



National
Qualifications
2026

2026 Music

Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by Qualifications Scotland appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

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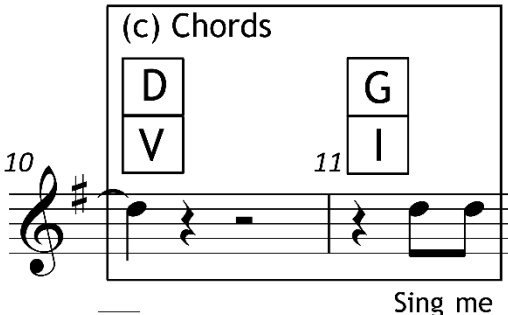
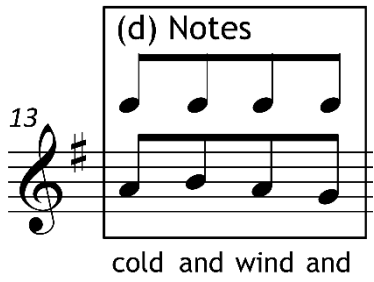
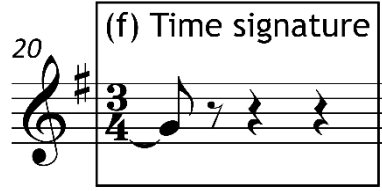
General marking principles for Higher Music

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) Where candidates are asked to identify a number of answers from a list of options, and they identify more answers than required, award marks according to the detailed marking instructions for that question.
- (c) Use your professional judgement when candidates' responses do not exactly match marking instructions but carry the same meaning, for example plagal cadence/IV-I, plainchant/plainsong. Do not accept any answer that is not in the marking instructions.
- (d) Multiple-choice questions ask candidates to tick one or more boxes. Accept a cross or any other sign which makes the candidate's intentions clear.
- (e) Use your professional judgement when deciding if candidates' written notation is sufficiently accurate or not.
- (f) Accept inaccurate spelling where the candidate's intention is clear.

Marking Instructions for each question

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
1.	(a)		Lied Mordent Rubato	3	1 mark for each correct answer. Candidate responses can be listed in any order. Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		Oratorio	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(c)		Modal	1	Also accept mode.
2.		1	French horn	1	Also accept horn.
		2	Augmentation	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		3	Clarinet	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		4	Pizzicato	1	Also accept pizz.
		5	Inverted pedal	1	Also accept harmonic(s).
3.	(a)		Melodic minor scale	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)		Irregular time signature	1	Also accept irregular, time changes or any indication of 7 beats in the bar.
	(c)		Harmonics	1	Also accept harmonic.
	(d)		Musique concrète	1	Do not accept other answers here.
4.	(a)		(a) Transpose	1	Pitch and rhythm of all four notes must be correct. Each note must have the majority of the note head in the correct place. Accept stems and/or tails in any direction and/or on either side. The tie must be included. Accept the tie either above or below the notes. Also accept the tie even if at the end of the stems. Accept beamed quavers.
	(b)		(b) Interval 6th	1	Accept 6 or any type of interval of a 6th.

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
	(c)			1	Both chords must be correct. Accept chord symbols or Roman numerals. Accept 5 and 1 as numbers.
	(d)			1	Pitch and rhythm of all four notes must be correct. Each note must have the majority of the note head in the correct place. Accept stems in any direction and/or on either side. The quavers may, or may not, be beamed together. Accept beams across any combination of quavers.
	(e)			1	Accept the quaver rest in any vertical position between the first two notes in bar 16.
	(f)			1	Do not accept the time signature written as a fraction. Do not accept other answers here.
5.			Arpeggio Basso continuo Concertino Sequence	4	1 mark for each correct answer. Candidate responses can be listed in any order. Do not accept other answers here.

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
6.			Melody/harmony Arpeggios or broken chords Counter melody Dominant 7th Interrupted cadence Major Modulation Pedal Perfect cadence Rhythm/tempo 3 beats in a bar or $3 \over 4$ or simple time A tempo Anacrusis Andante or moderato Rallentando or ritardando Triplet(s) Style/texture/form Chamber music Classical Homophonic Imitation Ternary/ABA	6	Tick (✓) all correct answers up to a maximum of two concepts per heading. If the candidate chooses to write headings, do not penalise for concepts written under the incorrect heading. 1 mark for each correct answer. Also accept major scale. Also accept change of key. Also accept rall. or rit. Long lists of concepts unrelated to the music and/or extensive lists of contradictory concepts will result in penalties being applied.
7.			Romantic Sonata Minor tonality Anacrusis Compound time	5	Award 1 mark for each correct answer, up to 5 marks. Candidates must identify five concepts for 5 marks. Do not accept other answers here.

