

17.6 HSC External Examination Specifications

17.6.1 Music Extension HSC Examination Specifications

Students must choose ONE of the following:

Performance Extension

(50 marks)

Maximum performance time: 20 minutes

Students will perform THREE contrasting pieces of music on instrument(s) or voice.

- One of the pieces must be an ensemble item. *(20 marks)*
The part played by the candidate in the ensemble must be clearly displayed.
- Two solo pieces. *(15 marks each piece — total 30 marks)*

OR

Composition Extension

(50 marks)

Maximum combined time of the two pieces/movements: 6 minutes

Students will submit TWO original contrasting pieces or movements. (25 marks each composition.)

TWO copies of the written score and recording must be made. ONE copy of the written score and recording is to be submitted to the Board of Studies while the second copy and Composition portfolio should be retained at the school. This copy should be available if necessary during the HSC examination marking operation.

A Composition portfolio is to be developed as a record of the compositional process. This portfolio may be requested by the Board of Studies to validate authorship of the composition.

The dates for submission will be notified by the Board.

OR

Musicology Extension

(50 marks)

Length of essay: 3000 words

Students will submit one essay of 3000 words on an aspect or aspects of music that they have studied in depth.

TWO copies of the Musicology essay must be made. ONE copy of the Musicology essay is to be submitted to the Board of Studies while the second copy and portfolio should be retained at the school. This copy should be available if necessary during the HSC examination marking operation.

A Musicology portfolio is to be developed as a record of the musicological process. This portfolio may be requested by the Board of Studies to validate authorship of the essay.

The dates for submission will be notified by the Board.

The areas of the examination comprise the following:

1. Submitted Works

The following submitted works will be sent to the Board of Studies for marking (date to be advised in the *Board Bulletin*):

- Composition extension
- Musicology extension

2. Practical Examination

The practical examination in:

- Performance extension

will be marked by itinerant examiners on dates to be advised in the Board Bulletin. Schools will be notified of their specific examination dates.

17.6.2 Music Extension HSC Examination Specifications — General Information

Performance

Students will be assessed on the musical effectiveness of their performance at the time of the examination. Students should be able to demonstrate in performance an understanding of the stylistic features of music representing topics studied.

A performance must be accompanied unless the work was composed to be performed unaccompanied. Accompaniments may be live or pre-recorded. In the case of pre-recorded accompaniments, the part of the candidate must be clearly displayed and must not be included on the tape.

Electronic instruments may be used as solo instruments or as an accompaniment or as part of an ensemble.

The term 'ensemble' refers to any piece presented by two or more performers that specifically demonstrates the individual candidate's use and understanding of ensemble skills. In ensemble performances the student is permitted to undertake a non-solo part, provided that the musical contribution can be clearly identified in the performance.

The legitimate use of technology such as synthesisers (analog and digital), MIDI-controlled instruments (sequencers, drum machines, electronic percussion and samplers) and recorded accompaniment tapes must be appropriate to the performance.

The use of technology should not delay the examination process. Sound and balance checks should be carried out before the examination begins. Candidates' programs should be organised to accommodate scheduled flow of one or more students utilising the same technology.

No person other than the performers and examiners is permitted in the examination venue. Ensemble members, accompanists and page turners are permitted for the duration of the piece in which they are involved.

A form will be supplied by the Examination and Certification Branch of the Board of Studies on which all students will list the title of the piece, the composer, performance times of the items and the order of performance. This form will be handed to the examiners at the commencement of the practical examination.

Students must adhere to total performance time limits. Failure to do so will result in loss of marks.

Composition

For the purpose of the Higher School Certificate examination, the term 'Composition' applies to original works. The composition should be of a musically substantial nature.

The making of submitted compositions is based on both the written score and the recording. The recording is used as a guide to the intentions of the composer, and therefore the technical quality will not be taken into consideration. All details necessary to realise the score must be included on the submitted manuscript. Traditional and non-traditional notation is acceptable. If non-traditional notation is used, a key should accompany the score. Scores may be printed by computer. Page, bar numbers and all performance directions are to be included on each work and instruments/voices should be labelled on each page opening.

A statement of authenticity will be required, signed by the student, teacher and principal to validate the authenticity of the composition. This statement is to be included with the submitted composition. Compositions will be submitted to the Board of Studies. Specific dates will be notified by the Board.

Compositions must adhere to time limits. Failure to do so will result in loss of marks.

Musicology

Musicology essays should demonstrate use of primary sources (eg scores, recordings, interviews, concerts) in a detailed investigation of music studied. Students should demonstrate an understanding of the use of musical concepts and their cultural contexts in the music studied and be able to state a hypothesis and draw valid conclusions to their research. Relevant musical examples (chosen to illustrate important points) and quotations should convincingly support statements made in the essay. These may be presented in the body of the essay as short score extracts and/or short recorded excerpts.

Students are advised to choose an area of study for which they have access to primary sources and to begin their study with an overview of the topic based on these sources. This will enable them to narrow the scope of the topic and to formulate a relevant hypothesis, to focus on specific works, an aspect of music or a style and to form their own conclusions. The essay should focus on specific musical concepts in the music studied, in their cultural contexts and present an in-depth analysis of the music which is relevant to the stated hypothesis.

Essays should be typed. Each typed A4 page equals approximately 200 words of 12 point, double-spaced type. Each essay must include page numbers and a progressive word count every 100 words.

Bibliography/discography, footnotes/end notes etc must be included but will not be included in the word count.

Essays must adhere to word lengths. Failure to do so will result in loss of marks.