



WAYS TO REVISE AND WHAT TO REVISE

MUSIC GCSE – Pearson Edexcel



- **LISTEN** to the set works – both with and without your anthology – in small sections (90 seconds)
Can you HEAR and IDENTIFY all the key features?
- Listen to the whole of each piece as much as possible to internalise the complete structure of the music
- Revise key facts from the exam board set work A5 summary booklets
- Know your key words to analyse or describe the ELEMENTS OF MUSIC (use the Terminology Mats to help you)
- Apply these key words accurately e.g. a rhythm cannot be conjunct, but a melody can
- Use the Typical Appraising Questions help sheet – could you answer each of these for each set work? Try!

- Know the Year / Genre / Period / Key / Metre / Structure of each piece
- Practise interval recognition and rhythm dictation for Q7
- Practise identifying different instruments
- Practise identifying the four main cadences
- Listen to ANY MUSIC (loosely relating to the set works) and test yourself on the basics – major or minor? Metre? Instruments? Style? Period? Main compositional devices? There are suggested pieces relating to each set work in your anthology
- Practise comparing different sections of one piece – these are often the most challenging questions

TOP TIPS FOR LISTENING QUESTIONS

- Always check how many marks are awarded for each question
- Read all the questions very carefully – how many playings? In this extract or in this piece?
- Asked to make 2 or 3 points? Write these on separate lines
- Plan your time – 3 playings? Which questions are you going to answer on each playing? Can you answer any factual questions before the music actually starts?
- Keep the exam paper open wide – have you seen all parts of the question?
- Answer the actual question! Don't waffle about the piece in general
- Use your ears! Train your ears! Revise 'little and often'

TOP TIPS FOR THE ESSAY – QUESTION 9

- Make an essay plan on the exam paper – it can contribute to the marks you achieve (helpful if you run out of time)
- Listen to each piece once – annotate the skeleton score you are given to help you
- Keep re-reading the question so you don't stray from it
- Start writing as soon as you feel able – time is tight
- You know the set work well enough to write whilst listening but for the unfamiliar music focus on the score and listen / make notes before adding to your essay answer
- You MUST QUOTE EXAMPLES to support your answer e.g. "There are many sequences in the melody. E.g. Violin 1 bars 14-17"
- Use Italian terms where you can
- Write THREE paragraphs – one on the set work, one on the unfamiliar piece and one comparing the two
- Compare and contrast both pieces – state similarities and differences
- Make direct comparisons e.g. Star Wars is in Bb major, whereas the other extract is in G minor
- Credit is given if you refer to a different relevant piece you know
- Draw conclusions during the essay – WHY did the composer do that? What is the PURPOSE or EFFECT?
- Do not spend time writing lengthy Introductions or Conclusions – give yourself more time to answer the actual question directly

REMINDER OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXAM PAPER

- Questions 1 – 6 are listening questions. One set work per question
- Question 7 is melody and rhythm dictation
- Question 8 is analysis of unfamiliar music
- Question 9 is the essay – comparing one of the set works with an unfamiliar, but related piece