



2012 HSC Music 1 Aural Skills 'Sample Answers'

When examination committees develop questions for the examination, they may write 'sample answers' or, in the case of some questions, 'answers could include'. The committees do this to ensure that the questions will effectively assess students' knowledge and skills.

This material is also provided to the Supervisor of Marking, to give some guidance about the nature and scope of the responses the committee expected students would produce. How sample answers are used at marking centres varies. Sample answers may be used extensively and even modified at the marking centre OR they may be considered only briefly at the beginning of marking. In a few cases, the sample answers may not be used at all at marking.

The Board publishes this information to assist in understanding how the marking guidelines were implemented.

The 'sample answers' or similar advice contained in this document are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee's 'working document', they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.

Question 1

Answers could include:

Verse

- $\frac{4}{4}$
- strong backbeat on drums
- clear riff/ostinato played by drums, banjo and tuba in a 4 bar phrase
- very strong syncopated, rubato rhythm of voice using shorter durations which contrasts with strict repetitive accompaniment
- repeat of ostinato 4 times

Chorus

- clear change to triple metre waltz feel emphasised by simple accompaniment
- use of counter melody – rhythmic contrast with accompanying voices
- all instruments in rhythmic unison – at end of excerpt

Question 2



Answers could include:

- layers are added one by one so that the texture gradually becomes thicker and more complex
- the layers are clearly defined
- layers have a unifying role as they are ostinatos, which keep repeating once they are introduced
- the introduction of new layers creates a variety of musical ideas

Question 3

Answers could include:

Duration

- strict $\frac{4}{4}$
- accents used as a feature
-  figure combines with  to build drama
- rhythmic unison
- cross rhythms

Pitch

- lower drums define beat
- higher drums have a featured role
- contrasting registers
- tuned toms are creating melodic shape

Dynamics and expressive techniques

- accents
- use of crescendo and diminuendo
- terraced dynamics

Tone Colour

- many contrasts eg cymbal accents
- passing of musical material between instruments
- exploration of instrumental capabilities
- different playing techniques (eg sticks on rim)
- solo vs group contrasts

Texture

- constantly changing – varying number of layers
- changing roles
- change of textures is both sudden and gradual
- many layers

Structure

- question and answer
- use of motifs
- repetition of ideas
- ideas often overlap

Question 4***Answers could include:***

- chord progression remains the same throughout the excerpt
- there is a recapitulation of the sparse piano chords at key structural points in the excerpt
- rondo type structure
- there is a recurring motif
- the introduction of melody (piano) maintains interest
- the addition of percussion and guitar in the second chorus adds interest via tone colour changes
- unity is achieved by the recurring tone colours
- repetition of violin melody at different registers
- the building of each layer with successive choruses does maintain the interest
- restatement of accompaniment figure with tremolo strings at the conclusion