2025 Music Technology

National 5

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

SQA

General marking principles for National 5 Music Technology

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles you must apply when marking candidate responses to questions in this paper. These principles must be read in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidate responses.

(a) Marks for each candidate response must **always** be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the detailed marking instructions for this assessment.

(b) Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.

(c) Do not accept any answer that is not in the marking instructions. Use professional judgement when candidates' responses do not exactly match marking instructions but carry the same meaning.

(d) Where a candidate has provided more than one answer, for example by ticking two boxes instead of one or adding an extra wrong answer, place a cross beside the wrong answer and deduct the mark assigned to the correct answer. If this has happened more than once or several times the mark cannot go below 0, that is, into negative marks.

(e) Candidates are asked to tick one or two boxes in multiple choice questions. Accept a cross or any other sign which makes the candidate's intentions clear.

(f) Accept inaccurate spelling of English or Italian terms.

Marking instructions for each question

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
1.	(a)		1980s	**1**	Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		Rock	**1**	Do not accept other answers here.
	(c)		Walking bass	**1**	Do not accept other answers here.
	(d)	(i)	60s Pop	**1**	Do not accept other answers here.
		(ii)	Accept any one of the following: • live sounding recording • minimal post production • orchestral instruments • panning • reverb • electric guitar • riff • vocal harmonies **or** backing vocals.	**1**	Also accept individual orchestral instruments or named sections of the orchestra. Also accept responses that infer panning. Also accept slide guitar. Also accept ostinato.
2.	(a)		Arpeggio	**1**	Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		Vamp	**1**	Do not accept other answers here.
	(c)		Accept any two of the following: • acoustic guitar • electric guitar • fiddle • pedal steel guitar • prominent use of acoustic instruments • simple chord structure • simple rhythms with strong backbeat emphasis from snare (drum) and guitar • lyrical story telling • prominent accent • riff • use of pitch bend • vamp • vocal harmonies.	**2**	**1 mark** for each correct answer. Also accept banjo **or** slide guitar. Do not accept guitar on its own. Also accept violin. Also accept string instruments.

page 03

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
	(d)	(i)	Condenser	1	Also accept ribbon microphone.
		(ii)	Omni directional	1	Also accept cardioid. Also accept figure of 8 (bi-directional).
		(iii)	Placed between 30cm and 1m above the centre of the grand piano.	1	Also accept between 30cm and 1m above the strings **and/or** piano opening. Do not accept any answer which refers only to the piano keys **or** below the instrument. Do not accept close mic'ing.
3.	(a)		Scottish	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		Accept any two of the following: • accordion • acoustic guitar • bagpipes • fiddle • pentatonic scale • snare drum • traditional instruments • vamp.	2	**1 mark** for each correct answer. Also accept scotch snap. Also accept violin.
	(c)	A	Rap	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		B	Synthesiser	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(d)		Flute	1	Do not accept other answers here.
4.	(a)	(i)	Major	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		(ii)	General MIDI	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		Countermelody played on synthesiser Homophonic vocals	2	**1 mark** for each correct answer. Do not accept other answers here.
	(c)		Accept any two of the following: • balance • decay • decay time • depth • diffusion • dry/wet • gate time • mix • pre-delay • (reverb) time • room size • size • time.		**1 mark** for each correct answer. Do not accept any answer that infers plug-in presets eg room types (cathedral or hall). Only award **1 mark** for dry **and/or** wet. Do not accept delay Do not accept reverb types, eg spring, plate, digital.

page 04

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
	(d)		Accept any two of the following: • adjust mic to be off axis to the performer • EQ • increase distance between microphone and performer • use a different microphone.	2	**1 mark** for each correct answer. Also accept de-esser.
	(e)		LFO	1	Do not accept other answers here.
5.				5	Do not accept other answers here.

Instrument	Control, effect or process applied to instrument
Bass synth	reverb
Drum loop	delay
Electric guitar	wah-wah
Synth chords	chorus
Vocal	fade in

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
6.	(a)		Phonographic Performance Licensing (PPL) and Performing Rights Society (PRS) **OR** Phonographic Performance Licensing (PPL) **OR** Performing Rights Society (PRS)	1	No other answers accepted here.
	(b)		The copyright holders	1	No other answers accepted here.
	(c)		Accept any one of the following: • melody • riff • lyrics.	1	Do not accept chord structure.

page 05

Question			Expected response			Max mark	Additional guidance
7.	(a)					**4**	In order to gain a mark, candidates must reference one instrument **or** voice **and** how it has been effected **or** panned. The table indicates all the acceptable answers.

Element	Excerpt 1	Excerpt 2
Effects	Drum kit — reverb Tambourine — reverb Female **and/or** lead vocal — reverb Backing vocals — delay **or** reverb Bass guitar — distortion Electric guitar — reverb **or** distortion Synthesiser — reverb **or** distortion **or** LFO	Bass drum — reverb Toms — reverb Female **and/or** lead vocal — reverb Backing vocals — reverb Electric piano — chorus **or** overdrive Synthesiser — reverb **or** delay
Panning	Drum kit – centre or left or right Tambourine — centre Bass guitar — centre Electric guitar — left or right Female **and/or** lead vocal — centre Synthesiser — centre **or** right Backing vocal —centre or left or right	Bass drum — centre Toms — left Bass guitar — centre Electric piano — centre Female **and/or** lead vocal — centre Synthesiser — centre **or** left **or** right Backing vocals — left **or** right

Additional guidance (continued):

For Excerpt 1 and Excerpt 2 — 'guitar' and 'vocals' on their own are not acceptable answers. Lead and/or female vocal, backing vocals, acoustic guitar, bass guitar and electric guitar are the acceptable terminology.

Excerpt 1

Also accept female **or** lead vocal — overdrive **or** distortion

Also accept female **or** lead vocal — centre

Also accept bass guitar — overdrive

Also accept electric guitar — overdrive.

Also accept synthesiser — overdrive.

Also accept backing vocal — automation **or** auto-panning.

Also accept cymbals **or** hi-hat — centre

Also accept cymbals **or** hi-hat — reverb

Also accept toms — left **or** right

Also accept toms — reverb

Also accept kick drum — centre

Also accept kick drum — reverb

Also accept snare drum — centre

Also accept snare drum — reverb

Excerpt 2

Also accept kick drum — centre.

Also accept MIDI keyboard **or** keyboard **or** Rhodes piano — reverb or distortion.

Also accept MIDI keyboard **or** keyboard **or** Rhodes piano — centre.

Also accept automation right **to** left

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
	(b)		Major	**1**	Do not accept other answers here.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]