

# Candidate 4 — Cast Adrift

## Composing music

In this song, written for voice, piano and bass guitar, the candidate demonstrates good understanding of harmony. There is an effective chord structure that shows some development of harmonic choices. The candidate uses a wide range of chords including 7ths — C, Dm7, F, G7, Am7, Em7, C7, Gm7, and Bb. There is a key change to F major at the bridge and an effective modulation to return to the final chorus.

The structure is appropriate to the chosen 'pop song' style, using intro, verse, chorus, bridge and outro sections. Although the candidate has written their own lyrics, marks are not awarded for lyric writing, for example a candidate could choose to write a song based on a poem. However, the word setting is not always effective. In the second half of both verses, the rhythms seem rushed due to inappropriate word setting.

The melodic line is repetitive which, although in keeping with the chosen style, lacks musical shape at times. There are some intonation issues in the vocal line, however, this does not affect the mark. Each phrase starts with the same two beat rhythmic pattern and, although the chorus shows some development, this rhythm is used extensively. This has resulted in little contrast between the verse and chorus. Rhythmic development could have been enhanced, for example using anacrusis or change of rhythm.

The choice of instruments is appropriate to the style but have been used in a simplistic manner. The bass guitar mainly plays the root of the chord, which is also heard in the piano part. There is a slight development at the outro, with the addition of passing notes before the final chord.

This composition demonstrates musical ideas which have been developed satisfactorily. The selection and use of elements are simplistic and straightforward.

The candidate was awarded **11 marks**.

## Composing review

The composing review contains a satisfactory account of the main decisions made. There is relevant information about the choice of key, structure and tempo. The candidate could have given more detail about the variety of chords used.

There is limited explanation of how the candidate explored and developed the musical ideas. The candidate has mentioned the lyrics, but there is no reference about how they influenced their choice of musical elements.

There is little identification of strengths and areas for improvement. The candidate focuses on the meaning of the lyrics, rather than musical detail.

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.