

Candidate 6 — Spanish Eyes

Arranging music

This is a simplistic arrangement that shows limited development of aspects of the original piece.

The choice of a bossa nova rhythm in the piano shows some originality. The right hand successfully combines offbeat chords with a four-note semiquaver figure. This semiquaver figure is used as part of an ascending scale, a descending scale, and moves around a chord note. In bar 18 it is used for a complete bar to effectively define the change of melodic instrument. The piano bass line simply uses the root and fifth of the chords throughout the piece. The piano part lacks variety across the arrangement. The candidate could have enhanced this part by varying the rhythms or using melodic and/or textural variation.

The original melody is simply stated by the trumpet in bars 3–18, followed by the clarinet for the next 16 bars. The A⁷ chord in bar 30 and the Dm chord in bar 31, show limited development of the original harmony. This is the only demonstration of harmonic development in the arrangement. The candidate could have modulated at an appropriate place.

At bar 35, the melody is reiterated in its entirety on the trumpet — a missed opportunity for the candidate to develop it melodically or rhythmically. At the same time, the clarinet plays an effective countermelody. The clarinet part alternates between having a part that is independent from the trumpet melody, as in bars 35 and 37, and moving in parallel with it, for example in bars 39–40. A xylophone is added in this section and the candidate attempted to use it to add another accompaniment. However the overuse of repeated thirds, and lengthy quaver and semiquaver scale passages are not very effective and rhythmically detract from the bossa nova style.

The candidate uses instrumental forces in a straightforward way. The arrangement has a simplistic structure. The candidate could have improved it by including an extended introduction, linking passages and a coda. Overall, the candidate has not sufficiently reworked the chosen melody in a creative way by exploring and developing musical ideas. The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

Review of the creative process

The review contains a satisfactory account of the candidate's main decisions. There is limited explanation of the exploration and development of musical ideas with reference to compositional methods used. Identification of strengths and areas for development are limited. The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.