

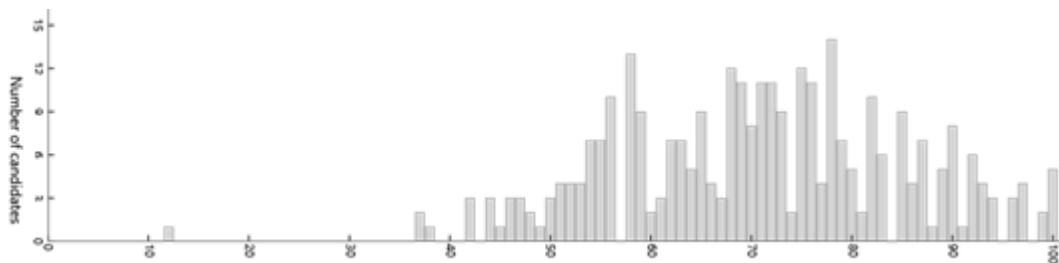


Summary report of the 2021 ATAR course examination report: Music

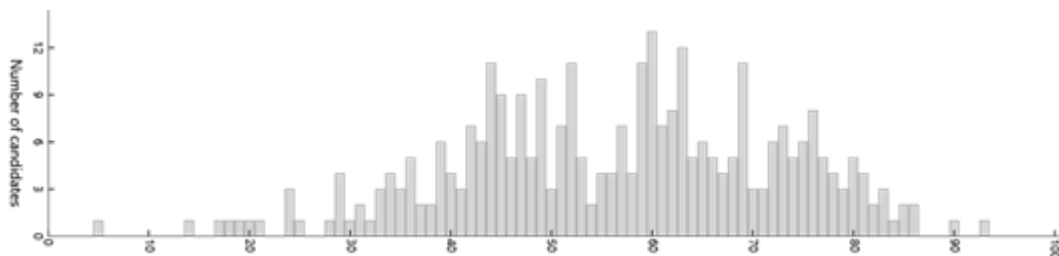
Year	Number who sat all examination components			Number of absentees from all examination components
	Contemporary Music	Jazz	Western Art Music	
2021	81	42	196	3
2020	47	41	206	3
2019	65	29	215	2
2018	67	32	240	1

The number of candidates sitting and the number attempting each section of the examination can differ as a result of non-attempts across sections of the examination.

Examination score distribution–Practical



Examination score distribution–Written



Summary

Candidates completed a practical and written examination.

Practical examination

Attempted by 296 candidates Mean 70.92% Max 100.00% Min 11.94%
There were some outstanding candidates in the practical examination with full marks being awarded to five students. The mean was a little higher than 2020, mainly accounted for in the *Technique* and *Style/Expression* criteria.

Section means were:

<i>Technique</i>	Mean 67.92%		
	Mean 27.17(/40)	Max 40.00	Min 4.00
<i>Style/Expression</i>	Mean 68.16%		
	Mean 34.08(/50)	Max 50.00	Min 2.94
<i>Program requirements</i>	Mean 96.76%		
	Mean 9.68(/10)	Max 10.00	Min 5.00

Due to the small candidature for Options 2, 3 and 4 of the practical examination, no statistical analysis is supplied.

Written examination

Attempted by 319 candidates Mean 56.48% Max 92.68% Min 5.33%

The written examination consisted of three sections: Section One (common to all contexts), Section Two Parts A, B(i) and B(ii) (context-specific) and Section Three (context-specific). Candidates were required to attempt all questions in the paper.

Section means were:

Aural and analysis	Mean 60.52%		
Attempted by 319 candidates	Mean 21.79(/36)	Max 36.00	Min 5.33

Cultural and Historical Analysis Part A: Analysis

	Mean 56.68%		
Attempted by 316 candidates	Mean 6.23(/11)	Max 11.00	Min 0.00

Cultural and Historical Analysis Short response Part B (i) Compulsory area of study

	Mean 47.54%		
Attempted by 316 candidates	Mean 5.23(/11)	Max 11.00	Min 0.00

Cultural and Historical Analysis Short response Part B (ii) Non-compulsory area of study

	Mean 50.87%		
Attempted by 303 candidates	Mean 6.10(/12)	Max 11.20	Min 0.00

Theory and composition	Mean 57.09%		
Attempted by 318 candidates	Mean 17.13(/30)	Max 28.93	Min 0.00

Section means for each context were:

Aural and analysis			
<i>Contemporary music</i>			
Attempted by 81 candidates	Mean 17.09(/36)	Max 28.67	Min 5.33

<i>Jazz</i>			
Attempted by 42 candidates	Mean 21.20(/36)	Max 34.00	Min 8.00

<i>Western Art Music</i>			
Attempted by 196 candidates	Mean 23.86(/36)	Max 36.00	Min 5.33

Cultural and Historical Analysis Part A: Analysis

<i>Contemporary music</i>			
Attempted by 81 candidates	Mean 6.17(/11)	Max 9.53	Min 0.73

<i>Jazz</i>			
Attempted by 42 candidates	Mean 7.13(/11)	Max 10.21	Min 2.36

<i>Western Art Music</i>			
Attempted by 193 candidates	Mean 6.07(/11)	Max 11.00	Min 0.00

Cultural and Historical Analysis Short response Part B (i) Compulsory area of study

<i>Contemporary music</i>			
Attempted by 80 candidates	Mean 7.13(/11)	Max 11.00	Min 0.00

<i>Jazz</i>			
Attempted by 42 candidates	Mean 4.45(/11)	Max 8.41	Min 1.29

<i>Western Art Music</i>			
Attempted by 194 candidates	Mean 4.61(/11)	Max 10.35	Min 0.00

Cultural and Historical Analysis Short response Part B (ii) Non-compulsory area of study

Contemporary music

Attempted by 78 candidates Mean 6.37(/12) Max 11.20 Min 0.00

Jazz

Attempted by 38 candidates Mean 5.73(/12) Max 11.20 Min 0.00

Western Art Music

Attempted by 187 candidates Mean 6.07(/12) Max 11.20 Min 0.00

Theory and composition

Contemporary music

Attempted by 81 candidates Mean 13.70(/30) Max 28.93 Min 2.14

Jazz

Attempted by 42 candidates Mean 17.59(/30) Max 26.25 Min 4.09

Western Art Music

Attempted by 195 candidates Mean 18.44(/30) Max 27.61 Min 0.00

General comments

Practical examination

There are a number of ways that a candidate may complete their practical examination.

The number of candidates and their chosen practical examination option were as follows:

Option	Number of Candidates
Performance	296
Composition	16
Performance and composition	1
Performance (two instruments or contexts)	4
Performance alternative	1

Advice for candidates

- Commensurate with your ability, endeavour to perform repertoire that offers you the opportunity to demonstrate your performance to the highest level against the criteria listed in the marking key.
- The quality of accompaniment is extremely important for any candidate's examination. Ensure you secure suitable quality accompaniment for your practical examination, be it live and/or recorded.
- Ensure that your accompanying ensemble is fully conversant with the style of music you are performing.

Advice for teachers

- Ensure your students secure suitable quality accompaniment for their practical examinations, be it live and/or recorded.

Written examination

Some excellent scripts were completed this year, resulting in a similar mean to 2020, and a higher mean compared to previous years. The examination seemed to be fair and achievable across all contexts, and candidates seemed to complete it comfortably in the given timeframe. It was pleasing to note most candidates attempted all questions, and that very few candidates contravened the requirement of Question 9 by using the compulsory genre.

Advice for candidates

- Ensure that you have covered all syllabus material and, especially in Composition, be prepared to apply that knowledge and understanding to the question provided.
- In extended response questions, be sure to make specific reference to designated works as required. While there were some excellent examples noted this year, very few candidates linked Question 9 part (b) to the effect on future composers ('... paving the way for future composers/performers.') instead relying on their knowledge of innovation within the work and not linking their response to the question requirement.
- Look carefully at the wording of the question to assist you in understanding what is required of you. Question wording is deliberately chosen to illicit the required response.
- When asked to describe characteristics/features evident in a provided score extract, make sure you respond with specific characteristics evident in the extract – not general characteristics.

Advice for teachers

- Advise your students of the need to use appropriate and specific music terminology located in the syllabus, be it compositional devices, terminology, score directions, expression markings, tempos or time signatures.
- Emphasise the need for correct stem direction, and grouping when your students are completing rhythmic dictations.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Practical examination

Option 1 Performance

The vast majority of students completed Option 1 – Performance.

Context	Number of Candidates
Contemporary Music	69
Jazz	25
Music Theatre	24
Western Art Music	178

Technique (30 marks)

Much evidence was noted of good preparation and technique across all contexts.

<i>Rhythm</i>	Mean 8.76(/12)	Max 12	Min 1
<i>Technical Skills</i>	Mean 3.94(/6)	Max 6	Min 1
<i>Pitch</i>	Mean 3.90(/6)	Max 6	Min 1
<i>Tone</i>	Mean 3.77(/6)	Max 6	Min 0

Style/Expression (17 marks)

A pleasing improvement in stylistic interpretation was noted across all contexts.

<i>Expressive elements</i>	Mean 2.58(/4)	Max 4	Min 0
<i>Musical interaction</i>	Mean 2.79(/4)	Max 4	Min 0

Specific Performance Context

Stylistic interpretation

Contemporary	Mean 6.16(/9)	Max 9	Min 3
Jazz	Mean 5.80(/9)	Max 8	Min 3
Music Theatre	Mean 6.21(/9)	Max 8	Min 4
Western Art Music	Mean 6.29(/9)	Max 9	Min 1

Program requirements (10 marks)

Performance candidates presented a good range of repertoire styles and levels, with well-balanced programs broadly evident.

<i>Time requirements</i>	Mean 1.99(/2)	Max 2	Min 1
<i>Balance of program</i>	Mean 2.84(/3)	Max 3	Min 0
<i>Standard of repertoire</i>	Mean 2.87(/3)	Max 3	Min 0
<i>Performing score</i>	Mean 1.97(/2)	Max 2	Min 0

Written examination

Section One: Aural and analysis

This common section of the examination was completed by all candidates. A significant discrepancy in achievement was noted between all contexts for Section One. Many candidates struggled with chord identification, despite there being no inversions in the example, and also struggled to identify changing time signatures.

Section Two: Cultural and historical analysis

Part A: Analysis

The mean across all contexts for the unseen questions was quite close.

Section Two: Cultural and historical analysis

Part B: Short response (i) Compulsory area of study

This section contained questions responding to the compulsory area of study relevant to each context.

Section Two: Cultural and historical analysis

Part B: Short response (ii) Non-compulsory area of study

As was the case in 2020, the short response questions were common to all contexts, resulting in very similar means across contexts. Whilst there were some very good responses noted to both short response questions, there was also evidence of some candidates providing responses that did not address the question.