



GCE A LEVEL – NEW

1660U60-1



S18-1660U60-1-R1

MUSIC – A2 unit 5
Composing

Composition Brief for submission in 2018

Release date: 1 September 2017

**AVAILABLE ONLY TO CANDIDATES ENTERING THE WJEC
QUALIFICATION APPROVED BY QUALIFICATIONS WALES AND NOT
AVAILABLE TO CENTRES IN ENGLAND**

INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR CANDIDATES

You are permitted to compose for any appropriate combination of instruments/voices, unless otherwise stipulated in the brief.

The composition must be monitored by your teacher three times during the composition process as part of the authentication process.

You must complete and sign a composition log giving details of the composition process.

The piece must be a minimum of 1 minute duration.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (IN THE COMPOSITION LOG)

All secondary source materials, such as musical quotes or pre-composed samples, must be clearly acknowledged and any work which is not entirely your own must be identified. Software packages must be listed with an explanation of how they have been used. Any musical influences you may have used must also be acknowledged in the composition log.

Set briefs

You must compose a piece of music in response to **one** of the following set briefs.

Briefs 1 and 2 require you to write a short piece, and briefs 3 and 4 require you to write sections of a longer piece.

1. Compose a short **scherzo** for four instruments, intended for performance during the interval at a dance exhibition in the Wales Millennium Centre.
2. Compose a short song for solo and accompaniment, to be performed at a school summer concert. You may choose appropriate words or write the words yourself (in either Welsh or English). You are advised not to choose words from a well-known piece as this may lead to a predictable response.
3. Compose the beginning of a piece of incidental music which sets the opening scene for a new drama production about the closing of the Welsh coal mines in the late 20th century. You may write for any combination of voices and instruments.
4. Compose the opening of a vocal duet (with accompaniment) intended for performance in a Music for Youth concert organized by the Arts Council of Wales. You may (if you choose) use some, or all of the following text:

When music sounds, gone is the earth I know,
And all her lovely things even lovelier grow;
Her flowers in vision flame, her forest trees
Lift burdened branches, stilled with ecstasies.

When music sounds, out of the water rise
Naiads whose beauty dims my waking eyes,
Rapt in strange dreams burns each enchanted face,
With solemn echoing stirs their dwelling-place.

When music sounds, all that I was I am
Ere to this haunt of brooding dust I came;
And from Time's woods break into distant song
The swift-winged hours, as I hasten along.

[Walter de la Mare]

You are reminded that all four briefs are set in the context of the **Western Classical Tradition** and the response to the selected brief must result in a composition in a **Western Classical style** which illustrates understanding of the musical language, techniques and conventions of the period (i.e. Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras). You must choose a **suitable style or genre from the period**. Further guidance on composing in a Western Classical style can be found in Appendix B of the specification.

Composition evidence

Compositions will be submitted online.

You will be required to provide the following evidence when you submit your composition for assessment:

1. an audio recording of the composition in MP3 format
2. a score **or** a detailed written description of the music accompanied by an outline of the melody and chords used, in pdf format or compatible with MS Office
3. a signed composition log outlining the development process and acknowledgements. This can be typed with a digital signature, or scanned. Please use the template available on the WJEC website.