

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology (603/7008/7)

Examined Assessment

Paper number: **Past Paper**

Assessment date: **Thursday 12 June 2025**

Time allowed: **1 hour 30 minutes**

Time: **1.30pm – 3.00pm**

Learner instructions

- Use black ink.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Read each question carefully.
- You **must** write your responses in the spaces provided.
- You may do rough work in this answer book. Cross through any work you do not wish to be marked.
- If you use a supplementary answer booklet, you must add your learner name, learner number and centre number to the front cover of the booklet. Insert your supplementary answer booklet inside this question paper at the end of your test.
- All of the work you submit **must** be your own.

Resources

- Headphones.
- Individual workstation with listening capabilities.
- Audio files:
 - Audio File Section A
 - Audio File Section B
 - Audio File Section C
 - Audio File Section D.

Learner information

- The marks available for each question are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is **80**.
- It is recommended that you only listen to each of the supplied audio tracks a maximum of three times to help you manage your time.

Do not turn over until the invigilator tells you to do so.

Please complete / check your details below

Learner name:

Centre name:

Learner number:

Centre number:

Section A

This section has a possible **20** marks.

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

- 1** Which **one** of the following digital audio workstation (DAW) settings affects the speed of playback?

[1 mark]

- A** Input
- B** Key
- C** Output
- D** Tempo

Answer _____

- 2** Which **one** of the following health and safety risks can be caused by spending too long looking at a display screen?

[1 mark]

- A** Electrocution
- B** Eye strain
- C** Hearing loss
- D** Sprains

Answer _____

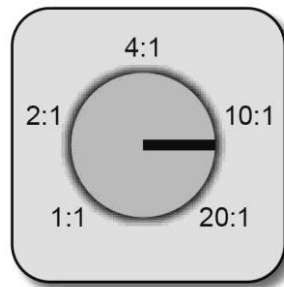
- 3 Which **one** of the following is adjusted when using the Q control on an equaliser (EQ)?

[1 mark]

- A Frequency centre
- B Frequency gain
- C Frequency modulation
- D Frequency range

Answer _____

- 4 Identify the compressor control shown in the image below.



[1 mark]

Please turn over for the next question.

5 (a) An artist has been asked to share their music for a remix.

The person who is doing the remix has requested stems.

Outline what the term 'stem' means.

[1 mark]

5 (b) Suggest why stems might be useful when remixing a piece of music.

[1 mark]

6 Explain **one** advantage for a DJ of using loops within DJ software in front of a live audience.

[2 marks]

7 (a) Listen to **Audio File Section A**.

Audio File Section A is an example of disco music.

Identify **three** different instruments present in the mix.

[3 marks]

Instrument 1 _____

Instrument 2 _____

Instrument 3 _____

7 (b) Listen to **Audio File Section A**.

Describe **three** musical elements other than instrumentation in **Audio File Section A** which are associated with the disco style.

[3 marks]

Element 1 _____

Element 2 _____

Element 3 _____

Please turn over for the next question.

- 8 (a)** A recording studio has a DAW, an audio interface and a mixing desk.

Identify **three** additional items of equipment that would be useful for a recording session.

[3 marks]

Item 1 _____

Item 2 _____

Item 3 _____

- 8 (b)** Give a reason why a DAW, an audio interface and a mixing desk are useful for a recording session.

[3 marks]

DAW _____

Audio interface _____

Mixing desk _____

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Section B

This section has a possible **19** marks.

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

- 9** Which **one** of the following sets of scalar intervals is a major pentatonic?

[1 mark]

A T, S, T, T, S, T, T

B T+S, T, T, T+S, T

C T, T, S, T, T, T, S

D T, T, T+S, T, T+S

Answer _____

- 10** Which **one** of the following is a description of retrograde as a melodic device?

[1 mark]

A Adding instruments to a composition

B Changing the tempo of the piece

C Repeating a musical phrase several times

D Reversing the order of notes in a melody

Answer _____

11 Which **one** of the following forms of media is played back on a turntable?

[1 mark]

A Cassette

B CD

C MP3

D Vinyl

Answer _____

12 Identify the chord from the following notes:

C, E, G, B

[1 mark]

13 State the function of the top number in the 5/4 time signature.

[1 mark]

Please turn over for next question.

14 Listen to **Audio File Section B**.

Audio File Section B has been recorded using a number of different sound creation types.

State **three** of the sounds created in **Audio File Section B**.

Give the sound creation type for each of the sounds.

[6 marks]

	Sound	Sound creation type
1		
2		
3		

15 Name **two** digital media formats used to share recorded music.

[2 marks]

- 1 _____
- 2 _____

16 Discuss **two** ways in which Portastudios benefitted musicians in the 1980s.

[6 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

Please turn over for next section.

Section C

This section has a possible **20** marks.

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

- 17** Which **one** of the following is a standard track count for a multitrack magnetic tape recorder? **[1 mark]**
- A** 7
 - B** 8
 - C** 10
 - D** 13

Answer _____

- 18** Which **one** of the following is part of the manufacturing process in distribution? **[1 mark]**
- A** Digitally distributing music to online stores / retailers
 - B** Managing the collection of royalty payments to artists
 - C** Producing physical copies of CDs / vinyl records
 - D** Promoting the artist's image through social media

Answer _____

19 Which **one** of the following forms of media contains analogue audio content?

[1 mark]

A Cassette

B CD

C Minidisc

D MP3

Answer _____

20 Identify the audio connector shown below.



[1 mark]

21 Listen to **Audio File Section C**.

Identify the modulation effect used on the electric piano part at 00:15

[1 mark]

22 State **two** uncompressed stereo audio file types.

[2 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

23 Analyse the impact of the analogue hardware revival on music production in the 2000s.

[3 marks]

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- 24** A producer is mixing a multitrack song that includes several vocal tracks alongside instrumental tracks.

The producer wants to apply the same reverb effect to all tracks except for the vocal tracks.

Suggest **two** different ways the producer can achieve this.

[4 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

Please turn over for next question.

- 25 (a)** A producer is planning a recording session with a musical artist. They have worked with the artist to agree their hardware requirements, timeline and goals.

State **three other** things the producer should be considering when planning the session.

[3 marks]

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

- 25 (b)** Agreeing an artist's hardware requirements, timeline and goals is important when planning a recording session.

Give a reason why agreeing each of these things is important.

[3 marks]

Hardware requirements _____

Timeline _____

Goals _____

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Section D

This section has a possible **21** marks.

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

26 Listen to **Audio File Section D**.

Audio File Section D is a piece of dance music.

Assess the effectiveness of the musical elements in this piece of dance music.

[9 marks]

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Discuss the features the studio should look for when choosing an audio interface.

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