

# Candidate 2 — Twilight Terror 1

## Composing music

This excellent serial composition demonstrates a range of musical ideas that have been planned and developed imaginatively and convincingly.

The instrumental writing is highly creative and effective. The candidate has clearly considered the timbre and ranges of the instruments to create the chosen programmatic effect. Building up the opening chord and using the five and a half octave range demonstrates the candidate's inventive timbral writing for piano. The sustained notes for vibraphone and the xylophone rolls are highly appropriate for these instruments. Wide dynamic ranges and accents are successfully used. In the opening and concluding sections, each instrument has been effectively assigned a different dynamic level.

There is creative use of silence in the one-bar rests; these contrast well with the extensive range of considered rhythms. For example, in bars 1 to 6, the rhythms used in the opening phrases of each instrument are unique to that instrument. The repetition of the same rhythms in the same instruments (bars 7 to 12 and 21 to 25) demonstrates careful planning by the candidate. They use different lengths of pauses, for example, bars 1 and 5 include longer pauses than those in bars 2 and 3. The tempo markings are well thought out.

Within the straightforward ternary form, there are some imaginative structural ideas. In bars 7 to 12, the candidate, having chosen to use the inverted note row, has then inverted the melodic shape of the three instruments compared to bars 1 to 6. There is highly creative dovetailing of the tuned percussion instruments in the antiphonal writing in bars 13 and 14. The short unison and octave passage in bars 17 to 19 provides an effective textural contrast in the middle section.

The candidate has obviously thought about how to use their rows to produce the desired timbral and programmatic effects.

The candidate was awarded **10 marks**.

## Review of the creative process

The candidate has shown the original note row and the three other forms used in the composition on a separate page of their submission. They have also annotated the score to show where and how the rows are used. Both of these greatly help to show the candidate's intentions and assist the marking process.

The review contains a fairly detailed account of the main decisions the candidate made. There is sufficient explanation of the exploration and development of musical ideas relating to the compositional methods used. More detail about the changing time signatures and the decisions made about the registers of all three instruments would have improved this review. There is satisfactory identification of strengths and no identification of areas for improvement.

The candidate chose appropriate headings for each part of the review, with a mixture of bullet points and prose. This method is acceptable. It does not matter that the candidate wrote about inverting the melodic shape under the main decisions heading, rather than under the heading about exploration and development of musical ideas.

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.