



Music ATAR course practical (composition portfolio) examination marking key

2025

Marking keys are an explicit statement about what the examining panel expect of candidates in the practical (portfolio) examination. They are essential to fair assessment because their proper construction underpins reliability and validity.

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

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Compositional process							90% (36 marks)
Criterion 1: Application of music elements							
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Demonstrates inadequate skill in the selection and application of music elements and relationships within the work.	Demonstrates limited skill in the selection and manipulation of music elements and relationships within the work.	Demonstrates inconsistent skill in the selection and manipulation of music elements, inconsistently and ineffectively applying these within the work.	Demonstrates satisfactory skill in the selection and manipulation of music elements and relationships within the work.	Demonstrates proficient skill in the selection and manipulation of music elements and relationships within the work.	Demonstrates excellent skill in the selection and manipulation of music elements and relationships within the work.	Demonstrates exceptional skill in the selection, integration and manipulation of music elements and relationships within the work.	
Criterion 2: Creative process							
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Demonstrates inadequate creativity and development of musical material/ideas.	Demonstrates limited evidence of creativity and development of musical material/ideas.	Demonstrates inconsistent evidence of creativity and development of musical material/ideas.	Demonstrates a satisfactory degree of creativity and development when establishing and sustaining musical material/ideas.	Demonstrates proficient creativity and development when establishing and sustaining musical material/ideas.	Demonstrates an excellent degree of creativity and development when establishing and sustaining musical material/ideas.	Demonstrates an exceptional degree of creativity and development when establishing and sustaining musical material/ideas.	
Criterion 3: Form/structure and compositional devices							
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Demonstrates inadequate evidence of planning and organisation of form/structure, and/or an ineffective and inappropriate application of compositional devices.	Demonstrates limited evidence of planning and organisation of form/structure, and/or displays mostly inappropriate application of compositional devices.	Demonstrates inconsistent evidence of planning and organisation of form/structure, displaying some appropriate application of compositional devices.	Demonstrates satisfactory planning and organisation of form/structure, and mostly appropriate application of compositional devices.	Demonstrates proficient planning and organisation of form/structure, displaying proficient application of compositional devices.	Demonstrates excellent planning and organisation of form/structure, displaying excellent application of compositional devices.	Demonstrates exceptional planning and organisation of form/structure, displaying exceptional application of compositional devices.	
Criterion 4: Orchestration							
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Displays inadequate use of timbre and texture, producing a poorly balanced sound.	Displays limited use of timbre and texture, producing a mostly unbalanced sound.	Displays inconsistent use of timbre and texture, producing a sometimes-unbalanced sound.	Displays satisfactory use of timbre and texture, producing a mostly balanced sound.	Displays proficient use of timbre and texture, producing a balanced sound.	Displays excellent use of timbre and texture, producing a well-balanced sound.	Displays exceptional use of timbre and texture, producing a highly effective and well-balanced sound.	
Criterion 5: Stylistic application							
0	1–2	3–4	5–6	7–8	9		
Inadequate application of, or displays no evidence of, stylistic conventions.	Limited application of stylistic conventions, some of which are appropriate to the chosen style or genre and/or the compositional purpose or intent.	Inconsistently applies stylistic conventions, some of which are appropriate to the chosen style or genre and/or the compositional purpose or intent.	Satisfactorily applies a range of stylistic conventions, most of which are appropriate to the chosen style or genre and/or the compositional purpose or intent.	Proficiently applies a range of stylistic conventions to create an appropriate representation of a style or genre, meeting the compositional purpose or intent.	Demonstrates excellent application of a range of stylistic conventions to create a highly effective representation of a style or genre, meeting the compositional purpose or intent.		
Criterion 6: Submission presentation (score or digital audio workstation [DAW] submission)							
0	1	2	3				
Produces a mostly inaccurate and/or incomplete submission that does not enable an independent reproduction of the work.	Produces a submission with some inaccuracies and/or that is partially complete, enabling a somewhat accurate, independent reproduction of the work.	Produces a complete submission with minor inaccuracies, enabling a mostly accurate, independent reproduction of the work.	Produces a complete and accurate submission, enabling an accurate, independent reproduction of the work.				
Composition portfolio requirements							10% (8 marks)
Criterion 7: Time requirements and number of compositions							
0	1	2					
Portfolio is more than one minute over or under the mandated time range, or does not contain the required number of compositions, or does not contain the required proportion of original works.	Portfolio is up to one minute over or under the mandated time range. Portfolio meets the mandated requirements for the number of compositions and the proportion of original works.	Portfolio meets the mandated requirements for time and the number of compositions and the proportion of original works.					
Criterion 8: Balance of portfolio							
0	1	2					
Presents a portfolio with little contrast in its works.	Presents a portfolio with some contrast in its works.	Presents a portfolio of suitably contrasting works.					
Criterion 9: Supporting text (Composition portfolio submission form)							
0	1	2					
Does not provide appropriate references/acknowledgements and/or composer's statement and/or composition outlines.	Provides documentation that is mostly complete and adequate.	Provides documentation that is both complete and adequate.					
Criterion 10: Recording requirements							
0	1	2					
Does not provide appropriate recordings of the submitted compositions.	Provides appropriate recordings for some of the submitted compositions.	Provides appropriate recordings for all of the submitted compositions.					
Total 100% (44 marks)							