

Question 2 (8 marks)

An excerpt (1 minute 16 seconds) from *Mi Gente* by Joe Zawinal will be played SIX times for you to answer Question 2.

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

Explain how the performing media are used in this excerpt.

The percussive instruments, bongos and drum kit form the focal performing media and take on a strongly percussive role. The foot drum on the drum kit uses strong accents at irregular intervals, creating a strongly syncopated feel. The bongos provide complex subordinate rhythms which densen the texture. This ~~these~~ performing media provides the basis of the strong rhythmic drive. Interest is also created by the cymbal, which creates a splash of timbral variation. The vocal which come in are used in two different ways; to create a melodic layer and to enforce the strong rhythmic drive. A short melodic phrase, which is very simple and consists of ~~four~~^{two} notes moving ~~up~~^{down} a tone, ~~is~~ is repeated 4

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Question 2 (continued)

times to create a melodic pattern. A second source of vocals enters and is used to enforce the dominant role that the vocals now play in the piece, creating the simple melodic phrase, the male voices playing the doubling.

Interest is added to the percussive instruments of indefinite pitch through the use of high hat which is used to enforce the strong and regular rhythm and Allegro tempo, as well as add timbral interest.

In the verse the voice takes on a more extended melodic role, however the rhythm of the speech patterns maintains the strongly rhythmic role. The brass instruments are used to create a sense of tension and climax, punctuating the rhythm through a series of staccato notes at the end of each phrase within the verse section.

The electric guitar and the bass guitar are used to create not only a harmonic foundation,

End of Question 2

but also to enforce the syncopated rhythmic feel of the piece, through the use of accents which create interest and variations within the percussive layer.

Overall, the performing media within this piece, even the instruments ~~and~~ and the voice which have melodic capabilities, are used to create and enhance the strong rhythmic drive of this piece, and create syncopation.