Edexcel

A level MUSIC

Section A (Questions 1 - 4)

Popular Music and Jazz: The Beatles

Mark Scheme

Section A: Listening

Question 1: The Beatles: Eleanor Rigby bars 1 - 40

14 marks

Ques`n	Part	Marking guidance		
1	(a)	136 bpm		
1	(b)	parallel 3rds		
1		Features	letters V to Z	
		anticipation	W	
	(0)	imitation	Z	5
	(c)	passing note	V	5
		auxiliary	Υ	
		suspension	Х	
1	(d)	9 :		2
1	(e)	minor 10 th OR compound minor 3rd		1
1	(f)	 bar 23 - semibreve (G) in 1st violin [1] bar 26 - rising scale in cello [1] bar 27 - syncopated rhythm in the cello [1] bar 28 - no off beat quavers in the (two) violin parts [1] bars 28 to 32 - countermelody in the viola [1] further detail e.g. sustained notes / off beat rhythms [1] bars 31 and 32 - same two cello changes as bars 26 + 27 candidate can have `either / or` but not `both` (sorry) 		4 max

Question 2: The Beatles: Tomorrow Never Knows verses 1 - 4

14 marks

Ques`n	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
2	(a)	sitar is the named instrument, although George Harrison actually played a tambura for the drone on this track	1
2	(b)	6th	
2	(c)	(in addition to the pitch of the notes) the rhythm is also shown in score A	
2	(d)	(iii)	
2	(e)	recording of (Paul McCartney`s) laughter (or voice) - played back at a faster speed (both features in bold type required)	
2	(f)	the vocals were recorded through an improvised Leslie rotating speaker system (normally at that time, associated with a Hammond organ)	
2	(g)	the `Sustained orchestral chord` sample is a single, B flat string chord [1] panned left [1] try listening with headphones the `Mellotron with string setting` loop is a B flat chord followed by a chord of C [1] panned right [1] in each of verses 1 - 3, the two samples are introduced in bar 5 [1] and the C chord of the Mellotron loop appears at bar 7 [1] creating a modal effect (B flat being the flattened 7 th) [1] with polychordal elements (merging of chords B flat and C) [1] which is `resolved` by the shift back to C (in the Mellotron loop) [1] you might wish to increase the value of this question to 4 or even 6 marks	3 max
2	(h)	manipulation of recorded sound OR any named, specific technique (e.g. tape loops, saturation, speed change, reversing, splicing, sampling)	
2	(i)	 elements of Indian music / fusion / sitar / tabla / drones / vocal style [1]; modal [1]; and Indian mysticism / meditation [1]; reflected in hypnotic, repetitive, drone elements [1]; and the nature of the lyrics [1]; hallucinogenic experiences due to the effects of LSD [1]; reflected in changing / unconnected / irrational musical events [1]; adventurous, sometimes radical musical experiments [1]; and innovative recording techniques [1]. 	

Question 3: The Beatles: I Want to Tell You bars 16 (1`11``) - end

14 marks

Ques`n	Part	Marking guidance		Total marks
3	(a)	creates (the impression) of chords which contain both major and minor 3rds ALSO allow a reference to blue notes or blues chords		1
3	(b)	Harmonic features sus 4 chord major chord + flat 9	letters W to Z X W	4
	(3)	minor chord diminished chord	Z Y	7
3	(c)	addition of handclaps in bars 20 - 24		1
3	(d)	bass guitar improvised rhythms on the A pedal note [1] (backing) vocal improvisation in an Indian / muezzin style in the final four bars [1]		2
3	(e)	bouncing or ping-ponging [1] record instruments x, y and z onto tracks 1, 2 and 3 mix the levels on tracks 1, 2 and 3 and then switch these tracks into playback mode and track 4 into record mode record tracks 1, 2 and 3 onto track 4 tracks 1, 2 and 3 are now free to record more etc [1] or some similar explanation		2
3	(f)	 the wide variety of sometimes awkward, idiosyncratic or conflicting rhythms [1] is intended to reflect a sense of frustration at an inability to communicate [1] basically a swung rhythm [1] with triplet crotchet cross rhythms [1] syncopated / push rhythm in the vocals [1] `tripping` acciaccaturas [1] triplet fills [1] in the piano `free` rhythm in the chanting improvisation at the end of the coda [1] disruption of the regular pulse in bars 11, 30 and coda [1] possible alternative question: `How is a sense of awkward frustration conveyed in this song?` To the above answer regarding rhythm, add references to unequal phrasing /chord change in the middle of phrase 2 / jarring effect of the minor 9th / juxtaposition of the same chord in major, minor and diminished forms in the B section, strident nature of the vocals, especially the high pitched backing vocals etc 		4 max