



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2023

Music

Composing

Higher Level

Thursday 22 June Afternoon 3:15 - 4:45

100 marks

Examination Number

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Day and Month of Birth

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For example, 3rd February
is entered as 0302

Centre Stamp

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Instructions

Write your examination number and date of birth in the boxes on the front cover.

There are **two** sections in this examination paper.

Section A	Melody Composition	40 marks	3 questions
Section B	Harmony	60 marks	3 questions

- Answer as follows:
 - one question from Section **A** – Melody Composition
- and**
- one question from Section **B** – Harmony
- Write your answers in blue or black pen. You may use pencil for staff notation.
 - Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. There is space for extra work at the end of the booklet. Label any extra work clearly with the question number and part.
 - This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.

Answer **one** question only in this section:

Question 1 Continuation of a given opening (40 marks)

or

Question 2 Setting music to a given text (40 marks)

or

Question 3 Composing to a given dance rhythm or metre or form (40 marks)

Question 1**(40 marks)****Continuation of a given opening**

- Continue the given opening to make a 16-bar melody.
- Add appropriate performing directions (phrasing and dynamics) to the melody.
- Choose a suitable instrument for your melody from the following list:

☐ clarinet☐ violin☐ oboe☐ trumpet**Roughwork**

The roughwork area contains four sets of five-line musical staves, each set consisting of five horizontal lines. These staves are provided for the student to sketch their melody and include performing directions.

Moderato



mf

1 2 3 4

Setting music to a given text

(40 marks)

Here is an extract from the poem *The Meeting of the Waters* by Thomas Moore.

There is not in the wide world a valley so sweet
As that vale in whose bosom the bright waters meet.
Oh! the last rays of feeling and life must depart
Ere the bloom of that valley shall fade from my heart!

The opening line has been set for you.



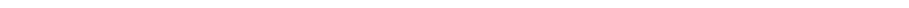

- Set the remaining words to make a melody of 16 bars.
(You may exceed this number of bars and include a modulation, if you wish.)
- Add appropriate performing directions (phrasing and dynamics) to the melody.

Roughwork

[illegible]

$$mf$$

There is not in the wide world a val - ley so sweet



Question 3

(40 marks)

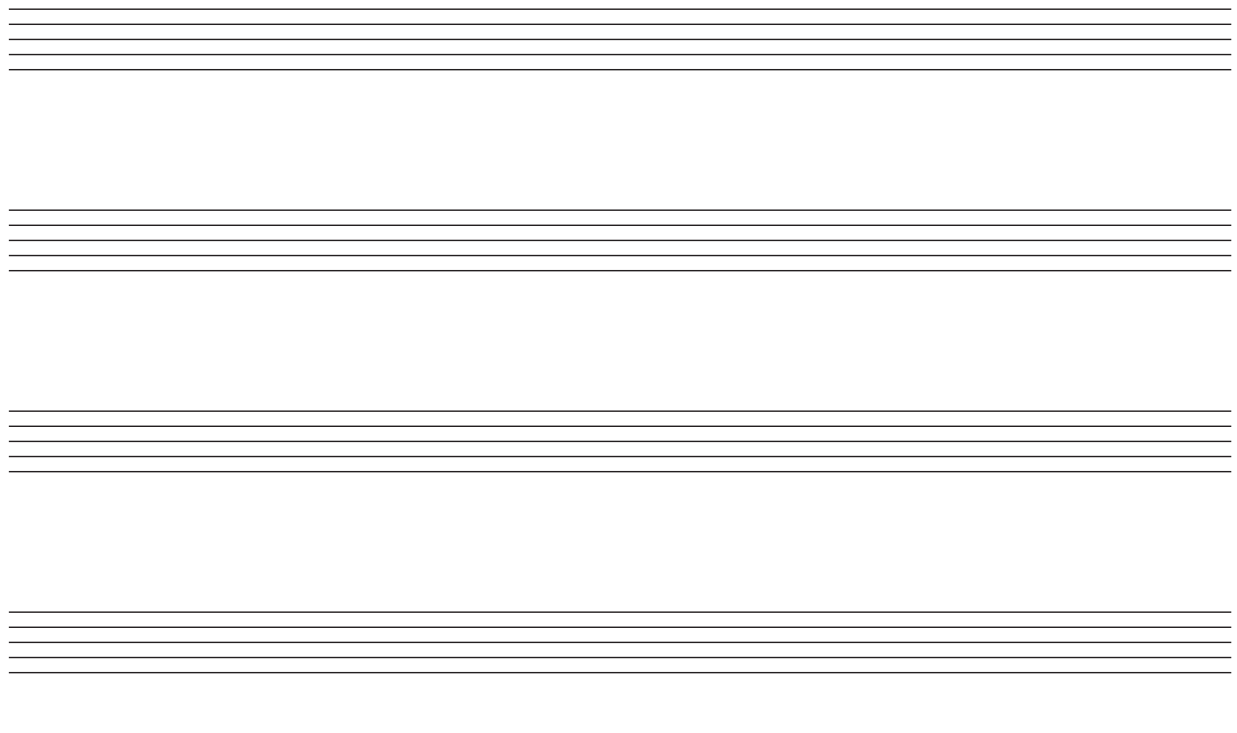
Composing to a given dance rhythm or metre or form

The opening phrase of a jig is given.

- Continue the given opening to make a 16-bar melody.
- Use the form AA¹BB¹.
- Include a modulation to the dominant at a suitable point.
- Add appropriate performing directions (phrasing and dynamics) to the melody.
- Choose a suitable instrument for your melody from the following list:

- ☐ oboe
- ☐ trumpet
- ☐ flute
- ☐ violin

Roughwork



Moderato

mf

The musical score is for a piece titled "Moderato". It is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff contains a melody with four measures, each with a finger number (1, 2, 3, 4) above it. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The dynamic is *mf*. Below the first staff are seven empty staves for accompaniment, all in G major.

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Answer **one** question only in this section:

Question 4 Composing melody and bass notes from a set of chords (60 marks)

or

Question 5 Composing bass notes and chord indications to a given tune (60 marks)

or

Question 6 Adding a countermelody or descant and chordal support to a given tune (60 marks)

Question 4

(60 marks)

Composing melody and bass notes from a set of chords

Preparatory work: Plot the chords available in the key of E minor, either in the chord bank grid or on the staff below.

Notes of chord	B G E	C A F#	D# B G				A F# D#
Chord symbol	Em	F#°	G ⁺				D#°
Roman numeral	i	ii°	III ⁺	iv	V	VI	vii°

i ii° [III⁺] iv V VI [vii°]

- Study the following piece of music.
- Using the chords indicated, compose melody and bass notes to complete the piece in the given style.

Em Em/G Am B Em B Em

1 2 3 4

Am F#°/A B Em/G F#°/A B⁷

5 6 7

Em C B Am Em/G

8 9 10

F#°/A B B⁷ Em B

11 12 13

C B Am Em

14 15 16

Question 5

(60 marks)

Composing bass notes and chord indications to a given tune

Preparatory work: Plot the chords available in the key of A major, either in the chord bank grid or on the staff below.

Notes of chord	E C# A		G# E C#				D B G#
Chord symbol	A		C#m				G#°
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°

A musical staff in A major (three sharps) showing the positions of the seven diatonic chords. The chords are represented by three-note triads on the staff. Below the staff, the Roman numerals I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, and vii° are placed under their respective positions. The iii and vii° chords are enclosed in brackets.

- Study the following piece of music.
- Add suitable bass notes and chord indications in the style of the given opening.
- Do not use the same chord in the same position in adjacent boxes.
- You may use either chord symbols or Roman numerals, but not both.

A musical score for a piece in A major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is written in the bass staff. The score is divided into four measures, each marked with a number (1, 2, 3, 4) above the first note. Above the treble staff, chord indications are provided for each measure: I (A), Ib (A/C#), vi (F#m), IV (D), ii (Bm), V (E), and V7b (E7/G#). The bass staff contains a series of notes that provide a harmonic foundation for the melody.

5 6 7

8 9 10

11 12 13

14 15 16

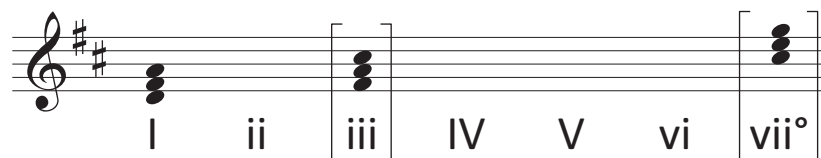
Question 6

(60 marks)

Adding a countermelody or descant and chordal support to a given tune

Preparatory work: Plot the chords available in the key of D major, either in the chord bank grid or on the staff below.

Notes of chord	A F# D		C# A F#				G E C#
Chord symbol	D		F#m				C#°
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°



- Study the following piece of music.
- Insert suitable chord indications in the boxes provided.
- Continue the descant part in the given style to complete the piece.
- Do not use the same chord in the same position in adjacent boxes.
- You may use either chord symbols or Roman numerals, but not both.

Handwriting practice sheet for musical notation, featuring four systems of staves with numbered measures and empty boxes for notes.

System 1: Measures 5, 6, 7. Each measure has an empty box above it.

System 2: Measures 8, 9, 10. Measures 8 and 9 have empty boxes above them. Measure 10 has an empty box above it.

System 3: Measures 11, 12, 13. Measures 11 and 12 have empty boxes above them. Measure 13 has three empty boxes above it.

System 4: Measures 14, 15, 16. Measures 14 and 15 have empty boxes above them. Measure 16 has two empty boxes above it.

The musical notation includes treble and bass staves with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notes are written in a simple, clear style, suitable for handwriting practice.

Extra work

The 'Extra work' section is a large rectangular area defined by a black border. It contains ten sets of five horizontal lines each, arranged vertically. These lines are intended for musical notation or additional work. The sets are separated by small gaps, and each set consists of five parallel horizontal lines.

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Leaving Certificate – Higher Level

Music Composing

Thursday 22 June

Afternoon 3:15 - 4:45



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2023

WRITE YOUR EXAMINATION NUMBER HERE 

MUSIC – HIGHER LEVEL
LISTENING – ELECTIVE (100 marks)
THURSDAY 22 JUNE – AFTERNOON 5:00–5:45

CENTRE STAMP

FOR THE EXAMINER

Total marks

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- ☐ Write your examination number in the box above.
- ☐ Answer the questions in the spaces provided in this answer book.
- ☐ The Superintendent will collect your prepared audio recording for this elective.

Q	MARK			
1–4				
TOTAL				
GRADE				

The 2023 examination papers were adjusted to compensate for disruptions to learning due to COVID-19. This examination paper does not necessarily reflect the same structure and format as the examination papers of past or subsequent years.

Answer all questions.

1. State the title of your chosen Listening Elective topic.

2. List three of the sources which you used in studying this topic. Full details are required for all of your sources. If one of your sources is the Internet, give the full website address used in your research.

(i) -----

(ii) -----

(iii) -----

3. Name five pieces of music, and the composer or performer, which you studied as part of this listening elective, and which are on your audio recording.

Piece	Composer or Performer
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

4.(a) Identify three significant musical features of your chosen topic.

(i) -----

(ii) -----

(iii) -----

(b) Give an account of your chosen topic ensuring that you

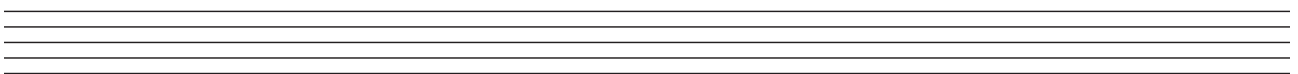
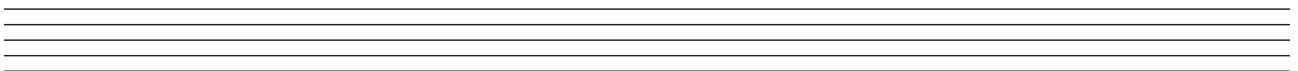
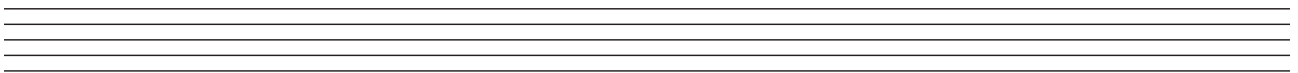
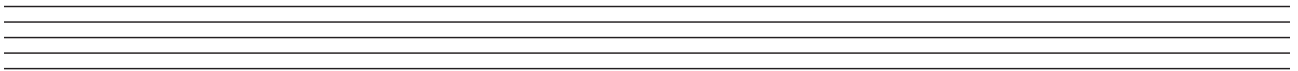
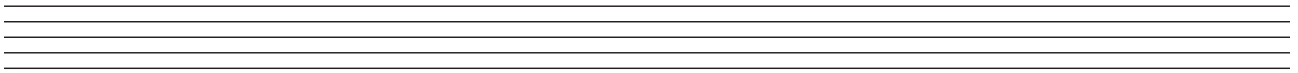
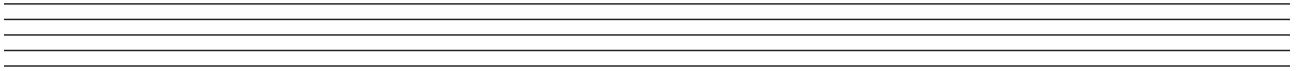
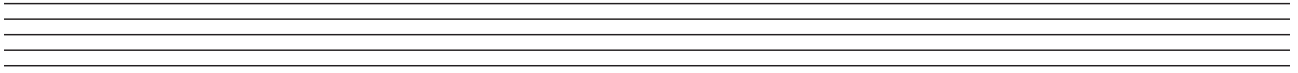
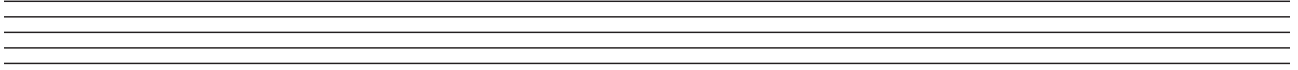
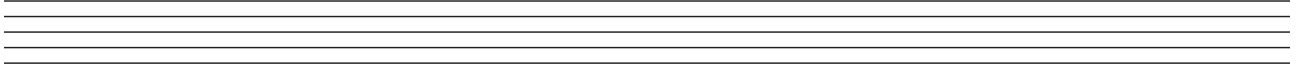
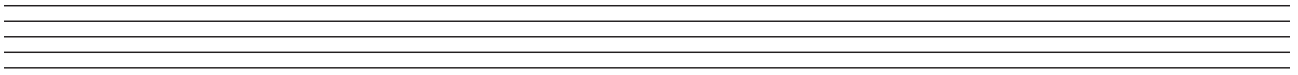
- describe the three musical features which you have identified above
- show how your three chosen, and other, musical features are present in the music you have studied for this elective
- make reference to all the musical excerpts on your recording
- include your personal response to your chosen topic.

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Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2023

Music

Listening - Core

Higher Level

Thursday 22 June Afternoon 1:30 - 3:00

100 marks

Examination Number

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Day and Month of Birth

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For example, 3rd February
is entered as 0302

Centre Stamp

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Instructions

Write your examination number and date of birth in the boxes on the front cover.

There are **six** questions in this examination paper. Answer all questions.

- Write your answers in blue or black pen. You may use pencil for staff notation.
- Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. There is space for extra work / roughwork at the end of the booklet. Label any such extra work clearly with the question number and part.
- Before the examination begins, listen carefully to the test excerpt. If you cannot hear the recording clearly, inform the Superintendent immediately.
- This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.
- There will be suitable pauses throughout for you to read and answer questions.

Question 1**(25 marks)**

Five excerpts from *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Freddie Mercury.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

- (a) Identify two features of the music in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

Excerpt 2, played three times.

- (b) Name a recording technique used in this excerpt. Describe this recording technique with reference to the music in this excerpt.

Recording technique:
Description:

- (c) Describe the music played by the piano in this excerpt.

Answer:

This question continues on the next page.

Excerpt 3, played three times. The lyrics are printed below.

- Line 1 B \flat Gm
Mama, just killed a man,
- Line 2 Put a **gun** against his head, pulled my trigger, now he's dead.
- Line 3 Mama, life had just begun,
- Line 4 But now I've gone and thrown it all away.

(d) The chord heard at the word **gun** in line 2 is

- ☐ Cm
- ☐ F
- ☐ E \flat

(e) Identify and describe the instrumental technique played by the bass guitar at the end of line 2.

Instrumental technique:
Description:

Excerpt 3, played once more and Excerpt 4, played three times.

- (f) Describe two differences between the music in **Excerpt 3** and the music in **Excerpt 4**. Refer to both excerpts in your answer.

1st Difference:	
Excerpt 3	Excerpt 4

2nd Difference:	
Excerpt 3	Excerpt 4

Excerpt 5, played three times.

- (g) Identify two features of the guitar music in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

Question 2

(10 marks)

Two excerpts from *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture* by Tchaikovsky.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

- (a) Name the section of the work from which the excerpt is taken.

Answer:

- (b) The theme heard in this excerpt is the

- ☐ Love theme
- ☐ Strife theme
- ☐ Friar Lawrence theme

- (c) (i) Identify **two** features of the music heard in this excerpt.

- ☐ tremolo
- ☐ antiphony
- ☐ *pizzicato*
- ☐ canon

- (ii) Describe one of the features you have chosen with reference to the music in this excerpt.

Feature:
Description:

Excerpt 2, played three times.

- (d)** Describe one way in which Tchaikovsky creates a feeling of tension in the music heard in this excerpt.

Answer:

Question 3**(10 marks)**

An excerpt from *Piano Quartet No.1* by Gerald Barry, played three times.

- Answer the following questions.

(a) Describe the texture of the music in this excerpt.

Answer:

(b) Identify one feature of 20th century music in this excerpt.

Feature:

(c) Describe one difference between the music heard in this excerpt and the music which immediately follows this excerpt in *Piano Quartet No.1* by Gerald Barry.

Answer:

(d) Describe Barry's treatment of the tune *Sí Beag, Sí Mór* in *Piano Quartet No.1*.

Answer:

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Question 4

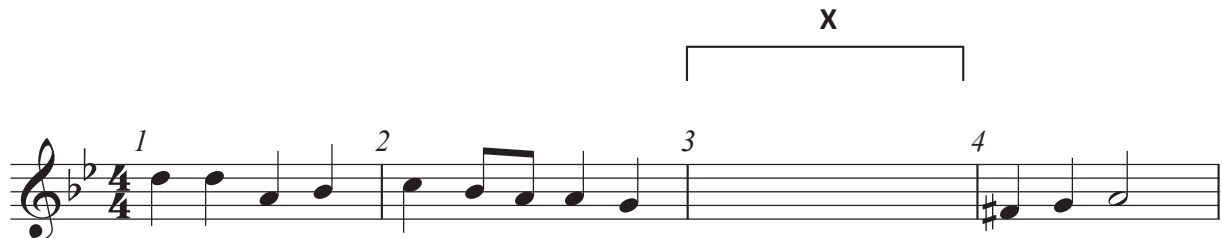
(10 marks)

Two excerpts from Cantata *Jesu, der du meine Seele* by J.S. Bach.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

An outline score of the opening four bars of the excerpt is printed below.



- (a) Insert the **four** missing notes at **X** on the score.

Excerpt 2, played three times.

- (b) Describe one feature of Baroque music in this excerpt.

Answer:

Excerpt 1 and Excerpt 2 once more.

- (c) Describe one similarity and one difference between the music in **Excerpt 1** and the music in **Excerpt 2**. Refer to both excerpts in your answer.

Similarity:

Difference:

Question 5**(25 marks)**

Irish Music. Answer **A** and **B**. Note that **B** contains a choice of questions.

A. You will hear three excerpts, each played three times.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1.

(a) Name the instrument playing in this excerpt.

Answer:

(b) The music in this excerpt features (tick two)

- ☐ ornamentation
- ☐ repeated last note
- ☐ flattened 7th
- ☐ gap scale

(c) Using letters, write down the form of the music in this excerpt.

Answer:

Excerpt 2.

(d) Identify the type of dance tune in this excerpt. Give its time signature and one bar of rhythm associated with it.

Type of dance	Time signature	Bar of rhythm

- (e) Name two instruments which play the melody in this excerpt.

Instrument 1:

Instrument 2:

Excerpt 3.

- (f) Identify two features of sean nós singing as heard in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

- (g) Describe two features of the instrumental accompaniment heard in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

This question continues on the next page.

B Answer **one** of the following:

- (i) Give an account of the contribution made by Irish music to the music of North America in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- (ii) Give an account of the flute or tin whistle in the context of Irish traditional music. Refer to playing styles and well-known performers in your answer.
- (iii) Write an account of the work of one of the great collectors and their contribution to the preservation of Irish music.
- (iv) Discuss the music of a well-known composer or performer that fuses traditional Irish music with another style.
- (v) Write an account of the sean nós singing tradition in Irish traditional music. Refer to well-known performers in your answer.

Indicate your choice of question (i) ☐ (ii) ☐ (iii) ☐ (iv) ☐ (v) ☐

Answer:

Continue your answer on pages 15 – 17. Question 6 begins on page 18.

Question 6

(20 marks)

Aural Skills

This question is based on five excerpts of music.

- Answer the questions on each excerpt.

Excerpt 1, played three times.

- (a) How many full bars of music are heard in the introduction, before the vocalist enters?

3 bars

☐

4 bars

☐

6 bars

☐

- (b) Identify a feature of the music played by the piano in this excerpt.

Feature:

Excerpt 2, played three times.

- The lyrics are printed below.

Line 1 I never thought I'd miss you
Line 2 Half as much as I do.
Line 3 And I never thought I'd feel this way
Line 4 The way I feel about you.
Line 5 As soon as I wake up, every night every day.
Line 6 I know that it's you I need to take the blues away.

- (c) Identify two features of the vocal music heard in this excerpt.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

- (d) Name two instruments (other than piano) heard playing in lines 5–6.

Instrument 1:

Instrument 2:

Excerpt 3, played three times.

- (e) Name the instrument which plays the melody at the start of this excerpt.

Instrument:

- (f) Describe the texture of the music heard in this excerpt.

Answer:

Excerpt 4, played three times. An outline score is printed below.

- (g) The missing notes at **X** on the score are

☐

☐

☐

This question continues on the next page.

Excerpt 5, played three times.

- (h)** From your prescribed works, select the work which most closely resembles the music heard in this excerpt. Give a reason for your choice.

Prescribed work:
Reason:

You have three minutes to complete the examination paper.

Extra work / Roughwork

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Leaving Certificate – Higher Level

Music Listening - Core

Thursday 22 June

Afternoon 1:30 - 3:00