

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)

Filter sweep, hi cut, EQ cut, Mid boost, HI/low cut.

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

Electric guitar, bass guitar, vocoder

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

multi tracking.

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

loose handclaps

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

Automated EQ sweeps, synthesisers, vocoder, high production values, effects, electric bass multi track recordings.

(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)

time/tempo changes, extended instrumental breaks, song length, fantastical lyrics, virtuoso performances, complex rhythmic patterns, extended harmony.

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)

Using a pop shield, moving the vocalist.

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

anything from 20:1 upwards.

(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)

Fiddle, violin, banjo, acoustic guitar, drums, piano,

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

apply EQ (1) to cut low-mid muddiness/to apply a loudness curve/
make bass instruments thicker (1) apply high pass filter (1) to remove
plosives on vocals in breaks (1) • automated de-esser/dynamic EQ/
automated EQ (1) on the vocal to remove sibilance (1) • mix
compression/multi-band compression/brickwall limiter (1) to give a
higher average level/reduce dynamic range (1) • stereo widener/
reverb (1) to give a simulated stereo field (1) • noise reduction/audio
restoration (1) to remove unwanted noise and hiss.

(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)

Directional cardioid attached to the body/ near sound hole/ 10 inches from hole.

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

Cello, guitar, bass, keyboards, flute, drums, piano.

(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)

Original : drum sample, vocal samples as rhythmic licks, rapping,
heavily compressed drums,

electric guitar sample, synth arpeggio, sparse instrumentation, use of
delay, layered vocals by same voice, Hip Hop feel,

Cover : 50's doo wop feel, acoustic instruments, blues riff, different
vocalists, swing feel, lack of effects /compression, double bass , a
capella breakdown.

(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)

1928 Theremin, 1935 Hammond organ, 1963 Mellotron, 1969 Moog modular VCO, 1973 Roland SH1000, 1974 Yamaha SY1 compact analog synth with single VCO, 1975 Oberheim Korg monophonic with two analog oscillators. 1977 Synclavier, 1977 Korg PS3100 VCO VCF VCA for each of the keys giving 48 synthesisers and polyphony. MIDI communication, VST's. Development of circuit boards, microchips lower prices.

(Total for Question 6 = 20 marks)

Total for section B = 35 marks

Total for paper = 75 marks