



GCE A LEVEL

1660U60-1

Release date: 1 September 2023

MUSIC – A2 unit 5

Composing

Composition Brief for submission in 2024

**AVAILABLE ONLY TO CANDIDATES ENTERING THE WJEC
QUALIFICATION APPROVED BY QUALIFICATIONS WALES AND NOT
AVAILABLE TO CENTRES IN ENGLAND**

INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR CANDIDATES

You are permitted to compose for any appropriate combination of instruments/voices, unless otherwise stipulated in the brief.

The composition must be monitored by your teacher three times during the composition process as part of the authentication process.

You must complete and sign a composition log giving details of the composition process.

The piece should be a minimum of 1 minute in duration.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (IN THE COMPOSITION LOG)

All secondary source materials, such as musical quotes or pre-composed samples, must be clearly acknowledged and any work which is not entirely your own must be identified. Software packages must be listed with an explanation of how they have been used. Any musical influences you may have used must also be acknowledged in the composition log.

Set briefs

You **must** compose a piece of music in response to **one** of the following set briefs.

Briefs 1 and 2 require you to write a short piece, and briefs 3 and 4 require you to write sections of a longer piece.

1. Compose a short song for solo voice and accompaniment to be performed in a concert in Bangor University. You may choose appropriate lyrics or write your own. You are advised not to choose words from a well-known composition as this may lead to a predictable response.
2. Compose a short movement for a suite to be performed by a small instrumental ensemble which features textural contrast and harmonic sequences (for example, cycle of 5ths).
3. Compose the opening section(s) of a prelude to set the scene for a forthcoming production of Shakespeare's play ***The Tempest***.
4. Compose the opening section(s) of a vocal work for SATB, intended for performance in the North Wales Choir Festival. The work may be accompanied or unaccompanied. You may write your own words or choose appropriate words for your piece. You are advised not to choose words from a well-known composition as this may lead to a predictable response.

You are reminded that all four briefs are set in the context of the **Western Classical Tradition** and the response to the selected brief must result in a composition in a **Western Classical style** which illustrates the understanding of the musical language, techniques and conventions of the period (i.e. Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras). You must choose a **suitable style from these periods**. Further guidance on composing in a Western Classical style can be found in Appendix B of the specification.

Composition evidence

Compositions will be submitted online.

You will be required to provide the following evidence when you submit your composition for assessment:

1. An audio recording of the composition in mp3 format.
2. A score **or** lead sheet accompanied by a detailed written description of the music and an outline of the melody and chords used.
3. A signed composition log outlining the development process and acknowledgements. This can be typed with a digital signature, or scanned. Please use the template available on the WJEC website.