

Candidate 3 — Volvo

Composing music

In this binary form composition, the candidate has chosen to write for violin, piano and double bass.

The chord structure, as played by the piano in section A and B, is secure, with section B using chords of the relative minor. However, in section A there are clear harmonic and melodic inaccuracies in the violin and double bass parts. For example, in bars 12 and 14 these instrumental parts do not follow the notes of the chord structure and this results in some inappropriate dissonance. Section B in A minor is harmonically more secure with the violin and double bass parts utilising notes from the underlying chords.

In section A, the violin melody lacks shape and coherence, and often features only notes of the chord. There is very little rhythmic development in the violin part in this section and various unconnected rhythmic ideas are used.

Throughout the piece, the double bass and piano parts have limited musical ideas and show no evidence of development. For example, the root position vamp piano chords use the same rhythm in every bar, while the double bass part consists only of crotchets.

The candidate has added crescendos and diminuendos, ornaments and changes of tempi; however, the use of these is poor and demonstrates a lack of understanding. For example, in bars 18 and 28 it is not stylistic to ask a violin to trill across five notes and the composition is not enhanced by these additions.

This composition demonstrates musical ideas which have undergone little development and the selection and use of elements is sometimes poor.

The candidate was awarded **6 marks**.

Composing review

The composing review gives a fairly detailed account of the main decisions made with the candidate noting their choice of chords, instrumentation and key.

Statements made by the candidate regarding exploration and development of musical ideas are very limited and often lack validity. For example, their statement that adding crescendos and trills make the music sound more advanced demonstrates a lack of understanding of what is meant by development.

There is limited identification of strengths/areas for improvement with little musical detail provided.

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.