

Expectations of top-band compositions at three levels

<b>COMPOSITION</b>	<b>GCSE</b> Time controlled process Folio total (2 compositions): 3-6 mins	<b>AS Level</b> AU112 – Option A: Composition task One piece: 1½ - 2 ½ mins	<b>A2 Level</b> AU212 – Option A: Composition task One piece: 2-3 mins Tonal/functional harmony
<b>Creation, organisation and development of musical ideas.</b>	Melodic ideas will be balanced and developed mainly through repetition e.g. in a different instrument with a different texture with ornamentation	Musical ideas will be developed through structural devices such as imitation, sequence, pedal, ostinato, change of mode/key, and motivic expansion.	Musical ideas will be developed through structural devices such as fragmentation, inversion, diminution, augmentation, change of harmony and through tonal schemes/structures as appropriate to the style.
<b>Understanding, control and use of harmonic language</b>	Proper use of primary and secondary triads with good harmonic pulse and cadences.	If a tonal style is chosen, harmony is assessed under criterion (i) <i>Creation organisation and development of ideas</i> and should include appropriate use of inversions, dominant seventh, tonal shifts and/or simple modulations.	Should include some of the following: appropriate use of secondary sevenths, chordal extensions, chromatic chords and modulations to more remote keys.
<b>Understanding, control and use of resources</b>	Simple homophonic presentation with sustained or broken chords. Some contrast in timbre and texture. Fluent instrumental/vocal writing.	Instrumental/vocal parts will be idiomatic and within range and technical ability. Word setting will respect the natural accents of speech. There should be some contrast in texture and timbre.	Instrumental/vocal parts will be idiomatic in the context of the chosen style. There will be effective and resourceful use of texture, timbre and register with sufficient variety to create interest while maintaining the natural flow of the music.
<b>Commentary*</b>  * Composition Log at GCSE	Not assessed explicitly, but used to inform the overall assessment process.	Student brief will include statement of intentions in the context of chosen style and resources. There will be insight into the working methods, demonstrating knowledge and understanding of the techniques used.	As per AS, but will also make reference to a wider musical perspective and specific references to how various influences have impacted upon the candidate's work.