



NCFE Level 1 Technical Award in Music Technology (601/6777/4)

NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Music Technology (601/6774/9)

Past Paper

Monday 11 March 2019 – Friday 15 March 2019

Time allowed: 2 hours

Learner instructions

- Use black or blue ink.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Read each question carefully.
- Write your responses in the spaces provided.
- All of the work you submit **must** be your own.

Learner information

- The marks available for each question are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.

Resources

- Headphones.
- Individual workstation with listening capabilities.
- Audio files:
 - Audio File Q22
 - Audio File Q23
 - Audio File Q24
 - Audio File Q25
 - Audio File Q26.

To be completed by the examiner	Mark
Section 1	
Section 2	
TOTAL MARK	

Please complete the details below clearly and in BLOCK CAPITALS.

Learner name _____

Centre name _____

Learner number

Centre number

Do not turn over until the invigilator tells you to do so.

Section 1

This section has a possible 52 marks.

We recommend that you spend 90 minutes on this section.

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

- 1** You want to connect an external hard drive to a computer. Which **one** of the following types of connection would typically be used?

[1 mark]

- A** Jack
- B** MIDI
- C** USB
- D** XLR

Answer _____

- 2** You want to remove an unwanted section of audio material. Which **two** of the following digital audio workstation (DAW) editing tools would be most appropriate to use?

[2 marks]

- A** Cut
- B** Copy
- C** Paste
- D** Quantise
- E** Split

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

- 3 Which **one** of the following most accurately describes dynamics processing (e.g. expansion)?

[1 mark]

- A Processing used to change frequency content of sounds
- B Processing used to change the volume of sounds
- C Processing used to repeat a sound multiple times
- D Processing used to simulate depth and space in sounds

Answer _____

- 4 A MIDI controller keyboard is found in the majority of working studios.

Explain the function of the pitch bend wheel on a typical MIDI controller keyboard.

[2 marks]

- 5 MP3 is an example of a compressed audio file format.

Explain what is meant by '**compressed**' in this context.

[2 marks]

6 Quantisation is an editing feature that is common to all DAW software.

Explain **two** ways that you could use quantisation to rhythmically enhance a musical performance.

[4 marks]

1. _____

2. _____

7 A time signature is used to indicate the rhythmic pattern of accents in a piece of music.

A 6/8 time signature is generally accented on which **two** of the following beats in each bar?

[2 marks]

- A** Beat 1
- B** Beat 2
- C** Beat 4
- D** Beat 6
- E** Beat 8

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

8 Give **two** typical rhythmic features associated with Reggae music. [2 marks]

1. _____

2. _____

9 Describe the typical function of a verse in terms of the structure of a song. [1 mark]

10 In recent years, sales of vinyl records have started to increase.
Explain **one** disadvantage of vinyl as a consumer format for music. [2 marks]

Please turn over for the next question.

- 11 You have been asked to mix a song for a band.

Explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of creating the mixdown as a .WAV file.

[4 marks]

Advantage

Disadvantage

- 12 Which **two** of the following properties are typical of dynamic microphones?

[2 marks]

- A Does not require phantom power
- B Has switchable polar patterns
- C Requires a battery
- D Uses a capacitor
- E Uses a moving coil

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

13 EQ is an important part of recording and mixing.

13 (a) State **two** ways in which EQ can be used to modify sounds.

[2 marks]

1. _____

2. _____

13 (b) State the function of a High Pass Filter (HPF).

[1 mark]

14 Computer display screens are used in most modern recording studios.

Describe **one** safety measure which you should take when using a computer display screen during a recording session.

[1 mark]

15 You are recording a musician in a studio live room and have asked the musician to monitor their performance using headphones.

Explain **one** advantage of musicians wearing headphones when they are recording.

[2 marks]

16

You are working as a producer. You have been asked to plan a recording session with a drummer.

For the session, there are two options. The drummer might use an electronic drum kit **or** might use an acoustic drum kit.

Compare the time **and** equipment needed in these two options.

[6 marks]

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17 Which **two** of the following are forms of media?

[2 marks]

- A Foley
- B Physical Props
- C Radio broadcast
- D Sound Synthesis
- E Theatre

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

18 Which **one** of the following types of sound creation can also be described as 'sounds used to emphasise actions seen onscreen'?

[1 mark]

- A Ambience
- B Dialogue/Voice over
- C Special/Spot effects
- D Underscore

Answer _____

19 You have been asked to re-record dialogue for a film using a DAW. The actor is coming to your studio to record.

Name **two** items of hardware equipment you would need to make the recording.

[2 marks]

1. _____

2. _____

20

You have been asked to create recorded sounds for a performance in a local theatre.

Give **two** reasons why environmental sounds are added to theatre performances.
[2 marks]

1. _____

2. _____

You have been given the task of adding music to a movie.

- use existing songs by other artists **or**
- compose original music.

[8 marks]

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11

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Section 2

This section has a possible 8 marks.

We recommend that you spend 30 minutes on this section.

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

You should listen to the audio files with your headphones at a safe level.

22 Listen to the audio file labelled 'Audio File Q22'.

Describe the software instrument sound heard from 0:07 to 0:09.

[1 mark]

23 Listen to the audio file labelled 'Audio File Q23'.

Bass drum, snare drum and tom-tom drums enter at 0:11.

Identify **three** instruments which enter between 0:13 and 0:15.

[3 marks]

1.

2.

3.

24 Listen to the audio file labelled 'Audio File Q24'.

Which **one** of the following best describes the musical structure of the audio file?

[1 mark]

- A** AB
- B** ABA
- C** ABC
- D** ABCBA

Answer

25 Listen to the audio file labelled 'Audio File Q25'.

Describe the stereo placement of the sound which enters at 0:37.

[1 mark]

26 Listen to the audio file labelled 'Audio File Q26'.

Explain how dynamics processing has been used on the tom-tom sounds from 0:40 to 0:45.

[2 marks]

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