



Qualifications and  
Curriculum Authority



# GCE A level performance descriptions for music technology

---

July 2007

QCA/07/3238

## Introduction

Performance descriptions have been created for all GCE subjects. They describe the learning outcomes and levels of attainment likely to be demonstrated by a representative candidate performing at the A/B and E/U boundaries for AS and A2.

In practice most candidates will show uneven profiles across the attainments listed, with strengths in some areas compensating in the award process for weaknesses or omissions elsewhere. Performance descriptions illustrate expectations at the A/B and E/U boundaries of the AS and A2 as a whole; they have not been written at unit level.

Grade A/B and E/U boundaries should be set using professional judgement. The judgement should reflect the quality of candidates' work, informed by the available technical and statistical evidence. Performance descriptions are designed to assist examiners in exercising their professional judgement. They should be interpreted and applied in the context of individual specifications and their associated units. However, performance descriptions are not designed to define the content of specifications and units.

The requirement for all AS and A level specifications to assess candidates' quality of written communication will be met through one or more of the assessment objectives.

The performance descriptions have been produced by the regulatory authorities in collaboration with the awarding bodies.

## AS performance descriptions for music technology

	<b>Assessment objective 1</b>	<b>Assessment objective 2</b>	<b>Assessment objective 3</b>	<b>Assessment objective 4</b>	<b>Assessment objective 5</b>
<b>Assessment objectives</b>	Interpret musical ideas with technical and expressive control and a sense of style and awareness of occasion and/or ensemble ( <i>performing/realise</i> ).	Create & develop musical ideas with technical control and expressive understanding making creative use of musical devices, conventions and resources ( <i>composing/arranging</i> ).	Demonstrate understanding of, and comment perceptively on, the structural, expressive and contextual aspects of music.	Demonstrate effective uses of music technology to capture, edit and produce musical outcomes.	Demonstrate understanding of and comment perceptively on the technical processes and principles that underpin effective use of music technology.
<b>A/B boundary performance descriptions</b>	Candidates characteristically: a) produce musical recordings and sequences which show a high level of control and understanding, and a creative and imaginative use, of the technology.	Candidates characteristically: a) produce convincing arrangements that show musical imagination and expression and make appropriate and creative use of a wide range of resources and techniques.	Candidates characteristically: a) make critical judgements about music heard and show a breadth of understanding across the genres, styles and traditions studied b) demonstrate a thorough understanding of the development of music technology.	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate a highly accomplished use of a wide range of music technology skills to produce excellent recordings b) capture, process and mix sound to produce consistently well-balanced and effectively balanced tracks.	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate a high level of aural perception in comprehensively identifying a wide range of instruments and effects, and in recognising & describing the creative use of music technology b) successfully identify a range of shortcomings in earlier recordings and suggest how they might be overcome using modern-day recording techniques.

<p><b>E/U boundary performance descriptions</b></p>	<p>Candidates characteristically: a) use technology with sufficient control and understanding to produce musical recordings and sequences.</p>	<p>Candidates characteristically: a) produce arrangements with sufficient control and understanding of relevant resources and techniques to achieve the intended effect</p>	<p>Candidates characteristically: a) comment on music heard, showing some understanding across the genres, styles and traditions studied b) show some understanding of the development of music technology.</p>	<p>Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate limited use of some basic music technology skills to produce recordings with some encouraging signs b) mix sound to produce recordings with a lack of clarity, poor balance and inconsistent management of the resources, leading to tracks of limited success.</p>	<p>Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate limited aural perception in identifying instruments and effects and show only modest awareness of the creative use of music technology b) identify some shortcomings in earlier recordings and suggest some ways in which they might be overcome using modern-day recording techniques.</p>
---	--	---	---	--	--

## A2 performance descriptions for music technology

	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3	Assessment objective 4	Assessment objective 5
<b>Assessment objectives</b>	Interpret musical ideas with technical and expressive control and a sense of style and awareness of occasion and/or ensemble ( <i>performing/realise</i> ).	Create & develop musical ideas with technical control and expressive understanding making creative use of musical devices, conventions and resources ( <i>composing/arranging</i> ).	Demonstrate understanding of, and comment perceptively on, the structural, expressive and contextual aspects of music.	Demonstrate effective uses of music technology to capture, edit and produce musical outcomes.	Demonstrate understanding of and comment perceptively on the technical processes and principles that underpin effective use of music technology.
<b>A/B boundary performance descriptions</b>	Candidates characteristically: a) produce musical recordings that effectively integrate sequencing and recording skills b) demonstrate an authoritative use of a wide range of resources and techniques.	Candidates characteristically: a) produce compositions that show an imaginative and effective use of technical resources, musical devices and conventions, and meet all the requirements of the brief.	Candidates characteristically: a) make critical judgements about, and justify personal opinions on, music heard and show some depth of understanding within the genres, styles and traditions studied, making perceptive and informed connections between the structural, expressive and contextual aspects of music b) demonstrate a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the contexts and development of music technology.	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate a highly accomplished use of a wide range of music technology skills to produce excellent recordings b) capture, process and mix sound to produce consistently well balanced and effectively blended tracks c) make mature and sophisticated use of appropriate music technology in a composition which produces a thoroughly satisfying outcome for the listener.	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of the technical processes and principles which can be employed to achieve a completely successful recording b) apply their skill, knowledge and understanding to produce an excellent final balanced stereo mix using appropriate effects where any small slips or misjudgements are unobtrusive.

<p><b>E/U boundary performance descriptions</b></p>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) produce musical recordings that integrate sequencing and recording skills</li> <li>b) demonstrate a broad but basic use of a range of resources and techniques.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) produce compositions that show sufficient technical control and understanding of resources, musical devices and conventions to meet the minimum requirements of the brief.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) comment in some detail on music heard, showing some understanding across the genres, styles and traditions studied and the ability to make some connections between the structural, expressive and contextual aspects of music</li> <li>b) demonstrate a broad but basic understanding of the contexts and development of music technology.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) demonstrate limited use of some basic music technology skills to produce recordings with some encouraging signs but where there are areas of inconsistency</li> <li>b) capture, process and mix sound to produce recordings where inconsistent management of the resources leads to tracks of limited success</li> <li>c) make some attempt to use music technology to produce a basic composition but one which has some inconsistencies &amp; technical problems.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) demonstrate a basic knowledge of the technical processes and principles which can be employed to achieve a satisfactory recording</li> <li>b) apply their skill knowledge and understanding to produce a final balanced stereo mix using appropriate effects where the handling is adequate but where there are some intrusive errors.</li> </ul>
---	--	---	--	--	---