W 3 4

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN COMPLETING THE INFORMATION BELOW If you do not have your student ID number, please check with your teacher.		
Student ID:		
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	Last name:	

Pre-Junior Cycle Final Examination 2025

Music

Common Level

1 hour 30 minutes

280 marks

School use only:

Spelling Waiver Granted ☐

Instructions

Write your details in the boxes on the front cover.

There are **six** questions in this examination paper. Answer all questions.

- Write your answers in blue or black pen. You may use pencil for staff notation.
- Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. There is space for extra work/ roughwork at the end of the booklet. Label any such extra work clearly with the question number and part.
- Before the examination begins, listen carefully to the test excerpt. If you cannot hear the recording clearly, inform the Superintendent immediately.
- This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.
- There will be suitable pauses throughout for you to read and answer questions.

Question 1

Excerpt 1, played three times.

(a) Tick **one** box to complete each statement.

(i) The vocals are sung by _____ & _____	Sopranos & Altos ☐	Tenors & Basses ☐
(ii) The bass line is played by keyboard in _____ chords.	Broken Chords ☐	Block Chords ☐
(iii) The style of singing at the beginning is best described as _____.	Sean Nós ☐	Rap ☐
(iv) The vocals sing in _____.	Harmony ☐	Call & Response ☐

(b) The music in this excerpt begins with samples of found sounds. Explain the term **found sounds.**

Answer:

Excerpt 1, played once more.

(c) Read this extract from the BBC and answer part (i) and (ii) overleaf.

Spice Girls' 'Wannabe' is the catchiest song of all time

BBC 2021

When the Spice Girls released 'Wannabe' in the UK on 8 July 1996, nobody could have foreseen what followed: two years of what can only be described as world domination. Their debut, Spice, is still the biggest-selling album of all time by a girl group, with more than 31 million copies sold worldwide. And Spotify announced this week that Wannabe has been streamed for the equivalent of 1,000 years on the service.

(i) With reference to **one** musical feature, describe **one** way the music (not the lyrics) makes this song the "catchiest song of all time".

Answer:

(ii) Explain **one** way the Spice Girls shared their music with a global audience.

Answer:

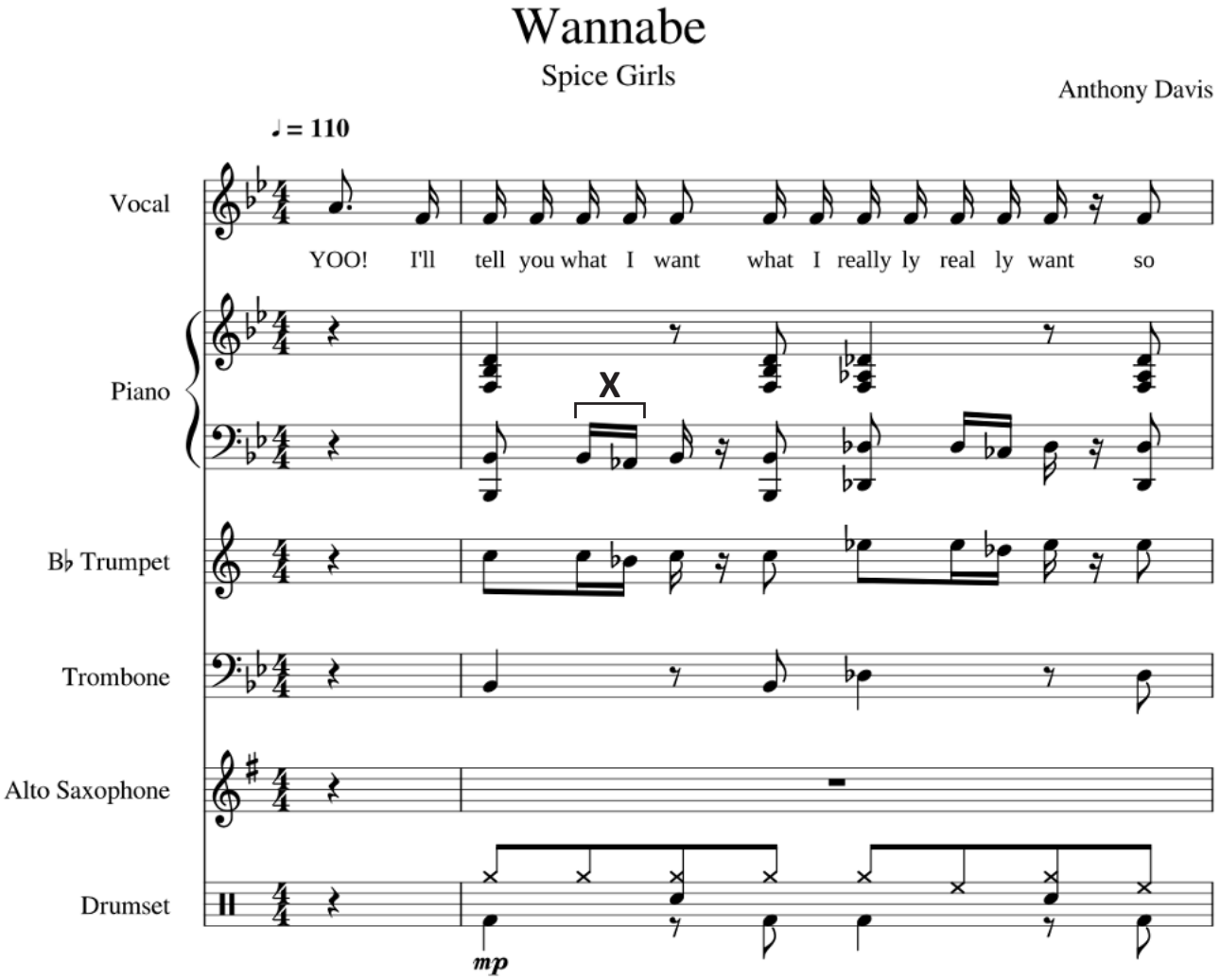
(d) **Excerpt 1, played once more.**
Excerpt 2, played twice.

Excerpt 1 is the debut original version of this song. There have been many versions/covers of this song. Listen to the opening of a cover of this song (Excerpt 2) and answer the question below.

(i) Describe **two** ways in which the music in Excerpt 2 is different to the original music in Excerpt 1. Refer to both excerpts in your answer.

	Excerpt 1	**Excerpt 2**
Difference 1		
Difference 2		

(e) Below is an outline of a different setting of this song by Anthony Davis. Using the score, answer the questions below. There is no audio for this question. You have 3 minutes to complete part (e).



(i) Name the two notes at **X** on the score.

Note _____ Note _____

(ii) The music begins on the

Downbeat	Upbeat
☐	☐

(iii) The key signature for the vocals, piano and trombone indicates the key of:

F Major	B-flat Major	E-flat Major
☐	☐	☐

(iv) The key signature for the alto saxophone indicates the key of:

F Major	G Major	A Major
☐	☐	☐

Excerpt 3, played twice.

(f) Listen to Excerpt 3 and fill in the blanks. Choose your answers from the word bank provided.

Word Bank

Falsetto	**Pizzicato**	**Glissando**
Drums	**Descending**	**Ostinato**

(i) The track begins with a _____ sliding motion on the bass guitar.

(ii) This sliding motion is called a _____ .

(iii) The bass guitar rhythm is repeated throughout the excerpt. This is called a rhythmic _____ .

(iv) The male voices respond in an artificially high register. This vocal technique is called _____ .

(v) Along with guitars, the _____ also provide the accompaniment to the song.

(g) Parts (d), (e) and (f) above are different adaptions of the Spice Girls' original song heard in Excerpt 1.

(i) Describe an original piece of music (theme/motif) that you have adapted and how you changed its feel, style or underlying harmony.

Name of original piece of music (theme/motif):

How you adapted and changed its feel, style or underlying harmony:

Question 2

Excerpt 1, played three times.

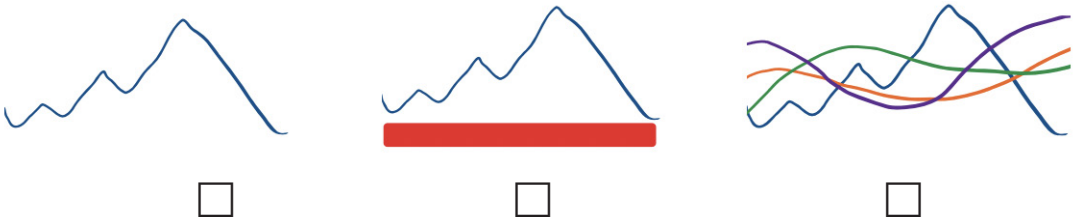
(a)

(i) The family of instruments playing at the beginning is:

Strings	Woodwind	Brass
☐	☐	☐

(ii) Identify **one** instrument which plays the melody in this excerpt.

(iii) Select the graphic that best represents the texture of the excerpt.



☐	☐	☐

(iv) Give a reason for your choice of graphic, with reference to the music heard in the excerpt.

Answer:

Excerpt 1, played once more.

(b)

(i) Describe **one** feature of the accompaniment in this excerpt.

Answer:

Excerpt 2, a later part of the same piece, played twice.

(ii) Identify **one** instrument which plays the melody in this excerpt.

(iii) Give **one** feature of the soloist's performance.

Answer:

- You have 5 minutes to complete part (v) below. There is no audio for this question.

The music in Excerpt 1 and Excerpt 2 above is composed by Irish composer Carl Hession. Two styles of music are fused in this arrangement, one of which is Irish traditional music.

(iv) Compare **two** different arrangements of a piece of Irish traditional or folk music that you have studied. Name **two** performers of the piece. Give **one** similarity and **two** differences between the arrangements. (Refer to both arrangements in your answers.)

Name of Piece:		
	Arrangement 1	**Arrangement 2**
Performers:		
Similarity		
Difference 1		
Difference 2		

Roughwork

(c) Excerpt 3, played three times.

This is an excerpt from another Irish artist, 'Jig Jam', improvising on a well-known melody. Which of the graphics best matches the opening of the **melody** line? Tick one.

(i)  ☐

(ii)  ☐

(iii)  ☐

(d) Excerpt 4, played three times.

The Lakes of Ponchartrain performed by the Irish band The Tumbling Paddies.

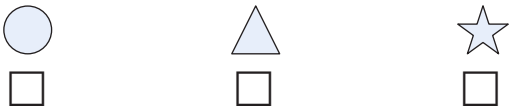
Line 1: Twas on one bright March morning, I bid New Orleans adieu. 

Line 2: And I took the road to Jackson town, my fortune to renew 

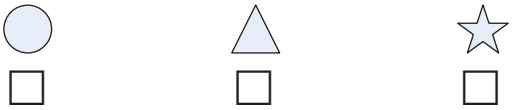
Line 3: I cursed all foreign money, no credit could I gain

Line 4: Which filled my heart with longing for the lakes of Ponchartrain

(i) Select the shape which best represents the melody in line 3.



(ii) Select the shape which best represents the melody in line 4.



(iii) The form of this song is:

ABAB ☐ ABBA ☐ ABCA ☐

(iv) This form is known as:

Ternary ☐ Binary ☐ Unitary ☐

(e) All pieces in Question 2 were performed by Irish artists who have released music over the past 2 years. The music is part of a playlist to celebrate Ireland for St. Patrick's Day.

(i) Give **one** benefit of creating a playlist for an event.

Answer:

(ii) Name a local historical event or community celebration (other than St. Patrick's Day) that you created a playlist for.

Event/Celebration:

(iii) Name **one** song that you included on the playlist.

Name of Song:

(iv) Name the composer or performer of the song:

Composer/Performer:

(v) Describe **one** musical feature of the song.

Musical feature:

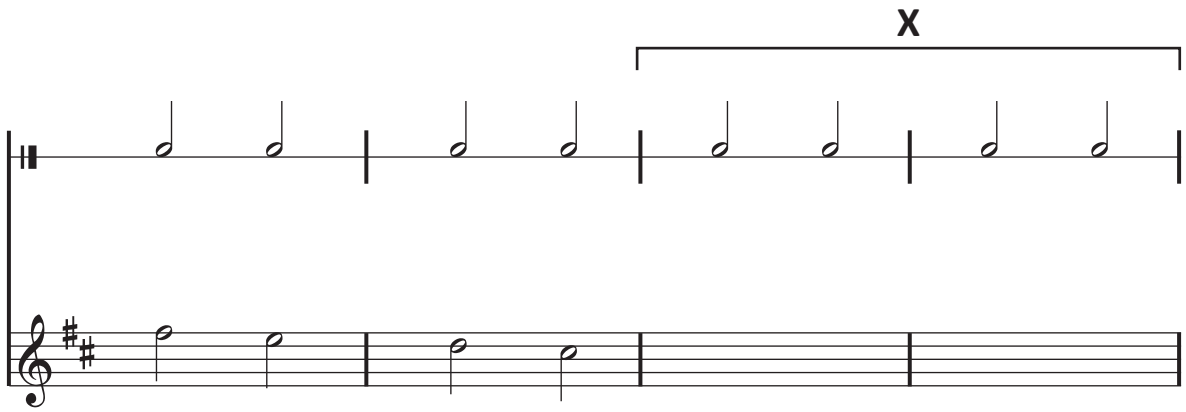
(vi) Why was this song appropriate for the event/celebration?

Answer:

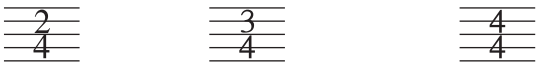
Question 3

Excerpt 1, played four times.

(a) Fill in the four missing notes at the bracket (**X**) to complete the melody.



(b) Place a tick (✓) under the correct time signature for the melody above.



☐ ☐ ☐

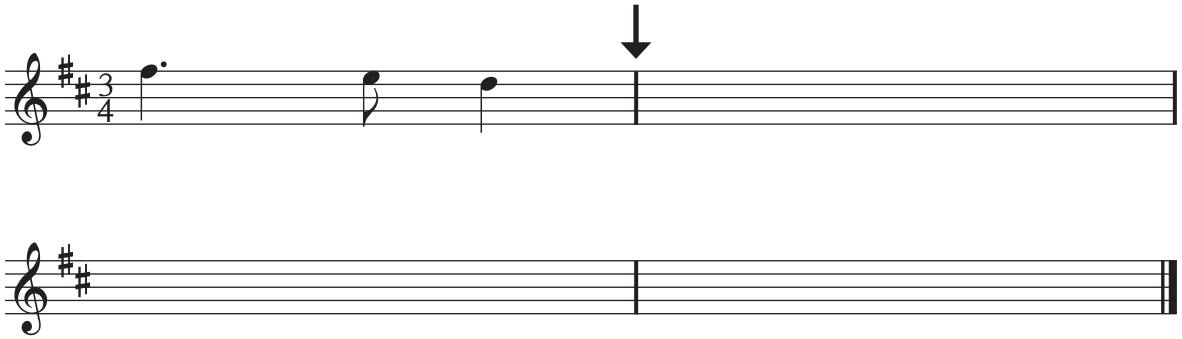
(c) Place a tick (✓) under the correct note value used in the melody above.

Semibreve ☐ Minim ☐ Crotchet ☐

Roughwork

- You have 8 minutes to complete parts d, e and f below.

(d) The melody in Excerpt 1 above is often used at the opening of wedding ceremonies. Compose your own four-bar melody that could be used for a special event by continuing on from the opening notes given below. Use the opening bar and continue by adding three new bars from the arrow.
End on the keynote/doh and use a variety of rhythms.



(e) Compose a two-bar rhythmic ostinato that could be used to accompany the melody above.



(f) Name a rhythmic instrument on which you would perform the ostinato above.

Roughwork

Question 4

Excerpt 1, played once only.

(a) This song by Maroon 5 uses the same harmonic structure as the melody in Excerpt 1 of Question 3.

(i) Name **two** songs (or pieces of music), other than this Maroon 5 example, that use chord progressions that are similar to each other.

Song 1:

Song 2:

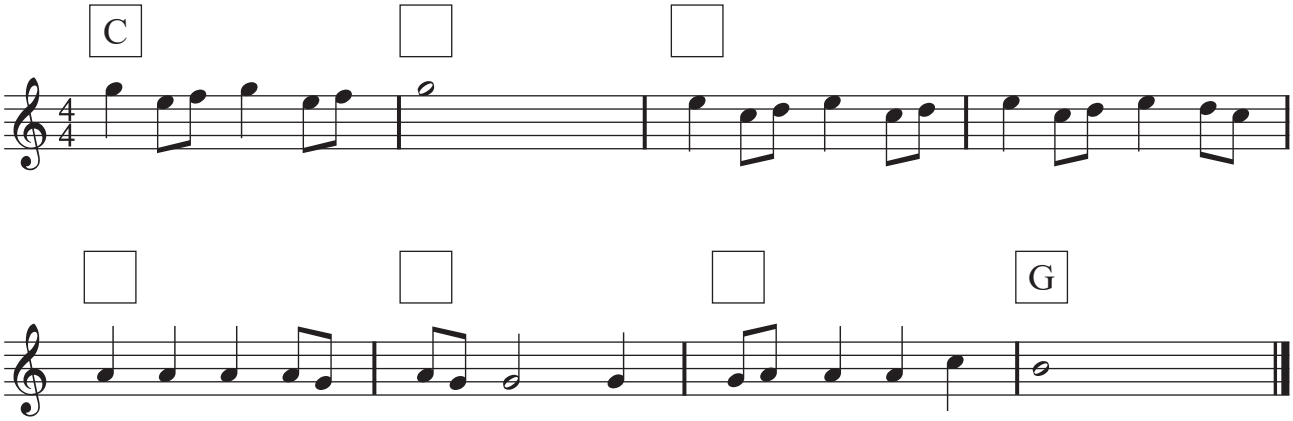
(ii) Describe how the chord progressions in the songs you have named are similar.

Description:

Excerpt 2, played once only.

(b) A simplified version of the song from Maroon 5 can be heard and is shown below.
You have 8 minutes to complete parts (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) below.

(i)
- Insert suitable chords in the five empty boxes.
- Do not repeat the same chord in adjacent boxes.
- Do not use Roman numerals.
- As the melody is intended to be repeated, it does not end with a perfect cadence.
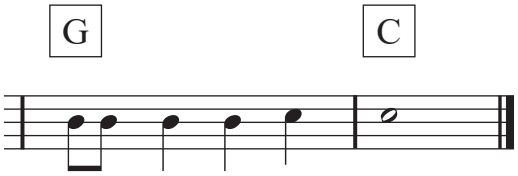


Chord bank grid – key of C major

Notes of chord	G E C	A F D	B G E	C A F	D B G	E C A	F D B
Chord symbol	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B^{o}
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii^{o}

Roughwork

Two bars from a later part of the same song are shown below.



(ii) Write the final two chords as Roman numerals.

Chord Symbol	Roman Numeral	Chord Symbol	Roman Numeral
G		C	

(iii) This creates a _____ cadence. Place a tick in the correct box.

Plagal	Perfect	Imperfect	Interrupted
☐	☐	☐	☐

(iv) This cadence is a type of _____ cadence. Place a tick in the correct box.

Finished	Unfinished
☐	☐

Roughwork

Question 5

(a) Three excerpts played twice.

(i) Match each excerpt to one of the pictures below by inserting a tick. Each image should be used only once.

(ii) Give a reason for your choice, referring to musical features and the image you have selected.

		
☐	☐	☐

Reason:

		
☐	☐	☐

Reason:







☐ ☐ ☐

Reason:

(b) All three excerpts above have had compression applied to them. Define the underlined term.

Answer:

Rough work

- You have 5 minutes to complete part (c).

(c) Each of the pieces heard earlier in this question can be described as incidental music.

(i) Explain the term *incidental music*.

Answer:

(ii) Describe a piece of incidental music you have created and performed.

Answer:

Question 6

Excerpt 1, played 3 times.

(a) Describe **one** feature of the music performed by each of the following.

(i) Drum kit:

(ii) Bass guitar:

(iii) Vocals:

(b) **Excerpt 1, played once more.**
Excerpt 2, played twice.

Compare the instrumentation of Excerpt 1 above with Excerpt 2.

	Excerpt 1	**Excerpt 2**
Instrumentation		

You have 5 minutes to complete part (c).

(c) The two versions in part **(b)** above represent the styles of music found in a local school.

(i) Identify **two** contrasting styles of music found in your school or community.

Style 1:

Style 2:

In the case of **one** of the styles listed above, answer the questions below. Indicate which of the two styles you are referring to by adding a tick under the style.

Style 1	Style 2
☐	☐

(ii) Describe **two** features of your chosen style.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

(iii) Name a piece of music from this style.

Answer:

(d) **Excerpt 1: played twice more.**

(i) The tonality of the song is (tick the correct box):

Major	Minor
☐	☐

(ii) The metre of the song is (tick the correct box):

3	4
☐	☐

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Roughwork

Roughwork

W 3 4

Acknowledgements

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Q1: Adapted from: https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20160708-why-spice-girls-wannabe-is-the-catchiest-song-of-all-time

Pre-Junior Cycle Final Examination 2025 – Common Level

Music

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes