

Candidate 3 — Piece for flute, guitar and piano

Composing music

Generally, the candidate uses harmony in an appropriate way. However, there are inconsistencies, for example an E is consistently added in the right-hand part of the piano, where a G chord is indicated. There is no mention of this added note in the review.

The Alberti bass is used in root position throughout. It might have been preferable to use some inversions to make the transitions between chords smoother. Throughout the piece, the right-hand piano part plays mainly semibreve chords. The opening eight bars is simply repeated, together with the left hand, an octave lower, in the next eight bars.

There is some development in the opening eight-bar chord progression: bars 5 and 6 are the same as bars 1 and 2, and the harmony is varied in bars 7 and 8. After this, when the same progression returns, there is no more development. This eight-bar chord progression is repeated three times, with an eight-bar B minor section between the second and third repeat, providing some contrast. In this minor section starting at bar 17, the left-hand piano part drops out altogether. This has the effect of making the abrupt movement between 2nd inversion chords more obvious.

The shape of the melodic line played by the acoustic guitar from bar 9 is not convincing. It lacks a clear direction and is often angular, for example in bar 15. In bar 16, the melody uses a B, which does not really work with the underlying harmony. In the B minor section, the guitar has a different but unconvincing melody. Here again, there are melodic inconsistencies with the underlying harmony, for example in bars 18, 20 and 22.

At the return of the A section at bar 25, the only change is the addition of a flute countermelody, which is limited to chord notes. Some of it is played in quite a low register for the flute and, because the piano right-hand part is also in the same register, it cannot always be clearly heard. In this respect, the use of the flute, as well as the melodic writing in general, is not always appropriate. Similarly, the register at which the guitar is written means that it is sometimes hidden within the right-hand piano chords.

This is a composition demonstrating musical ideas which have been developed inconsistently to the candidate's chosen style. The selection and use of elements are not always appropriate.

The candidate was awarded **7 marks**.

Composing review

The review contains a limited account of the main decisions made. The focus is on statements listing information without any justification. There is a very limited account of how the candidate explored and developed the musical ideas. Identification of strengths and areas for improvement is very limited and lacks reference to musical detail.

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.