

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2012 Assessment Report

Music Level 1

- 91093 Demonstrate aural and theoretical skills through transcription**
- 91094 Demonstrate knowledge of conventions used in music scores**

COMMENTARY

Generally, candidates were able to communicate the level of musical understanding expected of the standard. They did this by identifying the rudiments of music and supporting their understanding by giving structured and/or coherent responses to the questions.

Many candidates showed a broad level of understanding covering a wide range of musical processes while others were able to identify isolated musical features but were unable to support their findings at a higher level.

Candidates are encouraged to attempt all parts of questions to maximise the opportunities available to demonstrate their ability to achieve the standard.

STANDARD REPORTS

91093 Demonstrate aural and theoretical skills through transcription

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- recognised isolated chords
- identified the use of chord I especially at the end of extracts
- knew some names of cadences and cadential formulas
- transcribed the correct rhythm in bars where the note heads were given
- correctly transcribed rhythms
- separated the beats into subgroups
- identified most of the pitches at the start of each extract
- identified the simple contours in each extract.

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:

- did not add stems and beams to the given note heads
- wrote an irregular number of beats in each bar
- interpreted ties as slurs
- attempted only one or two bars
- did not provide responses to parts of each question.

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 chord responses
- recognised chords in cadences
- identified repeated use of particular chords

- wrote rhythms that corresponded correctly to the time signature
- transcribed simple rhythms
- identified pitches correctly in simple patterns at the start of each extract
- made use of the given pitches in the middle of each extract
- perceived the differences between 2nds and 3rds.

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:

- were able to identify cadences with ease and used appropriate language and spelling
- kept to a consistent notation style i.e. did not mix Roman numerals and jazz/rock notation in the same extract
- identified a high proportion of all possible chords
- identified syncopation and dotted rhythms
- kept track of the beat/metre throughout each extract
- could transcribe the whole melody with no error OR identified two or three phrases with no errors with significant errors in one phrase
- identified subtle differences between stepwise movement and small leaps.

91094 Demonstrate knowledge of conventions used in music scores

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- demonstrated knowledge of instruments in both rock and classical genres and could interpret the shorthand or Italian names for those instruments
- understood some instrumental techniques in both rock and classical genres and were able to describe or notate these
- showed some understanding of compositional devices, intervals, chords, notation and texture
- understood basic transposition skills
- identified relevant information from within a score and were able to draw some conclusions and explain or compare aspects of music
- demonstrated some ability to explain their knowledge.

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:

- attempted a few questions only
- misinterpreted the specific intent of many questions, or had difficulty interpreting the information within a music score
- did not demonstrate sufficient knowledge of musical elements, compositional devices, notation conventions or transposition
- did not read the question properly.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- demonstrated some confidence in notating chords in root position, transposing up a major second including the key signature, transcribing an open score to piano reduction with correct realisation of alto clef
- interpreted the detailed instructions in the score, describe, compare and explain, and provide evidence from the musical score to support answers
- showed further understanding of compositional devices, chords, cadences, key signatures, and textures
- showed a range of knowledge of instruments and instrumental techniques or score conventions.

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:

- answered the majority or all the questions in the paper
- explained and applied knowledge in a detailed manner
- showed confidence in applying technical terminology in both rock and classical genres
- precisely notated music including details of stem directions, dynamic placing, and key signatures
- understood a range of compositional devices, cadences, chords, key changes, textures
- demonstrated confidence in drawing musical evidence from a score in support of explanations.

OTHER COMMENTS

Candidates who were able to decipher the scores quickly and pinpoint which parts were relevant were more successful at achieving the standard.