

Edexcel GCSE Music Listening Exam – Year 11 Mock 2025

Use this information to help you revise.

The Year 11 mock music listening exam is worth **40%** of your mock grade.

- 30% of your grade will be based on your performance work so far
- 30% of your grade will be based on your composition work so far



Please see Miss Wilson or Dr Kirk if you have any queries.

If you are a typist for exams you will still **handwrite** Section A as it is all short answers. You will type Section B only.

If you have extra time, you will be able to have this in the same way you have used it in lessons.

What will be on the mock listening exam?

All six set works we have studied so far will be featured - Bach, Star Wars, Purcell, Defying Gravity, Beethoven and Killer Queen.

In the Year 10 mock only four set works were featured – now you must revise six.

There will be:

Section A:

- Six short answer listening questions (each about a set work) of approx 7-9 marks each
- One wider listening question of approx 10 marks (linked to one of the set works we have studied)
- One 10 mark dictation question

Section B:

- One 12 mark essay question (about one of the set works and one unfamiliar piece)

Section A – 68 marks

Questions 1-6

There will be six listening questions.

What should I revise?

- Use the revision resources on Teams to cover any gaps in your knowledge.
- You need to know the pieces inside out and be able to mindmap them by DR T SMITH from memory. Practise listening to the piece and describing what is going on at each point. Do you know what the texture, tonality and instrumentation is at each point? Can you describe the dynamics, harmony, rhythm, metre and tempo and melody?
- A good strategy for revision would be:
 - Mind map the set work whilst listening to it

Edexcel GCSE Music Listening Exam – Year 11 Mock 2025

- Check your notes using the set work guide
- Test yourself on this content using e.g. flashcards/Quizlet/someone else testing you
- Practise applying this content to practice questions.

Questions will include describing, comparing, naming and giving different musical features.

Here are some helpful hints for answering them.

<i>Name/give/describe the texture</i>	monophonic, polyphonic, homophonic, melody and accompaniment.
<i>Describe the melody</i>	ascending/descending, conjunct/disjunct, syllabic/melismatic (if vocal), sequence, ornamentation, chromatic, diatonic. Do not mention instrumentation. Do not mention dynamics.
<i>Name the rhythmic device</i>	ostinato, syncopation, dotted rhythm or triplet
<i>Name the melodic device</i>	sequence or ornamentation
<i>Name the harmonic device</i>	pedal, perfect cadence, circle of fifths, dissonance
<i>Identify the key or tonality</i>	e.g. D major, G major, B minor. You need to learn this through revision. Generally it will say tonality meaning major/minor/modal/ambiguous but sometimes it might ask for the specific key.
<i>Name/give the cadence</i>	Perfect cadence, imperfect cadence, interrupted cadence, plagal cadence. Nearly always perfect.
<i>Give the metre</i>	4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 2/2, 3/2 – these are the only possible answers for the set works we have studied so far.
<i>Give the tempo</i>	Be specific e.g. slow, fast, very slow. You must learn these exactly from the score e.g. the Bach is allegro meaning fast. You can use English or Italian terms. You get the mark for either.
<i>Describe the dynamics</i>	Be specific e.g. loud, very loud, quiet, and make sure that you describe how they change .
<i>Describe the harmony</i>	Chromatic, tonic pedal, dominant pedal, use of seventh chords, diminished seventh, dominant seventh, ground bass, functional, suspension, resolution, dissonance, inversions, extended/added chords.
<i>Describe the rhythm</i>	Dotted, syncopated, triplets, ostinato, specific rhythmic values e.g. semiquavers.

Edexcel GCSE Music Listening Exam – Year 11 Mock 2025

<i>Describe the sonority</i>	This means instrument sounds e.g. in Defying Gravity the use of an electric guitar with overdrive.
<i>Features of Baroque period</i>	Melody: Ornamentation, sequences Texture: In Bach – counterpoint/polyphony, imitation, fugal. In Purcell – ground bass. Instrumentation: Basso continuo, harpsichord In Bach – concertino, ripieno In Purcell – bass viol Harmony: In Purcell - ground bass, functional harmony, perfect cadences, Tierce de Picardie (depending on where in the extract). In Bach – functional harmony, perfect cadences, suspension (depending on where in the extract).
<i>Instrumentation/orchestration/performing forces/timbre/sonority</i>	These words all essentially are asking you to describe the instruments used and their roles or sounds.
<i>Features of rock music</i>	

Question 7 – dictation

- Use teoria.com and go on the melodic and rhythmic dictation activities.
- Use teachinggadget.com, username Chesterton, password music123.
- Use Earpeggio on your iPad
- The dictation could be from a set work or unfamiliar piece.

Question 8 – unfamiliar listening

What should I revise?

- Practise identifying instruments aurally.
- Use the helpful hints for Section A.

Section B – 12 mark essay

Question 9 only

This will be a comparison between one set work and one unfamiliar work.

It will likely read ‘Evaluate how effectively *set work* and *unfamiliar work* use ELEMENT 1 and ELEMENT 2 to *do something – e.g. demonstrate the features of the Baroque period/evoke a particular mood/showcase musical theatre.*

What should I revise?

Edexcel GCSE Music Listening Exam – Year 11 Mock 2025

- Learn the set work information in the set work guides on Teams really well. Look back over your set work booklets and check you understand them.
- Look at the score and practise constantly listening and thinking about what is going on by musical element in each section.
- **Make sure you have some wider listening examples for each set work.**
- Make sure you **only answer the question about the elements given.**
- Make sure you compare the unfamiliar to the familiar piece, using words like similarly/contrastingly. This is VITAL.
- Practise comparing the set work pieces to other pieces from your Wider Listening page in your booklet, or other pieces you like from the same genre.
- Be strict with the 35 minute time limit. If you have extra time, do use this. Practise handwriting your essay unless you are a typist.