

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2010 Assessment Report

Music Level 3

- 90498 Compare and contrast music works**
- 90530 Demonstrate and understanding of harmonic and tonal procedures in a range of music**
- 90777 Demonstrate aural skill across a range of musical styles**

COMMENTARY

Candidates demonstrating a secure understanding of musical elements and features are in a stronger position to achieve success at Level 3.

In general, candidates who produced responses that demonstrated an understanding of musical language and literacy appropriate to the standards were able to achieve the respective standard concerned.

Candidates who selected works enabling sufficient analysis were able to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of musical styles.

STANDARD REPORTS

90498 Compare and contrast music works

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- produced descriptive responses
- described social/historical/cultural aspects but did not necessary link the information to the music works
- produced descriptive comparisons between works
- made light reference to the quote in section C.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- produced responses that were not relevant
- produced responses that focused primarily on Section B with minimal or no focus on Section A or Section C
- produced responses in Section A that referred to only one or two elements in total
- produced responses that did not refer to the given quotes
- produced responses that made minimal or no comparison between works
- chose works that did not reflect the candidates' knowledge of musical works
- did not attempt all questions.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- produced responses that demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the music works selected
- produced responses that were supported by pertinent musical evidence, references using bar numbers, or written musical excerpts

- produced responses that explained social/historical and cultural contexts of music works selected
- produced responses that demonstrated a detailed comparative analysis between music works selected
- produced responses that linked back to the set quote
- provided suitable evidence that substantiated the response given.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- produced responses that demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of music works
- substantiated responses with insightful and relevant evidence
- produced written responses following the structure of expository essay writing
- produced thoughtful responses that linked back to the set quote
- demonstrated consistency of analysis in each work discussed.

OTHER COMMENTS

In general, candidates should ensure that responses concerning the comparison of music works are linked and substantiated by pertinent evidence. Although some candidates chose to use a dividing line down the middle of the paper as a means of mapping out ideas, they did not use the information in their written response to articulate findings.

Candidates who understood the expectations of the standard followed the expository essay structure, therein providing detailed statements that were substantiated and exemplified by evidence related to the specific music works. Other candidates utilised a bullet point approach; however, they did not in most cases substantiate or exemplify their rationale.

90530 Demonstrate an understanding of harmonic and tonal procedures in a range of music

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- provided responses that displayed generally accurate analysis of chords, including the degree of the scale they were based on, the bass note and inversion, the nature of the chord e.g. minor or augmented
- provided responses that analysed accurately and appropriately in at least one notation system e.g. Roman numerals, jazz/rock, or figured bass
- provided responses that showed some understanding of decorative, non-essential harmony notes e.g. passing notes or auxiliary notes
- provided responses that demonstrated an understanding of the relationships between keys and key centres
- provided responses that demonstrated an understanding of musical terms and of devices.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- provided responses that showed minimal or no musical literacy
- provided responses that showed little or no understanding of terms and language associated with harmony and analysis
- provided notation that was not legible or accurate
- provided responses that reflected an inability to correctly label appropriate chords in at least one system e.g. Roman numerals, jazz/rock, and figured bass
- provided responses that could not accurately analyse chords (including inversions and added notes) and keys within a musical context
- did not respond fully and accurately and with harmonic detail when writing and labelling chords
- provided responses that demonstrated they were unable to complete musical extracts stylistically or to use the given extract to guide responses.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- provided responses that demonstrated detailed and mostly accurate chord and key analysis
- provided responses that demonstrated an ability to use the appropriate chords in more than one system e.g. Roman numerals, jazz/rock, and figured bass
- provided responses that demonstrated an in-depth level of understanding by using appropriate bass notes, cadences, chord progressions, and non-essential harmony notes
- provided responses that demonstrated an ability to answer in context
- produced responses that used the given extract to guide their response. Aspects that evidenced this included:
 - keeping the voicing of written parts accurate with surrounding music
 - writing idiomatically for instrument(s)
 - showing some awareness of any key changes and cadence points
 - using appropriate rhythms
- produced responses that demonstrated an in-depth understanding of musical literacy, including correct labelling of terms and understanding of musical devices
- provided responses that demonstrated some creativity and stylistic flair.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- produced responses that provided detailed, accurate and complete chord and key analysis

- produced responses that displayed an ability to use the appropriate chords in more than one system e.g. Roman numerals, jazz/rock, and figured bass
- demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of harmony by avoiding consecutive movement, missing 3rds, crossing voicings, and outlining 7ths
- demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of appropriate bass notes, cadences, chord progressions, and non-essential harmony notes
- demonstrated the ability to respond in appropriate context. When answering, candidates used the entire extract to guide their response, not just the specific couple of bars of the question itself. Aspects that evidenced this were:
 - keeping the voicing of written parts accurate with surrounding music
 - writing idiomatically for the instrument(s)
 - noticing and using possibilities to sequence or imitate other parts of the extract
 - displaying awareness of key changes and cadence points
 - using appropriate rhythms
 - displayed the ability to write idiomatically in a given way e.g. choosing appropriate chords for the period/style of the given extract
- demonstrated a comprehensive level of musical literacy, including correct labelling of terms and understanding of musical devices
- demonstrated creativity and stylistic flair in their responses.

OTHER COMMENTS

Overall, the cohort demonstrated an understanding of the requirements for this standard. Very few candidates selected the figured bass option.

90777 Demonstrate aural skills across a range of skills and genres

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- transcribed melodic contours and rhythms accurately
- showed some familiarity with musical techniques and terminology
- identified some musical elements and features
- identified some differences between extracts
- left few blank spaces
- identified some of the instruments and ensembles heard.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- gave imprecise or unfocused answers
- could not identify basic differences between the various extracts
- did not attempt melodic dictation or could not perceive melodic contour
- lacked knowledge of basic musical techniques, features, and terminology
- could not identify basic instrumental timbres or ensembles playing in the extracts

- left many black spaces.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- attempted all questions
- identified differences between recordings with generally meaningful answers
- gave clear answers on musical features and elements
- identified most instruments and ensembles correctly
- attempted both melodic and chord transcription with some success.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- identified all or almost all instruments and ensembles correctly
- transcribed melodies and identified chords to a high degree of accuracy
- answered all questions clearly and in detail
- demonstrated detailed knowledge of music features and elements and used the correct terminology
- showed familiarity with a wide range of music from different styles.

OTHER COMMENTS

A knowledge of terms such as “timbre” and “texture” should be understood by candidates so as to ensure success in this standard. Aural skills can be developed with regular practice and reflective listening.