

Introduction

The purpose of this pack is to encourage and develop the skills required for the Listening and Appraising papers in GCSE examinations.

Obviously, the more questions students get right the better, but the main thing is to encourage them to listen to the details in a piece of music – not just the tune (although the tunes are very important). Students should learn from what they hear – it should encourage them to think about how the music is built, put together and composed. From this they should be able to extract techniques which they can then use in their own compositions. The aim is to help students to develop an understanding of the ways in which composers work, and to become more critical and appreciative of what a composer has created.

How to use this pack

GCSE Music Listening Exercises contains 24 listening exercises. A variety of approaches are used, but the idea is the same for each exercise. Each one involves working from a structure or working out a structure and then listening for the details in the music. Some exercises use grids, where each box is a bar in the music. Some use a skeleton score of the music, with detail added about instrumentation and dynamics, etc as appropriate. Skeleton scores are provided on pages 42 to 51. Others ask students to correct the information provided, or to state whether it is true or false.

The activities are designed to fit with the requirements of most exam boards. However, the following exercises are based on typical GCSE examination questions, from the AQA exam board:

- 4 – Symphony No 3 (First movement)
- 7 – ‘Nessun Dorma’ (None shall sleep) from *Turandot*
- 13 – Symphony No 8 (First movement)
- 14 – Symphony No 5 (First movement)
- 15 – Symphony No 41 (First movement)
- 16 – Clarinet Concerto (Second movement).

Mark schemes have been given for these exercises. How other exercises are marked depends on the style of the school or teacher. Answers to all the exercises are provided on pages 52 to 59.

Listening

Recordings of the music for these exercises are not provided with this publication. However, at the time of writing, all of the recordings can be found at most music retailers. A list of compact disc catalogue numbers is given on page 60. Some of the music uses the same CDs as *KS3 Music Listening Exercises* (Pearson Publishing, 2002).

For the exam-style questions, it is suggested that the music is played five times. The other exercises vary in style and the number of times the music is played is at the discretion of the teacher. This may depend on lesson length, the length of the piece and the focus. In addition, the teacher may wish to split the exercises over several lessons.

Symphony No 3 (First movement)

Ludwig van Beethoven

Listen carefully to this excerpt. It will be played five times. You have **one** minute to read the questions before the first playing. You may find it useful to tick a box each time you hear the excerpt.

The following questions relate to the stave below.

- 1 In bars 3 and 4 of the stave above, complete the tune using the given rhythm. (5 marks)
- 2 Add the correct time signature at the appropriate place. (1 mark)
- 3 Add the appropriate dynamic marking in the first bar of the tune above. (1 mark)
- 4 Which instrument plays this tune the first time it is heard?
..... (1 mark)
- 5 Which brass instrument and woodwind instrument play the start of the tune in octaves when it is repeated? (2 marks)
Brass:
Woodwind:
- 6 Which of the following musical devices can you hear in this music? Circle the correct answer. (1 mark)

Canon Descant Imitation Fugue

Moonlight Serenade

Glenn Miller



Listen carefully to the music, and follow the grid below to answer the questions. Each cell in the grid represents one bar of music. When you are listening to this music, count four steady beats per bar.

1	A1	2	3	4
5	A2	6	7	8
9	A3	10	11	12
13		14	15	16
17		18	19	20
21		22	23	24
25	B1	26	27	28
29	B2	30	31	32
33		34	35	36
37		38	39	40
41		42	43	44
45		46	47	48
49		50	51	52
53		54	55	56
57		58	59	60
61		62	63	64
65				

Note the following:

- When the clarinets and saxophones play together as a section, use the term **reeds**.
- When the trumpets and trombones play together as a section, use the term **brass**.
- The brass can be described as playing **open** or **muted**.
- Individual instruments that you hear can be described as playing **solo**.

There are two tunes used in this music. The first tune (**A**) is 12 bars and has three phrases each of four bars. The first phrase (**A1**) begins immediately without any introduction. The second phrase (**A2**) begins with a similar tune to the first phrase but is a fifth higher and changes at the end. The third phrase (**A3**) begins with an imitation of the ending of the second phrase, and plays in a sequence. The second tune (**B**) lasts for eight bars and uses two four-bar phrases (**B1**, **B2**).



- 1 Mark all the places where **A1**, **A2**, **A3**, **B1**, and **B2** occur. Some examples have been provided for you.



Glenn Miller

Goodbye, Yellow Brick Road

Elton John



The grid below describes part of the structure and instrumentation for this song. Listen to the music carefully, counting two beats per bar, and answer the following questions:

- 1 Work out the rest of the structure for this song and complete the far left-hand column of the grid.
- 2 Add details about the instruments and voices in the columns. Some have already been given.

Section (Number of bars in brackets)	Vocals	Piano	Bass	Strings	Drum kit	Guitar
Intro (4)	None	Chords and fill-ins	Descending in minim beats	None	None	None
Verse 1 (16)	Solo voice, double-tracked	Chords and fill-ins	Mostly in minims, some crotchet movement	Sustained harmony	None until drum fill-in leads into the next section	None
Link (6)	Backing vocals join on the second phrase, vowels	Chords and fill-ins	Minims	Double the tune on the second phrase	Bass/snare rhythm throughout with fill-in at end	Chords and fill-ins
Chorus (16)						
Link (6)				Violins double the tune throughout		

Symphony No 5 (First movement)

Franz Schubert

1

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

33

37