

Candidate 4 — Without a Second Glance

Composing music

This song, which uses a performance plan, starts with a four-bar introduction on the piano which is appropriate to the candidate's chosen style. The selection and use of structure in the song is effective and the song benefits from a pre-chorus.

The melody is well-shaped in each section and the word setting is appropriate for the majority of the lyrics, including syncopated rhythms such as for 'boom, boom, boom'. Although ideas are repeated in the melody, there are subtle rhythmic developments following the word setting, as can be heard in verse 1.

The chords and lyrics sheet does not always match the audio file. There are additional chords written before the chorus which are not heard and the chords for the final verse have not been written in the new modulated key. However, it is important to remember that it is the audio file that is being marked.

The candidate's review makes it clear that they have developed the melody of the chorus by using some melismatic word setting of the word 'I' when it is heard the second time; this is a subtle but effective development of the original melody.

The noticeable hesitation when the page is turned in verse 2 does not detract from the composition. Although fairly simplistic, the piano accompaniment and selection of chords work well with the melody, and the modulation for the final chorus shows harmonic development.

The accompanying style on the piano changes between the introduction and rest of the song; however, it would have benefitted from further development throughout. Vocal harmonies and a wider range of chords might have further enhanced this good composition, which nevertheless demonstrates a range of musical ideas.

The candidate was awarded **13 marks**.

Composing review

Careful reading of this review is required to distinguish between what is a decision and what is an account of the exploration and development. The review gives a fairly detailed account of the main decisions made with mention of the chords used, the modulation and considerable information regarding the structure.

There is sufficient explanation of the exploration and development of musical ideas. For example, the candidate mentions the adding of melisma to the vocal line as well as the process of constructing a melody from the chords and then adding the lyrics.

There is, however, little identification of strengths and areas for improvement; more musical detail and explanation of the statements made would have been beneficial.

The assessment decisions therefore cross three categories of the summary statements and the mark awarded reflects this.

The candidate was awarded **6 marks**.