, for example by ticking two boxes instead of one or adding an extra wrong answer, place a cross beside the wrong answer and deduct the mark assigned to the correct answer. If this has happened more than once or several times the mark cannot go below 0, that is, into negative marks.
- (e) Candidates are asked to tick one or two boxes in multiple choice questions. Accept a cross or any other sign which makes the candidate's intentions clear.
- (f) Accept inaccurate spelling of English or Italian terms.

Marking instructions for each question

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
1.	(a)		1980s	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		Rock	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(c)		Walking bass	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(d)	(i)	60s Pop	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		(ii)	Accept any one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • live sounding recording • minimal post production • orchestral instruments • panning • reverb • electric guitar • riff • vocal harmonies or backing vocals. 	1	Also accept individual orchestral instruments or named sections of the orchestra. Also accept responses that infer panning. Also accept slide guitar. Also accept ostinato.
2.	(a)		Arpeggio	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		Vamp	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(c)		Accept any two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acoustic guitar • electric guitar • fiddle • pedal steel guitar • prominent use of acoustic instruments • simple chord structure • simple rhythms with strong backbeat emphasis from snare (drum) and guitar • lyrical story telling • prominent accent • riff • use of pitch bend • vamp • vocal harmonies. 	2	1 mark for each correct answer. Also accept banjo or slide guitar. Do not accept guitar on its own. Also accept violin. Also accept string instruments.

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
	(d)	(i)	Condenser	1	Also accept ribbon microphone.
		(ii)	Omni directional	1	Also accept cardioid. Also accept figure of 8 (bi-directional).
		(iii)	Placed between 30cm and 1m above the centre of the grand piano.	1	Also accept between 30cm and 1m above the strings and/or piano opening. Do not accept any answer which refers only to the piano keys or below the instrument. Do not accept close mic'ing.
3.	(a)		Scottish	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		Accept any two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accordion • acoustic guitar • bagpipes • fiddle • pentatonic scale • snare drum • traditional instruments • vamp. 	2	1 mark for each correct answer. Also accept scotch snap. Also accept violin.
	(c)	A	Rap	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		B	Synthesiser	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(d)		Flute	1	Do not accept other answers here.
4.	(a)	(i)	Major	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		(ii)	General MIDI	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		Countermelody played on synthesiser Homophonic vocals	2	1 mark for each correct answer. Do not accept other answers here.
	(c)		Accept any two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance • decay • decay time • depth • diffusion • dry/wet • gate time • mix • pre-delay • (reverb) time • room size • size • time. 		1 mark for each correct answer. Do not accept any answer that infers plug-in presets eg room types (cathedral or hall). Only award 1 mark for dry and/or wet. Do not accept delay Do not accept reverb types, eg spring, plate, digital.

Question		Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance												
	(d)	Accept any two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adjust mic to be off axis to the performer • EQ • increase distance between microphone and performer • use a different microphone. 	2	1 mark for each correct answer. Also accept de-esser.												
	(e)	LFO	1	Do not accept other answers here.												
5.		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Instrument</th> <th>Control, effect or process applied to instrument</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bass synth</td> <td>reverb</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drum loop</td> <td>delay</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electric guitar</td> <td>wah-wah</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Synth chords</td> <td>chorus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vocal</td> <td>fade in</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Instrument	Control, effect or process applied to instrument	Bass synth	reverb	Drum loop	delay	Electric guitar	wah-wah	Synth chords	chorus	Vocal	fade in	5	Do not accept other answers here.
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6.	(a)	Phonographic Performance Licensing (PPL) and Performing Rights Society (PRS) OR Phonographic Performance Licensing (PPL) OR Performing Rights Society (PRS)	1	No other answers accepted here.												
	(b)	The copyright holders	1	No other answers accepted here.												
	(c)	Accept any one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • melody • riff • lyrics. 	1	Do not accept chord structure.												

Question		Expected response			Max mark	Additional guidance																																
7.	(a)		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Element</th> <th>Excerpt 1</th> <th>Excerpt 2</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="7">Effects</td> <td>Drum kit – reverb</td> <td>Bass drum – reverb</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tambourine – reverb</td> <td>Toms – reverb</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female and/or lead vocal – reverb</td> <td>Female and/or lead vocal – reverb</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Backing vocals – delay or reverb</td> <td>Backing vocals – reverb</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bass guitar – distortion</td> <td>Electric piano – chorus or overdrive</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electric guitar – reverb or distortion</td> <td>Synthesiser – reverb or delay</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Synthesiser – reverb or distortion or LFO</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="7">Panning</td> <td>Drum kit - centre or left or right</td> <td>Bass drum – centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tambourine – centre</td> <td>Toms – left</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bass guitar – centre</td> <td>Bass guitar – centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electric guitar – left or right</td> <td>Electric piano – centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female and/or lead vocal – centre</td> <td>Female and/or lead vocal – centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Synthesiser – centre or right</td> <td>Synthesiser – centre or left or right</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Backing vocal – centre or left or right</td> <td>Backing vocals – left or right</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Element	Excerpt 1	Excerpt 2	Effects	Drum kit – reverb	Bass drum – reverb	Tambourine – reverb	Toms – reverb	Female and/or lead vocal – reverb	Female and/or lead vocal – reverb	Backing vocals – delay or reverb	Backing vocals – reverb	Bass guitar – distortion	Electric piano – chorus or overdrive	Electric guitar – reverb or distortion	Synthesiser – reverb or delay	Synthesiser – reverb or distortion or LFO		Panning	Drum kit - centre or left or right	Bass drum – centre	Tambourine – centre	Toms – left	Bass guitar – centre	Bass guitar – centre	Electric guitar – left or right	Electric piano – centre	Female and/or lead vocal – centre	Female and/or lead vocal – centre	Synthesiser – centre or right	Synthesiser – centre or left or right	Backing vocal – centre or left or right	Backing vocals – left or right	4	<p>In order to gain a mark, candidates must reference one instrument or voice and how it has been effected or panned. The table indicates all the acceptable answers.</p> <p>For Excerpt 1 and Excerpt 2 – ‘guitar’ and ‘vocals’ on their own are not acceptable answers. Lead and/or female vocal, backing vocals, acoustic guitar, bass guitar and electric guitar are the acceptable terminology.</p> <p>Excerpt 1</p> <p>Also accept female or lead vocal – overdrive or distortion</p> <p>Also accept female or lead vocal – centre</p> <p>Also accept bass guitar – overdrive</p> <p>Also accept electric guitar – overdrive.</p> <p>Also accept synthesiser – overdrive.</p> <p>Also accept backing vocal – automation or auto-panning.</p> <p>Also accept cymbals or hi-hat – centre</p> <p>Also accept cymbals or hi-hat – reverb</p> <p>Also accept toms – left or right</p> <p>Also accept toms – reverb</p> <p>Also accept kick drum – centre</p> <p>Also accept kick drum – reverb</p> <p>Also accept snare drum – centre</p> <p>Also accept snare drum – reverb</p> <p>Excerpt 2</p> <p>Also accept kick drum – centre.</p> <p>Also accept MIDI keyboard or keyboard or Rhodes piano – reverb or distortion.</p> <p>Also accept MIDI keyboard or keyboard or Rhodes piano – centre.</p> <p>Also accept automation right to left</p>
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[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]