



Harris Academy Music Department

National 5 Music Technology

Understanding Music

Practice Questions

Following the structure and style of the National 5 Specimen Paper, the following pack contains practice questions based on each question in the paper.



Music Technology – Practice Questions

Question 1:

(a) Listen to this excerpt. Tick **one** box to identify the genre/style.

☐

Electronica

☐

Synth Pop

☐

60's Pop

☐

Ragtime

1

☐

(b) Listen to another excerpt. In which decade was this music recorded? Tick **one** box.

☐

1960's

☐

1970's

☐

1980's

☐

2000's

1

☐

(c) Listen to another excerpt. Tick one box to describe what you hear?

☐

Anacrusis

☐

Broken Chord

☐

Inverted Pedal

☐

Scat Singing

1

☐

Question 2

(a) Listen to this excerpt, identify the prominent effect on the vocals

☐

Reverb

☐

Delay

☐

Distortion

☐

Chorus

1

☐

(b) Listen to this track and identify the solo instrument.

The Excerpt is short and will be played twice.

The solo instrument is a _____.

1

☐

(c) Describe how you would capture a live recording of this instrument.

i) Type of Microphone: _____

ii) Polar Pattern _____

iii) Microphone Placement : _____

3

☐

Question 3:

- a) Listen to this excerpt tick one box to describe the prominent effect on the guitar.

☐

Room Reverb

☐

Delay

☐

Gated Reverb

☐

Chorus

1

☐

- b) Listen to a different excerpt and identify two production features which are typical of this style.

1. _____

2. _____

2

☐

- c) Listen to this excerpt and tick one box in column A and one box in column B to identify what you hear.

COLUMN A

☐

Major

☐

Minor

☐

Atonal

COLUMN B

☐

Intro

☐

Coda

☐

Bridge

2

☐

(d) Listen to another track from the same genre/style. Complete the list of prominent instruments that you hear.

Here is the music for the first time.

Here is the music for the second time.

1. Vocals

2. Drum kit

3. Backing Vocals

4. _____

1

☐

e) Listen to another excerpt and identify the solo instrument.

The solo instrument is: _____

1

☐

Question 4

- a) Listen to the next excerpt and tick one box in column A and one box in column B to describe what you hear.

COLUMN A

☐

Delay

☐

Gated Reverb

☐

Room Reverb

COLUMN B

☐

4/4

☐

3/4

☐

6/8

2

☐

- b) Listen to the next excerpt and tick one box in column A and one box in column B to describe what you hear.

COLUMN A

☐

Improvisation

☐

Pedal

☐

Sequence

COLUMN B

☐

Skiffle

☐

Swing

☐

Rap

2

☐

Question 5

In this question you will hear music recorded in a contemporary style. You are asked to link the instruments with controls, effects or processes.

Listen to the full excerpt with controls, effects and processes applied.

You will now hear each instrument separately. Complete the table below using the following list of controls, effects and processes.

You will hear the full mix – wet.

High EQ Filter

Panned Delay

Phaser/Flanger

Gated Reverb

Complete the table below:

Instruments/Voice	Control, effect or process applied to instrument
Synthesizer	
Vocals	
Snare Drum	
Bass Synth	



Question 6

(a) In this question you will hear two versions of the song "Stand Back".

For each version you should link an instrument/voice with an effect and a different instrument/voice with panning.

You may use the space provided for rough notes, but your final answer must be written in the table on the opposite page. (Rough notes will not be marked).

There will now be a pause of one minute to allow you to read through the question.

You will hear each version three times with a pause of 15 seconds between each playing.

Here is version 1 for the first time. Here is version 2 for the first time.

Here is version 1 for the second time. Here is version 2 for the second time.

Here is version 1 for the third time. Here is version 2 for the third time.

Rough Notes

Final Answer

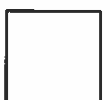
Version 1
Instrument/Voice:
Effect:

Version 2
Instrument/Voice:
Effect:

Version 1
Instrument/Voice:
Panning:

Version 2
Instrument/Voice:
Panning:

Tonality:	
-----------	--



CD 2



National
Qualifications

Harris Academy Music Department

National 5 Music Technology

Understanding Music

Practice Questions

In your examination you will listen to excerpts of music and answer questions on what you hear.

Follow the questions as they are read out. Please take time to read the question when you are given it.

Listen carefully to the questions and to the music excerpts.

Some excerpts are played more than once. The number of times each excerpt is played is stated in each question.

Attempt **ALL** questions.

*Remember:
Listen to the extract - not the song...*

Question 1.1

a) Listen to this excerpt. Tick **one** box to identify the style.

- ☐ Ragtime
- ☐ Blues
- ☐ Rock
- ☐ Disco

b) Listen to another excerpt. Tick **one** box to describe what you hear.

- ☐ Coda
- ☐ Instrumental Break
- ☐ Vamp
- ☐ Rallentando

c) Listen to a different excerpt and describe what you hear. Tick **one** box only.

- ☐ 20's
- ☐ 40's
- ☐ 60's
- ☐ 80's

d) Listen to this excerpt. Tick **one** box to describe what you hear.

- ☐ Jazz
- ☐ Dance Music
- ☐ 60's Pop
- ☐ Rock

Question 1.1 (continued)

- e) You have recorded a vocal part with popping and blasting present.

Describe two ways you could overcome this problem in a modern recording studio.

You now have one minute to answer the question. A warning will sound 30 seconds before the next question starts.

Question 1.2

a) Listen to this excerpt. Tick **one** box to identify the style.

- ☐ Blues
- ☐ Dance Music
- ☐ Electronica
- ☐ Skiffle

b) Listen to another excerpt. Tick **one** box to describe what you hear.

- ☐ Arpeggio
- ☐ A tempo
- ☐ Homophonic
- ☐ Instrumental break

c) Listen to a different excerpt and describe what you hear. Tick **one** box only.

- ☐ 30's
- ☐ 50's
- ☐ 70's
- ☐ 90's

d) Listen to this excerpt. Tick **one** box to describe what you hear.

- ☐ Blues
- ☐ Electronica
- ☐ Punk
- ☐ Musical

Question 1.2 (continued)

- e) You have recorded a bass guitar using Direct Injection (DI) and there is clipping/audible distortion.

Describe two ways you could overcome this problem in a modern recording studio.

You now have one minute to answer the question. A warning will sound 30 seconds before the next question starts.

Question 1.3

a) Listen to this excerpt. Tick one box to identify the style.

- ☐ Ragtime
- ☐ Celtic Rock
- ☐ 60s Pop
- ☐ Punk

b) Listen to another excerpt. Tick one box to describe what you hear.

- ☐ Drum-fill
- ☐ Pedal
- ☐ Anacrusis
- ☐ 3/4

c) Listen to a different excerpt and describe what you hear. Tick one box only.

- ☐ 20's
- ☐ 40's
- ☐ 60's
- ☐ 80's

d) Listen to this excerpt. Tick one box to describe what you hear.

- ☐ Rock
- ☐ Skiffle
- ☐ Ragtime
- ☐ Country Music

Question 1.3 (continued)

e) You are the engineer at a gig and the lead vocal microphone is producing feedback.

Describe two ways you could overcome this problem in a modern live setting.

You now have one minute to answer the question. A warning will sound 30 seconds before the next question starts.

Question 1.4

a) Listen to this excerpt. Tick one box to identify the style.

- ☐ Musical
- ☐ Country Music
- ☐ Rap
- ☐ Rock

b) Listen to another excerpt. Tick one box to describe what you hear.

- ☐ Vamp
- ☐ Glissando
- ☐ Backing vocals
- ☐ Rolls

c) Listen to a different excerpt and describe what you hear. Tick one box only.

- ☐ 30's
- ☐ 50's
- ☐ 70's
- ☐ 90's

d) Listen to this excerpt. Tick one box to describe what you hear.

- ☐ Disco
- ☐ Rap
- ☐ Celtic Rock
- ☐ Synth Pop

Question 1.4 (continued)

e) The virtual drum-kit track you have just recorded, using MIDI, is out of time.

Describe how you would overcome this problem in a modern recording studio.

You now have one minute to answer the question. A warning will sound 30 seconds before the next question starts.

Question 2.1

a) Listen to this excerpt. Identify the prominent effect on the electric drum part(s).

- ☐ Noise Gate
- ☐ Chorus
- ☐ High EQ-cut
- ☐ Delay

b) Listen to this introduction and identify the instrument playing along with the drum-kit.

The excerpt is short and will be played twice.

The solo instrument is a/an _____

c) You have been asked to record a vocalist.

Describe in detail how you would capture this performance using a close microphone technique.

You now have two minutes to answer the question. A warning will sound 30 seconds before the next question starts.

Type of microphone: _____

Polar Pattern: _____

Microphone placement and distance:

Question 2.2

a) Listen to this excerpt. Identify the prominent effect on the vocal parts.

- ☐ Delay
- ☐ Noise Gate
- ☐ Low EQ-boost
- ☐ Reverb

b) Listen to this excerpt and identify the instrument being accompanied by the piano.

The excerpt is short and will be played twice.

The solo instrument is a/an _____

c) You have been asked to record a saxophone.

Describe in detail how you would capture this performance using a close microphone technique.

You now have two minutes to answer the question. A warning will sound 30 seconds before the next question starts.

Type of microphone: _____

Polar Pattern: _____

Microphone placement and distance:

Question 2.3

a) Listen to this excerpt. Identify the prominent effect on the lead vocal part.

- ☐ Compression
- ☐ Gated Reverb
- ☐ Mid EQ-boost
- ☐ Delay

b) Listen to an instrumental break and identify the solo instrument.

The excerpt is short and will be played twice.

The solo instrument is a/an _____

c) You have been asked to record a violin.

Describe in detail how you would capture this performance using a close microphone technique.

You now have two minutes to answer the question. A warning will sound 30 seconds before the next question starts.

Type of microphone: _____

Polar Pattern: _____

Microphone placement and distance:

Question 2.4

a) Listen to this excerpt. Identify the prominent effect on the vocal part(s).

- ☐ Compression
- ☐ Chorus
- ☐ Mid EQ-boost
- ☐ Gated Reverb

b) Listen to an instrumental break and identify the solo instrument.

The excerpt is short and will be played twice.

The solo instrument is a/an _____

c) You have been asked to record an electric guitar.

Describe in detail how you would capture this performance using a close microphone technique.

You now have two minutes to answer the question. A warning will sound 30 seconds before the next question starts.

Type of microphone: _____

Polar Pattern: _____

Microphone placement and distance:

Question 3.1

a) Listen to this excerpt. Tick **one** box to identify what you hear.

- ☐ Punk
- ☐ Ragtime
- ☐ Blues
- ☐ Rock 'n' Roll

b) Listen to the excerpt again.

Identify **two** production features that are typical of this style / genre.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____

c) Listen to this excerpt.

Tick **one** box in COLUMN A to identify the genre and **one** box in COLUMN B to describe the tonality.

COLUMN A

- ☐ Disco
- ☐ Blues
- ☐ 60s Pop
- ☐ Rock

COLUMN B

- ☐ Major
- ☐ Minor
- ☐ Atonal

d) Listen to another track from the same genre. Complete the list of instruments you hear.

1. Drum Kit
2. Bass Guitar
3. _____

e) Listen to that excerpt again. Identify the effect on the bass guitar.

- ☐ Delay
- ☐ Distortion
- ☐ Chorus

Question 3.2

a) Listen to this excerpt. Tick **one** box to identify what you hear.

- ☐ Dance Music
- ☐ Synth Pop
- ☐ Disco
- ☐ Musical

b) Listen to the excerpt again.

Identify two production features that are typical of this style / genre.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____

c) Listen to this excerpt.

Tick **one** box in COLUMN A to identify the genre and **one** box in COLUMN B to describe the tonality.

COLUMN A

- ☐ Celtic Rock
- ☐ Electronica
- ☐ Ragtime
- ☐ Jazz

COLUMN B

- ☐ Major
- ☐ Minor
- ☐ Atonal

d) Listen to another track from the same genre. Identify the solo instrument that you hear.

e) Listen to that excerpt again. Identify the concept which best describes how the piano is being played.

- ☐ Vamp
- ☐ Broken Chord
- ☐ Cluster

Question 3.3

a) Listen to this excerpt. Tick **one** box to identify what you hear.

- ☐ Rock
- ☐ Swing
- ☐ Scottish Music
- ☐ Rap

b) Listen to the excerpt again.

Identify **two** production features that are typical of this style / genre.

1. _____
2. _____

c) Listen to this excerpt.

Tick **one** box in COLUMN A to identify the genre and **one** box in COLUMN B to describe the tonality.

COLUMN A

- ☐ Rap
- ☐ Dance Music
- ☐ Punk
- ☐ Musical

COLUMN B

- ☐ Major
- ☐ Minor
- ☐ Atonal

d) Listen to another track from the same genre. Complete the list of instruments you hear.

1. Drum Kit
2. Piano
3. _____
4. Lead & Backing Vocals

e) Listen to that excerpt again. Identify the effect on the Drum Kit.

- ☐ Delay
- ☐ Compression
- ☐ Reverb

Question 4.1

Listen to this excerpt.

Write the musical term which describes the bass line, and tick one box to describe the texture of the music.

i) Musical term _____

ii) Texture

- ☐ Homophonic
- ☐ Polyphonic
- ☐ Imitation

Question 4.2

Listen to this excerpt.

Write the musical term which describes the bass line, and tick one box to describe the style of the music.

i) Musical term _____

ii) Style

- ☐ Rock
- ☐ Punk
- ☐ Rock 'n' Roll

Question 4.3

Listen to this excerpt.

Write the musical term which describes the bass line, and tick **one** box to describe the tonality of the music.

i) Musical term _____

ii) Tonality

- ☐ Major
- ☐ Minor
- ☐ Atonal

Question 4.4

Listen to this excerpt.

Describe the tonality. As the excerpt continues, choose one other concept from the list below.

i) Tonality _____

ii) Concept

- ☐ Scat Singing
- ☐ Modulation
- ☐ Baritone

Question 5.1

This question is JUST the audio samples.
Please take a minute to read through thoroughly before starting...

In this question you will hear a version of the song “What’s Going On” by Marvin Gaye.

You are asked to identify how each of five mix elements (instrument/voice) are treated with EQ and effects.

Listen now to a full band dry mix (without any controls or effects applied), then a full band wet mix (with controls and effects applied).

You will hear each element separately. As you listen, complete the table below using the following list of controls and effects:

- Noise Gate
- Compression
- Gated Reverb
- High EQ Boost
- Panning

Now listen carefully to

Conga (dry then wet)

Saxophone (dry then wet)

Strings (dry then wet)

Piano (dry then wet)

Lead vocal (dry then wet)

Each control or effect is used only once.

Instrument	Control or effect
Conga	
Saxophone	
Strings	
Piano	
Lead Vocal	

Question 6.1

This question is JUST the audio samples.
Please take a minute to read through thoroughly before starting...

In this question you will hear two versions of the song “Here Comes The Sun”. You will hear each version three times.

Your task is to identify **one** example of an effect and **one** example of panning for **each** version of the song.

You will listen to each version and complete the tables below.

In each box, you must link an instrument or voice(s) with an effect or panning.

Finally, you should identify the tonality of the song.

There will now be a pause of **one minute** to allow you to read through the question.

Version 1	Version 2
Instrument / voice:	Instrument / voice:
Effect:	Effect:
Instrument / voice:	Instrument / voice:
Panning:	Panning:

Tonality of song	
------------------	--

You will hear each version three times with a pause of **15 seconds** between.

Here is Version 1 for the first time. Here is Version 2 for the first time.

Here is Version 1 for the second time. Here is Version 2 for the second time.

Here is Version 1 for the third time. Here is Version 2 for the third time.

Question 6.2

This question is JUST the audio samples.
Please take a minute to read through thoroughly before starting...

In this question you will hear two versions of the song “Hoppipolla”. You will hear each version three times.

Your task is to identify **one** example of an effect and **one** example of panning for **each** version of the song.

You will listen to each version and complete the tables below.

In each box, you must link an instrument or voice(s) with an effect or panning.

Finally, you should identify the tonality of the song.

There will now be a pause of **one minute** to allow you to read through the question.

Version 1	Version 2
Instrument / voice:	Instrument / voice:
Effect:	Effect:
Instrument / voice:	Instrument / voice:
Panning:	Panning:

Tonality of song	
------------------	--

You will hear each version three times with a pause of **15 seconds** between.

Here is Version 1 for the first time. Here is Version 2 for the first time.

Here is Version 1 for the second time. Here is Version 2 for the second time.

Here is Version 1 for the third time. Here is Version 2 for the third time.

Question 6.3

This question is JUST the audio samples.
Please take a minute to read through thoroughly before starting...

In this question you will hear two versions of the song "If You Go Away". You will hear each version three times.

Your task is to identify **one** example of an effect and one example of panning for **each** version of the song.

You will listen to each version and complete the tables below.

In each box, you must link an instrument or voice(s) with an effect or panning.

Finally, you should identify the tonality of the song.

There will now be a pause of **one minute** to allow you to read through the question.

Version 1	Version 2
Instrument / voice:	Instrument / voice:
Effect:	Effect:
Instrument / voice:	Instrument / voice:
Panning:	Panning:

Tonality of song	
-------------------------	--

You will hear each version three times with a pause of **15 seconds** between.

Here is Version 1 for the first time. Here is Version 2 for the first time.

Here is Version 1 for the second time. Here is Version 2 for the second time.

Here is Version 1 for the third time. Here is Version 2 for the third time.

Question 6.4

This question is JUST the audio samples.
Please take a minute to read through thoroughly before starting...

In this question you will hear two versions of the song “The Way You Do The Things You Do”. You will hear each version three times.

Your task is to identify **one** example of an effect and **one** example of panning for **each** version of the song.

You will listen to each version and complete the tables below.

In each box, you must link an instrument or voice(s) with an effect or panning.

Finally, you should identify the tonality of the song.

There will now be a pause of one minute to allow you to read through the question.

Version 1	Version 2
Instrument / voice:	Instrument / voice:
Effect:	Effect:
Instrument / voice:	Instrument / voice:
Panning:	Panning:

Tonality of song	
------------------	--

You will hear each version three times with a pause of **15 seconds** between.

Here is Version 1 for the first time. Here is Version 2 for the first time.

Here is Version 1 for the second time. Here is Version 2 for the second time.

Here is Version 1 for the third time. Here is Version 2 for the third time.

Answers:

1-1

a) Ragtime b) Vamp c) 20's d) Jazz

e) use a pop shield, move performer from mic, get performer to sing over the mic

1-2

a) Blues b) Inst. Break c) 50s d) Punk

e) adjust input / gain control on desk/interface, adjust output on instrument, use a limiter on the track

1-3

a) 60s Pop b) Drum-fill c) 80's d) Country

e) adjust microphone gain, face monitor away from mic, move mic away from monitor, use in-ear monitoring system

1-4

a) Rock b) Backing Vocals c) 90's d) Celtic Rock

e) quantize the track, edit part manually,

2-1

a) Noise Gate b) Organ

c) Condenser, Cardioid, facing vocalists mouth at a distance of about 10-15cm.

2-2

a) Reverb b) Violin

c) Condenser, Cardioid, positioned 50-100cm away from the instrument aimed just above the bell.

2-3

a) Delay b) Electric Guitar

c) Condenser, Cardioid, positioned 15-30cm above the instrument facing the bridge/f-holes

2-4

a) Chorus b) Trumpet

c) Dynamic, Cardioid, positioned close to the amp grill, pointing at the centre/edge of speaker.

3-1

a) Blues b) Repeated vocals, Elec. Guitar improvisation, 12-bar Blues Structure, Blues Scale / Notes

c) Rock / Minor d) Piano e) Distortion

3-2

a) Dance b) Synths, Electric Drums, Samples, Quantization, Use of FX/EQ

c) Jazz / Minor d) Saxophone e) Vamp

3-3

a) Rap b) Spoken lyrics, Use of Samples, Loops, Melodic Chorus

c) Musical / Minor d) Bass Guitar e) Reverb

4-1

- i) Ostinato / Repetition
- ii) Homophonic

4-2

- i) Riff / Ostinato
- ii) Rock

4-3

- i) Walking Bass
- ii) Major

4-4

- i) Major
- ii) Modulation

5-1

Instrument	Control or effect
Conga	Gated Reverb
Saxophone	High EQ Boost
Strings	Panning
Piano	Noise Gate
Lead Vocal	Compression

6-1

Element	Version 1	Version 2
Effect	Reverb applied throughout mix	Reverb applied throughout mix
Panning	Ac. Guitar - L Strings - R Organ - L Lead & Backing Vocals - R Bass Guitar - C Drumkit - C	Bass Guitar - C Piano - C Lead Vocals - C Shaker - C Harp - R Electric Guitar - R
Tonality	Major	

6-2

Element	Version 1	Version 2
Effect	Reverb on Piano, Drumkit & Vocals	Synth - Delay, Reverb - Piano, Noise Gate - Electric Drums
Panning	Piano starts L, then L + R Drumkit - C Bass Guitar - C Lead Vocals - C FX - L & R Strings - C	Synth - L & R Piano - C Electric Drums - C Strings - C
Tonality	Major	

6-3

Element	Version 1	Version 2
Effect	Reverb applied throughout mix	Reverb on Lead Vocals, Drunkit, Acoustic Guitar, Shaker Distortion on Electric Guitar
Panning	Lead Vocals - C Strings - R Acoustic Guitar - L Drumkit - L Harp - R	Lead Vocal - C Bass Guitar - C Acoustic Guitar - L, then R Drumkit - L & R // Shaker - L 'Accordion' Sound - R
Tonality	Minor	

6-4

Element	Version 1	Version 2
Effect	Reverb applied throughout mix	Reverb applied throughout mix Chorus on Backing Vocals Compression on Bass Guitar Delay on 'Clap'
Panning	Brass - L Lead Vocals - C Backing Vocals - L & R Clap - C // Piano - R Saxophone - L Bass Guitar - C Drumkit - L & R // Cymbals - R	'Clap' - C Lead Vocals - C Backing Vocals - L & R Bass Guitar - C Organ - C Brass - L & R
Tonality	Major	