

Composing Review





Composing Review

As part of your composition mark you must complete a composing review on the SQA template (below), which is worth 10 marks. This must detail all of your composing decisions. We will look at this in depth over the next slides.

National 5 Music assignment			
Candidate name:		Candidate number:	
Centre number:			
Composing review			
The composing review for National 5 Music must include a summary of:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ the main decisions you have made◆ the ways in which you have explored and developed your musical ideas◆ strengths and/or areas which may be improved			



Maximise Your Marks!



Let's look at a composing review in depth and see where you can pick up extra marks!



Basic Review Worth 4 Marks.

This is
NOT a
pass!

Composing review

The composing review for National 5 Music must include a summary of:

- ◆ the main decisions you have made
- ◆ the ways in which you have explored and developed your musical ideas
- ◆ strengths and/or areas which may be improved

Siciliana

I have heard the Sicilienne played by someone in my class and asked my friend if I could look at the music. I liked hearing the piece and wanted to write something a bit like it.

I decided to start by writing the melody. The opening rhythm is the same as Faure's, but only the first 4 bars, and my tune goes from high to low to make it sound a bit different. The first 8 bars are repeated.

After this section I decided to change key. Here I used a single rhythm pattern in a different sequence, which is repeated, but changed to make return to the opening idea. In this section I used a bass note plus chord idea.

For the third section I used a repeat of the opening –but added some extra notes to the melody.

I think the piece works well and it sounds quite sad. I think the choice of instruments is good, and creates the right kind of mood. Perhaps I could have used different rhythms in the B section.

Intermediate Review Worth 7 Marks.

This is a
good
review!

Composing review

The composing review for National 5 Music must include a summary of:

- ◆ the main decisions you have made
- ◆ the ways in which you have explored and developed your musical ideas
- ◆ strengths and/or areas which may be improved

Siciliana

All flute players like playing the famous Sicilienne by Faure, so I thought I would write something similar. I was surprised to learn it was originally for cello, but I prefer the version for flute.

I read that it first appeared during the Baroque period so decided to give my music an older sound by using a mode, – the white note scale from A to A

I decided to start by writing the melody. The opening rhythm is the same as Faure's, but only the first 4 bars, and my tune goes from high to low to make it sound a bit different. The first 8 bars are repeated.

After this section I decided to change key to C major, which gives a nice effect. Here I used a single rhythm pattern in a different sequence, which is repeated, but changed at the end. In this section I used a bass note plus chord idea to contrast with the broken chords used at the beginning. I had thought of using the piano for accompaniment, but in Sibelius it is easy to experiment with different sounds, and the harp seemed a good choice.

Intermediate Review Worth 7 Marks Cont.

Composing review

The composing review for National 5 Music must include a summary of:

- ◆ the main decisions you have made
- ◆ the ways in which you have explored and developed your musical ideas
- ◆ strengths and/or areas which may be improved

For the third section I used a repeat of the opening –but developed the melody by adding notes, plus slowing down at the end to give the music a feeling of a conclusion.

I think the piece works well, and using a mode creates an old feeling, and it also sounds quite sad. I think the choice of instruments is good. Perhaps I could have used more rhythms in the B section, but I like it as it is.

In-depth Review Worth the Maximum 10 Marks.

Composing review

The composing review for National 5 Music must include a summary of:

- the main decisions you have made
- the ways in which you have explored and developed your musical ideas
- strengths and/or areas which may be improved

This is an excellent review!

Siciliana

All flute players like playing the famous Sicilienne by Faure, so I thought I would write something similar. I was surprised to learn it was originally for cello, but I prefer the version for flute.

I read that it first appeared during the Baroque period so decided to give my music an older sound by using a mode, and chose the Aeolian mode – the white note scale from A to A. I like the effect of the G natural, rather than the G sharp that is often used in the key of A minor.

I decided to start by writing the melody, and experimented with several ideas. The opening rhythm is the same as Faure's, but only the first 4 bars, and my tune goes from high to low to make it sound a bit different. The first 8 bars are repeated, but I decided to develop the second half by using a descending sequence. After experimentation I decided to use chords 1,6,3,7,5,4 in the form of an arpeggio accompaniment.

In-depth Review Worth Maximum 10 Marks Cont.

Composing review

The composing review for National 5 Music must include a summary of:

- ◆ the main decisions you have made
- ◆ the ways in which you have explored and developed your musical ideas
- ◆ strengths and/or areas which may be improved

After this section I decided to change key to C major – the relative major of A minor – which gives a nice effect. Here I used a single rhythm pattern [dotted crotchet, quaver, crotchet] in a different sequence, which is repeated, but changed to return the music to A modal minor. In this section I used a bass note/spread chord idea to contrast with the broken chords used at the beginning. I had thought of using the piano for accompaniment, but in Sibelius it is easy to experiment with different sounds, and the harp seemed a good choice. In this section I used chords 1, 4 and 5.

For the third section I used a repeat of the opening – Ternary form – but developed the melody by adding quaver passing notes, plus a *molto rit* to give the music a feeling of a conclusion and sadness.

I think the piece works well, and using a mode creates an old feeling, and it also sounds quite sad. I think the choice of instruments is good, and creates the right kind of mood. I like the effect of the use of a variety of chords, some unusual, for the accompaniment.

Perhaps I could have used more varied rhythms in the B section, but I think it works quite well as it is. It did in Faure's piece!



**What about
my
composition?**



**WORTH
10
MARKS**

Review



Where did you start?

Chord Pattern

Lyrics

Riff



Rhythm

Melody

How did you develop your melody?

Changed the rhythm

Changed from high to low

Added a countermelody

Added an Anacrusis

Added sequences

Added passing notes

Added syncopation

Added ornaments



**How did you
develop your
accompaniment?**

**What instruments
did you use?**

**Did you use a perfect
cadence/imperfect
cadence?**



**What
accompaniment style
did you use? Eg.
Broken chords**

**What chords did
you use?**

**What key did
you use?**

**Did you have a
bass line?**

How did you structure your piece?

Did you have a Coda?

Verse/Chorus

Did you have an intro?

Strophic

Did you change key?

Binary Form
AB

Ternary
Form ABA



Other features?

What articulation did you use? Eg. Staccato/accents

What dynamics did you use?

What tempo did you choose?

What time signature did you use?

Did you change tempo?

Simple time to compound time

