

MUSIC TECH REVISION

**COMPONENT 3
PRACTISE PAPERS**

SECTION A

Answer ALL questions in both sections .

1. The Buggles : Video Killed the Radio Star <https://youtu.be/W8r-tXRLazs>

a. Name 2 production processes that have been used on the lead vocal in the first verse.

1.....

2..... (2)

b. What instrument plays at 0:09 seconds. (1)

c. How has the 'far away' feel been achieved on the backing vocals at 2:34. (1)

d. On the outro, a second backing vocal is layered over the first by the same singer. What is this technique called. (1)

e. Unusual for the eighties, which percussion instrument is mixed prominently at 0:34 seconds. (1)

f. State four reasons why this track could not have been recorded in the 1950's (1)

1.....

2.....

3.....

4..... (4)

(Total for question 1= 10 marks)

Produced by Malcolm Escott
www.musictechstudent.co.uk

2. Blondie : Heart of Glass https://youtu.be/WGU_4-5RaxU

a. Which elements of disco are incorporated into this track (3)

b. How are the vocals thickened on the chorus (2)

c. What gives the first instrumental break (2:00) its unusual feel. (2)

d. This track was recorded before MIDI. What does MIDI stand for and how could it have been used on the sequencer and drum machine parts. (3)

(Total for question 2 = 10 marks)

3. Rocket 88 : Ike Turner/Jackie Brenston <https://youtu.be/Gbfnh1oVTk0>

a. This track was recorded in 1951. Explain two characteristics that support this. (4)

b. Explain three processing techniques that could be applied during mastering to give this song a more contemporary sound. (6)

(Total for question 3 = 10 marks)

4. The Beatles: Strawberry Fields Forever <https://youtu.be/8UQK-UcRezE>

a. The introduction features a Mellotron. Explain how a Mellotron worked. (4)

b. What problems may you have encountered using a Mellotron and what could you use today to achieve a similar effect. (6)

(Total for question 4=10 marks)

Total for section A = 40 marks

Section B

5. Pink Floyd : Comfortably Numb [https://youtu.be/ FrOQC-zEog](https://youtu.be/FrOQC-zEog)

Scissor Sisters : Comfortably Numb <https://youtu.be/2lsCEgcRozY>

Compare the different production and performance techniques used in these two versions of the same song (20)

(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

6. Van Halen : I'm the One

<https://youtu.be/kzkXGIRaxcI>

The electric guitar has come a long way since it's first incarnation. Name the various effects, innovations and techniques in this song that confirm it could not have been recorded in the 1950's

(15)

(Total for Question 6 = 15 marks)

Total for section B = 35 marks

Total for paper = 75 marks

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SIOUXSIE AND THE BANSHEES - PEEK A BOO

Listen to Attached Audio File >>> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGH_16SICL0

1. What decade was this recording released?

Put a cross **X** in the correct box.

- A 1960s
- B 1970s
- C 1980s
- D 1990s

2. The rhythm part is based on a reversed loop. How would you do this in the 70's?

.....

.....

3. Name two ways the vocals betray the bands punk origins.

.....

.....

4. In the verses, the vocals overlap. How could this be done?

.....

.....

5. How could you achieve the different vocal sounds of each line?



6. Which unusual instrument takes the lead at 52 seconds?



7. What harmony is added to it at 1:00?

Put a cross in the correct box:

- A Fifths
- B Thirds
- C Octaves
- D Ninths

8. What sound briefly appears at 2:06?



9. Briefly describe Double Tracking.



10. Briefly describe ADT.

(1)

11. Draw these three mic polar patterns:

Cardioid

Omni Directional

Bi Directional / Figure of 8

(3)

12. Name three other Punk bands:

Band 1: _____ Band 2: _____

Band 3: _____

(3)

THE BEATLES - I FEEL FINE

Listen to Attached Audio File > > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFleHMgn8dg>

1. Which sound, normally associated with guitar, begins this song?

2. What is the tonality of this piece?

3. The opening riff goes through chords I IV and V. Which style of music relies heavily on these chords?

4. The opening riff does not start on the tonic chord. What does it start on?

5. Which is the correct transcription of the opening riff?

Three musical staves (a, b, c) showing different transcriptions of the opening riff of 'I Feel Fine' in G major. Each staff starts with a treble clef and a 7 chord symbol. Staff a shows a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Staff b shows: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Staff c shows: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5.

6. What is the harmony produced by the three voices on 'I Feel Fine': a. root, fifth, octave b. root, third, fifth c. root, unison, third

Put a cross in the correct box.

- A Root, Fifth, Octave
 B Root, Third, Fifth
 C Root, Unison, Third

11

7. What technique is primarily used in the guitar solo at 1:45?

11

8. Name the Beatles main producer?

11

9. The bridge harmony is: G,B minor,C7, D. What notes are in B minor and C7?

B minor: _____ C7: _____

11

10. This track was recorded in 1964. How many tracks would have been used?

Number of tracks = _____

11

11. Name the technique and briefly describe how more parts would have been achieved whilst using only four tracks.

(3)

12. What are the dangers of this method?

(7)

SECTION A

Answer ALL questions in both sections .

1. The Jimi Hendrix Experiences : All Along the Watchtower https://youtu.be/TLV4_xaYynY

a. What two types of guitar can be heard before the vocals enter.

1.....

2..... (2)

b. What style/technique of guitar playing is employed at 2:00. (1)

c. How is this section (2:00 - 2:30) given a psychedelic, 'spaced' feel. (1)

d. What effect is used on the lead guitar from 2:16 (1)

e. What aspect of timbre does this effect change. (2)

f. This track was recorded in 1968. Give three examples that confirm this.

1.....

2.....

3..... (3)

(Total for question 1= 10 marks)

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2. Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong : Summertime

<https://youtu.be/MIDOE5QL7IA>

- a. When recording brass instruments which performance feature must you watch out for. (2)
- b. How is it best to place the mic to avoid this. (2)
- c. What is the name for the improvisatory vocal technique employed at 3:29 (1)
- d. This track was recorded in 1957. Why would the vocal performance have to be of a higher calibre compared to a modern day recording . (5)

(Total for question 2 = 10 marks)

3. Grace Jones : Slave to the Rhythm

<https://youtu.be/Z0XLzIswI2s>

a. What percussion instrument enters at 1:10 (1)

b. What effect is used on the backing vocals at 2:14. (2)

c. This track features a polyphonic synth. How does a polyphonic synth differ from a monophonic one. (2)

d. This track was recorded in 1985. Give five reasons to support this (5)

Total for question 3 = 10 marks)

4. Aerosmith featuring Run DMC : Walk this Way

a. Give two characteristics of rap featured in this song. (2)

b. Give two characteristics of rock featured in this song. (2)

c. Discuss the advantages of using a drum machine over a live drummer. (6)

(Total for question 4=10 marks)

Total for section A = 40 marks

Section B

5. Styx : Mr Roboto

<https://youtu.be/98o0AJ8cNNk>

Kids on Drugs : Mr Roboto

<https://youtu.be/KGsb7eo2Y1g>

Compare the different production and performance techniques used in the two versions. (20)

(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

6. Prince and the Revolution : Purple Rain

The guitar features a deep chorus effect. Outline the workings and differences of the three main modulation effects : Chorus, Phaser and Flanger. (15)

(Total for Question 6 = 15 marks)

Total for section B = 35 marks

Total for paper = 75 marks

SECTION A

Answer ALL questions in both sections .

1. Justin Timberlake : Sexyback <https://youtu.be/pTBDuL59Dvc>

a. The main vocal is put through a guitar amp simulator. How does this change the vocal timbre and texture. (2)

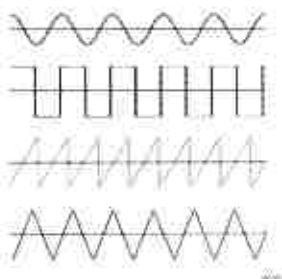
b. What performance technique is used on the guitar riff at 2:28 seconds.

1. Tapping 2. tremolo picking 3. palm muting 4. sliding (1)

c. The synth bass in this track is routed to the dynamic processing of the kick drum. What is this technique called. (2)

d. On the outro, a second backing vocal is layered over the first by the same singer. What is this technique called. (1)

e. The main riff is based on a square wave . Label these four waveforms. (4)



(Total for question 1= 10 marks)

2. ABBA : Lay all your Love

<https://youtu.be/2seCB54Bv-c>

a. This track features live instruments and synthesisers. What techniques could be used for sound capture (3)

b. Is this song in a major or minor key (1)

c. What best describes the chorus-background vocals. (2)

1. monophonic

2. homophonic

d. The end of each verse features a drop created by looping the vocals through a harmoniser set at a semitone lower. How could you recreate this effect with modern technology. (4)

(Total for question 2 = 10 marks)

3. T Bone Walker : They Call it Stormy Monday <https://youtu.be/VAPD.JheCOJk>

a. This track is a Blues. Explain two characteristics that support this. (4)

b. Explain three problems you could encounter when recording a live ensemble and how you could overcome them. (6)

(Total for question 3 = 10 marks)

4. Talk Talk : Life's What you Make It

https://youtu.be/OvMoRVrgx_I

a. The introduction features a Piano riff. Why are two mic's better for recording a piano.

(2)

b. What is missing from a standard drum kit in this track.

(1)

c. What effect is added to the guitar part give more sustain.

(1)

d. This track was recorded in 1986. Name three big changes in music technology during this decade.

(6)

(Total for question 4=10 marks)

Total for section A = 40 marks

Section B

5. The Beatles : Got To Get You Into My Life <https://youtu.be/bxhhFOnXs2M>

Earth Wind and Fire : Got To Get You Into My Life <https://youtu.be/MKskYvTGEHE>

Compare the different production and performance techniques used in the two versions.

(20)

(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

6. Charlie Christain: Solo Flight

<https://youtu.be/IID2JPnGF00>

Explain why guitar amplification was first needed and how it has developed.

(15)

(Total for Question 6 = 15 marks)

Total for section B = 35 marks

Total for paper = 75 marks

SECTION A

Answer ALL questions in both sections .

1. Johnny Cash : Ring of Fire

<https://youtu.be/mIBTg7q9oNc>

a. Describe the bar lengths of the opening trumpet phrase. (3)

b. What effect (common to 1950's recording) is used on the lead vocal. (1)

c. What must you look out for when recording brass instruments. (1)

d. How, through mic placement , can you avoid this. (1)

f. This was recorded in 1963. Give four facts to support this statement.

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

(4)

(Total for question 1= 10 marks)

2. Human League : Fascination

<https://youtu.be/QggBs6kkzHE>

a. How has the low growl synth sound been panned. 0.28 seconds. (1)

b. How are the vocals thickened on the chorus . (3)

c. The opening synth riff goes slightly out of tune due to the recording process. Why would this not occur in digital recording. (2)

d. This track was recorded with analogue synthesisers. What are the four components of an envelope in synthesis. (4)

(Total for question 2 = 10 marks)

3. Duke Ellington : Afrique (take 3)

<https://youtu.be/Uw0p4669OyI>

a. This track was recorded in 1970. Name four production techniques of the time. (4)

b. How have the vocal and piano been separated. (2)

c. Duke Ellington was more famous for his swing recordings. Name four key elements of big band swing. (4)

Total for question 3 = 10 marks)

4. ZAYN, Taylor Swift: I Don't Wanna Live Forever <https://youtu.be/7F37r50VUTQ>

a. This song is in A minor. If A above middle C is 440 Hz what is its frequency one octave lower (2)

b. What is the tempo of this track. (2)

c. This track contains several vocal samples. What sampling rate would you expect to have been used and why (6)

(Total for question 4=10 marks)

Total for section A = 40 marks

Section B

5. The Persuaders : Some Guys Have All the Luck

<https://youtu.be/fVbDgUD6BIQ>

Robert Palmer : Some Guys Have All the Luck

<https://youtu.be/y5ugg624SFw>

Compare the different production and performance techniques used in the two versions.

(20)

(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

6. Led Zeppelin : Black Dog

Loud, loud rock music. Briefly outline the evolution of the guitar amplifier.

(15)

(Total for Question 6 = 15 marks)

Total for section B = 35 marks

Total for paper = 75 marks

SECTION A

Answer ALL questions in both sections .

1. The Weekend : I Feel it Coming

<https://youtu.be/qFLhGq0060w>

a. What dynamic processing has been used on the intro. (2)

b. Apart from synthesisers, what other instruments appear in this song. (2)

c. On the outro, a second backing vocal is layered over the first by the same singer. What is this technique called. (1)

d. How is the digital rhythm track given a more human feel. (1)

e. State four reasons why this track could not have been recorded in the 1950's

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

(4)

(Total for question 1= 10 marks)

2. Genesis : Dancing with the Moonlit Knight <https://youtu.be/cmiOKL5pBuM>

a. This is a progressive rock song. Give three reasons that support this statement. (3)

b. What other influence can be heard in this track. (2)

1. English Folk 2. Calypso 3. Swing 4. Mariachi

c. How could you prevent plosives from occurring in the vocal part. (2)

d. What ratio could you use if you were to apply hard compression/limiting to this track (3)

(Total for question 2 = 10 marks)

3. Dexy's Midnight Runners : Come on Eileen <https://youtu.be/ASwge9wc-el>

a. This track features mostly acoustic instruments. Name four (4)

b. Explain three processing techniques that could be applied during mastering to give this song a more contemporary sound. (6)

(Total for question 3 = 10 marks)

4. Andrew Lloyd Webber :Paganini Caprice in A minor variations

<https://youtu.be/ZgcrN2ed8WQ>

a. How would you mic the Cello to minimise room noise and bow sound. (include choice of mic) (4)

b. What instruments are performing on this piece. (6)

(Total for question 4=10 marks)

Total for section A = 40 marks

Section B

5. Rihanna : Umbrella

<https://youtu.be/gN3gNuRdVmg>

The Baseballs : Umbrella

<https://youtu.be/URxzu8EFBVY>

Compare the different production and performance techniques used in the two versions.

(15)

(Total for Question 5 = 15 marks)

6. The Human League : Mirror Man <https://youtu.be/bwg-tKSj6Sc>

This song features heavy use of synthesisers. Briefly describe the evolution of the synth.
(20)

(Total for Question 6 = 20 marks)

Total for section B = 35 marks

Total for paper = 75 marks

SECTION A

Answer ALL questions in both sections .

1. Deep Purple : Black night

<https://youtu.be/Et3AJIry4il>

a. What rhythm are the drums playing on the intro.

1 Crotchets

2. Crotchet triplets

3. Quavers

4. Quaver triplets

(2)

b. How is the guitar panned.

(1)

c. Which keyboard instrument can be heard throughout.

(1)

d. How has the riff been given a fatter sound.

(2)

e. What is the rhythmic feel of this track.

(1)

f. Name three performance techniques employed by the guitarist.

1.....

2.....

3.....

(3)

(Total for question 1= 10 marks)

2. Daft Punk : Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger <https://youtu.be/GDpmVUEjagg>

a. What rhythmic value does the ride cymbal play at 0.24 seconds (2)

b. What dynamic processing is applied to the intro. (2)

c. How is the robotic effect on the main vocal achieved. (2)

d. This track uses MIDI . What does MIDI stand for and how did it change the face of electronic music. (4)

(Total for question 2 = 10 marks)

3. Thompson Twins: You Take Me Up

<https://youtu.be/5Dho47jZS9U>

- a. What reed instrument is heard on this track. (2)
- b. How has the industrial feel of the lyrics been reflected in the rhythm track. (2)
- c. What elements of a traditional blues are used by the backing vocals. (2)
- d. What techniques/instrumentation are employed to give the chorus a lift. (4)

(Total for question 3 = 10 marks)

4. Foster The People : Pumped Up Kicks <https://youtu.be/SDTZ7iX4vTQ>

a. How do the verse vocals differ from the chorus vocals.

(6)

b. How has definition been added to the synth bass part.

(4)

(Total for question 4= 10 marks)

Total for section A = 40 marks

Section B

5. Elvis Presley : Always on my mind

<https://youtu.be/u9sRJ-eQHnc>

Pet Shop Boys : Always on my mind

<https://youtu.be/n2aMaMkDwTA>

Compare the different production and performance techniques used in the two versions (20)

(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

6. The Tornadoes : Telstar

<https://youtu.be/4B7ypA1fSwU>

Producer Joe Meek, pioneered the splicing of different performances and parts together on tape.

How has the availability of more tracks developed since the 1960's. (15)

(Total for Question 6 = 15 marks)

Total for section B = 35 marks

Total for paper = 75 marks

THE JAM - TOWN CALLED MALICE

Listen to Attached Audio File >>> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfpRm-p7qLY>

1. Which decade was this originally released?

(1)

2. Name the keyboard instrument on the intro.

(1)

3. How is the bass riff played?

(1)

4. What percussion instrument is heard on the break at 2:00?

(1)

5. What is the harmony added to the vocals at 1:12:

Put a cross ☒ in the correct box.

- A Thirds
- B Fifths
- C Fourths
- D Octaves

(4)

6. What is the tonality at the opening of this piece?

(1)

7. Name two ways the bass guitar may have been recorded in this decade?

[2]

8. Name two social or political occurrences that may have led to a rise in politicised lyrics in the 1980's.

[2]

9. Complete the gaps in the structure of this song:

Intro / Verse / Chorus / Verse / Chorus / _____ / _____ /

Bridge / _____ / Breakdown / Verse / Chorus / Chorus.

[3]

10. Why can Dynamic Range Compression produce poor results?

[3]

SECTION A

Answer ALL questions in both sections .

1. The Chainsmokers :Don't Let me Down <https://youtu.be/qMH0Xglh7GA>

a. Describe how EQ processing has been applied to the guitar part between the beginning and 0.12 seconds, also which effect is used to create space during this time.

1.....

2..... (2)

b. How does the guitar part change at 0.36 seconds (1)

c. What effect is used on the vocal phrase 'right now' at 0.42 seconds (1)

d. What rhythm does the kick drum play at 2:12. (1)

e. What part of the vocalists performance is included to add a more human touch. (1)

f. State four reasons why this track could not have been recorded in the 1950's (4)

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

(Total for question 1= 10 marks)

2. A-Ha : Take On Me

<https://youtu.be/djV11Xbc914>

a. What is the tempo of this song (2)

b. The main riff is played on a DX7 AND a Juno 60. How would these two instruments have communicated. (2)

c. What are the missing chords under the main riff from 0. 20 seconds (2)

B minor7 / E / / C #minor 7

d. What vocal technique does the singer use at the end of the chorus. (2)

e. What form do the backing vocals take on the chorus.

1. Harmonies 2. Call and response 3. double tracking (2)

(Total for question 2 = 10 marks)

3. Howlin'Wolf : Smokestack lightning

<https://youtu.be/9Ri7TcukAJ8>

a. This track was recorded in 1959. Explain two characteristics that support this. (4)

b. This track was recorded live with one microphone. Explain three modern techniques that could create a more contemporary sound. (6)

(Total for question 3 = 10 marks)

4. The Beatles: In My Life

<https://youtu.be/-eCh3y5VROM>

a. This track was recorded on four tracks . Explain the process of recording more parts within these limitations. (4)

b. The piano solo at 1:30 was too difficult to perform at the time. What recording technique was employed to aid the performer. How could you replicate this using modern technology. (6)

(Total for question 4=10 marks)

Total for section A = 40 marks

Section B

5. The Knife : Heartbeats

<https://youtu.be/jcU7gmU1-WQ>

Jose Gonzalez : Heartbeats

<https://youtu.be/4-liyr-Xq3E>

Compare the different production and performance techniques used in the two versions
(20)

(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

6. Tone Loc : Wild Thing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bNHDppTwlk>

This track relies heavily on audio sampling. Briefly describe the process and its impact on modern music. (15)

(Total for Question 6 = 15 marks)

Total for section B = 35 marks

Total for paper = 75 marks