

# 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. Hi cut / low boost / top frequencies cut

2.Reverb (2)

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

Drops an octave.

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

Timed delay / tap delay/ ping pong delay

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

Quavers

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

breaths before each phrase (1)

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

1 use of synthesisers

2. drum machines / drum samples

3. Automated effects / modern reverbs / multi tracking

4. Pitch bends / timed delay / autotune / electric guitar effects (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)

169 bpm ( accept 155 to 180 )

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

Via MIDI / midi cables .

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

B minor7 / E / A / D C #minor 7

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

Falsetto / head voice

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)

No overdubs, acoustic instruments, no synths, live feel, loose rhythms, lack of distinction in parts.

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

(6)

better mic placement, more use of effects, record separate parts, wider frequency range, more dynamic processing, overdub any mistakes, mastering, gating, compression.

**(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)

Bouncing down : record on four tracks, mix and bounce down to one then record on remaining three mix and bounce down to track two etc.

**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)**

Tape slowed to half speed, recorded and then sped up. Slow track tempo / time shift / draw in using MIDI / sequence performance.

**(Total for question 3 = 10 marks)**

**(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)**

Original : sequenced performance, synthesisers, drum machines/synth, affected vocal, double tracking of voice, layering of keyboard parts, up beat dance feel, electronic style, eq sweeps, synthesised hand claps, filters, timbale, steel drum sound, automated panning.

Cover : acoustic, emotional vocal performance, double tracked vocal, intimate recording, close mic'd guitar, folk feel, limited use of effects, natural production, sparse arrangement.

**(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)**

## 6. Tone Loc : Wild Thing

**This track relies heavily on audio sampling. Briefly describe the process and its impact on modern music.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bNHDppTwlk> (15)

recording audio signal at 44.1 khz. Can be manipulated /pitch shifted/ time stretched/ copy and pasted. Create a new song from small sample giving rise to Hip Hop and dance music. Layering of samples to create soundscapes, new sonic palette , use of vocal hooks as instruments, samples of drum loops eg James Brown, most modern music uses sampling in some form or another. used in rock to create consistent drum hits. Orchestral/ethnic samples as cheaper alternative. Famous use of sampling Rappers delight-Chic, Run DMC - My sharona, Kanye - Ray Charles, M.I.A. -The Clash. Madonna -Abba, Robbie Williams - Barry White.

**(Total for Question 6 = 15 marks)**

**Total for section B = 35 marks**

**Total for paper = 75 marks**