

# VCE Music Style and Composition 2017–2021

## Aural and written examination – End of year

### Examination specifications

#### Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 2 hours writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 40 per cent to the study score.

#### Content

The *VCE Music Study Design 2017–2021* ('Unit 3: Music Style and Composition' and 'Unit 4: Music Style and Composition') is the document for the development of the examination. Outcomes 1 and 2 in Units 3 and 4 will be examined.

All of the key knowledge and skills that underpin Outcomes 1 and 2 in Units 3 and 4, and the definitions in the 'Cross-study specifications' in the study design (pages 12–14), are examinable.

## Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.

The examination will consist of two sections.

**Section A** will consist of short-answer and extended-answer questions, which may include multiple parts, based on three to five previously unheard excerpts of music. Excerpts will vary in duration and represent a wide range of styles and traditions using diverse instrumental and/or vocal combinations, including digital instruments and other music technology. Questions will be derived from Area of study 1 in Units 3 and 4, and will focus on students making critical responses to the music they hear and the use of specific elements of music and/or compositional devices, including repetition, variation and contrast. Section A will be worth a total of 70 marks.

**Section B** will consist of extended-answer questions, which may include multiple parts, based on musical works studied throughout the year. Musical works may include short works, single movements and/or a small collection(s) of minor works in different styles, including at least one by an Australian composer/creator and one created since 1950. Questions will be derived from Area of study 2 in Units 3 and 4. Section B will be worth a total of 30 marks.

All questions will be compulsory. The total marks for the examination will be 100.

Answers are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the question and answer book.

## Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

## Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE Music Style and Composition examination:

- *VCE Music Study Design 2017–2021* ('Unit 3: Music Style and Composition' and 'Unit 4: Music Style and Composition')
- *VCAA Bulletin*

## Advice

During the 2017–2021 accreditation period for VCE Music Style and Composition, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and skills from Outcomes 1 and 2 in 'Unit 3: Music Style and Composition' and 'Unit 4: Music Style and Composition' of the *VCE Music Study Design*. The key knowledge and skills should be read in conjunction with the definitions in the 'Cross-study specifications' (pages 12–14) and the requirements in 'Selecting works for study' (page 19).

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published on the 'Music Style and Composition – Exams and Examination Reports' page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.