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91423



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Level 3 Music Studies, 2016

91423 Examine the influence of context on a substantial music work

2.00 p.m. Wednesday 23 November 2016

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine the influence of context on a substantial music work.	Examine in depth the influence of context on a substantial music work.	Examine perceptively the influence of context on a substantial music work.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

Write ONE essay in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Merit

TOTAL

M6

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INSTRUCTIONS

Write an essay on a substantial music work that you have studied, in response to ONE of the questions below.

Give the details of the work in the box at the top of page 3.

QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

1. Music has the ability to affect our emotions. For instance, in the past, music that was well organised and structured was considered pleasing to listen to.
To what extent has the feeling and emotion of the music influenced the conception, production and interpretation of your chosen work?
2. Composers are a product of their time. Their music reflects not only their thoughts but also those of the society around them.
To what extent has the historical context influenced the conception, production and interpretation of your chosen work?
3. As technology has advanced, so have the resources that are available to the musician.
Explain how changes in technology have influenced the conception, production and interpretation of your chosen work.
4. Composers are often inspired by the environment in which they live, and the cultures and traditions of the society around them.
To what extent has culture and/or tradition influenced the conception, production and interpretation of your chosen work?

Work title(s): Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band (Album)
 Composer(s) / performer(s): The Beatles
 Genre/style/period: 60's rock/pop

PLANNING (OPTIONAL)

Consider the following aspects of the work:

- its conception
- its production
- its interpretation.

Began rec. 24th Nov 66

June 1967

Society: late 60's psychedelic era

Conception:

- Touring becoming difficult
- Lennon - McCartney
- Psychedelic era
- Alter ego's
- Pop playing it safe
- concept album idea.

Production:

- George Martin
- 8 track / layering
- Pet sounds
- instrumentation
- Drugs: "strawberry fields / LSD"

Interpretation:

- Beatles interpret as no-genre
- Alter ego's
- Creative orgasm of ideas
- Collaborative masterpiece
- Origin of Modern sampling //

You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 750 words. The quality of your ideas is more important than the length of your essay.

Support your response with musical evidence from the work(s).

Begin your essay here:

Question number: 2

Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band is one of the greatest and most revolutionary albums of all time. The new ideas and creative content along with its innovative ~~and~~ groundbreaking take on pop/rock music is what has led it to becoming the musical work of art that it is. One of the most important contributors to the success of the work is the historical context behind it. It not only had impact on the success of the album, but proved to become a factor in the conception, production, and interpretation of the album. The historical context of Sgt Peppers is a vital part in its success due to the range of areas it affected. //

The Historical context of Sgt. Peppers influenced the conception of the album due to the inspiration and change of mindset it gave the Beatles. In late 1965, the Beatles decided to halt touring the globe and take a break from live performance due to the impact it was having on both their musicianship, and safety. Ringo Starr stated, "We were absolutely fed up with performing live and touring. It was making us bad musicians." The volume and antics

of the crowd began to overwhelm the band, eventually leading to the cease of touring. The band then chose to have a break, and the members each went their separate ways for a period of time. Soon after, due to a moment of inspiration on a Plane, Paul McCartney contacted the band with the idea of a concept album, stating that "the record could go on tour" rather than resuming the hell of live performance to chaotic crowds. This idea from McCartney quickly evolved from being just a change in music presentation, to the idea of forming alter ego's and playing "un-safe" music in pop terms. This idea led to the conception of Sgt. Peppers, and the commencement of recording on the 24th of November, 1966. The historical context of the album, being the events, and ~~enat~~ difficulties of live performance in the late 1960's, had huge influence on the conception of the album, as it provided a blockage in the road for the band, forcing them to collaborate ideas and creativity, which led to the beginning of the album: //

The production of Sgt Peppers was heavily influenced by the historical context, as the psychedelic era, technology at the time, and other artists of the time were the main factors of production. The psychedelic era was a time where drugs, creativity, expressiveness, and enthusiasm were at an all time high. These influences which presented themselves at the time provided a platform for creativity and ideas in the songs on the album. The psychedelic ~~era~~ era had a particular impact on the instrumentation and sounds used. 'Pet Sounds', an album from the Beach Boys, according to Paul was a major source of inspiration for new and interesting sounds, such as harmonicas, and even an organ/guitar hybrid sound, which were used on tracks "for the Benefit of Mr Kite, and 'Lovely Rita' George Harrison's ~~(#)~~ interest in indian instruments and Hare Krishna beliefs also played a role in the instrumentation of "Within you, Without you". Track layering and the introduction of 8-track recording also opened up several new doors for the band's creativity, and alongside Lennon and McCartney's healthy, constructive competitiveness to produce songs, drugs were some what an element in this creativity. Ringo Starr stated, "We would go off mid-session and accidentally take some LSD. Taking LSD was like going to the moon". The historical context, such as: The psychedelic era, the release of 'Pet Sounds', and the introduction of 8-track recording, all had huge influence on the//

production of the album, as they provided ~~to~~ new and creative ideas, and opened unexplored doors in the music industry, allowing themselves and producer George Martin to pioneer in production. //

— historical context

The ~~interpretation~~ of the Album had a large impact on ^{it's} the interpretation, as the rapid changing society allowed the new and different creativity to be accepted and interpreted by people differently. The band's own interpretation of the Album was that it was a point of change and difference in a pop industry where people, in George's words "played it safe". The band saw it as an "orgasm of collaborative creativity" says Ringo, and wished it to not only substitute for their live shows, but revolutionise the way musicians approached the industry. The album was just what people during the time were waiting for. Creative, "colourful, psychedelic music. People interpreted their music as different and edgy, and enjoyed the change. Some of their music however was 'misinter-//

preted by the people. For example, "Lucy in the Sky with diamonds" was interpreted by radio stations, media, and several of the public as a pro-drug, LSD ~~pro~~ fuelled song, when in reality it was about a child's painting. The same occurred with 'Strawberry Fields', which was not originally included on the album. The overall interpretation of the album was heavily impacted by the historical context, mainly being the pschadelic era, and the high censorship levels of the time, as they effectively ensured the almost instant success of the work. //

Sgt Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band has become one of the most influential musical works of all time. The historical context has played a huge role in this success due to its impact on the production, conception, and interpretation of the album. Without this historical context, the album may not have become the creative masterpiece that it is today. //

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Merit exemplar 2016

Subject:	Music Studies	Standard:	91423	Total score:	M6
Q	Grade score	Annotation			
2	M6	<p>A very detailed opening paragraph defines the parameters of the essay.</p> <p>The influence of historical context is discussed in detail for each of conception, production and interpretation, with support from detailed evidence.</p> <p>At times the material becomes more of a presentation of facts rather than a clear discussion of the how aspects combine to shape the work.</p> <p>The concluding paragraph is not of the same substance as the rest of the essay, but overall this is a convincing and well planned response.</p>			