

Question 4 (8 marks)

An excerpt (1 minute 50 seconds) from Filippa Giordano's performance of Bizet's *Habanera* will be played FIVE times for you to answer Question 4.

Time:	First playing	—	short pause
	Second playing	—	30 second pause
	Third playing	—	1 minute pause
	Fourth playing	—	2 minute pause
	Fifth playing	—	2 minute pause

Describe the solo singer's use of pitch and expressive techniques in this performance.

The female singer sings in a medium to high register, in a major key. The shape of the melody is jagged but the use of legato notes helps to create a smooth flowing contour. The female singer is ~~singer~~ singing in another language, which is an expressive technique in itself. Her use of articulation creates interest and a definite beat. The tempo is moderate expressing the opera style slightly modernised. The range is wide and overall the motion she sings in leads to crescendo dynamics. The use of balanced phrases is evident. Her voice is a combination of airy, breathy, husky timbral quality while still having strong power. Repetition of melody creates unison. There are rhythmic patterns throughout the piece, which are repeated. The mood created is relaxing but still full of tension. The use of castanets expresses the style of music. Its Spanish influence is

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Question 4 (continued)

evident by the use of that instrument and by her language. The use of harmonisation features and contrasts with the singers solo melodies. Backing choir sing the melody while the female lead use improvisation to create variety. There is heavy use of ornamentation in her melodies such as trills and slides adding texture and creating variety. This is an expressive technique and it depicts the style. The overall expression of the piece is playful, yet majestic sounding. Polyrhythms are used by the female melodic voice and her backing singers creating rhythmic complexity. The technique of terraced dynamics in her voice created interest also providing the majestic style of the piece. The texture at the end was thick creating the big expressive climatic ending.

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