



NCFE Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Music Technology (601/6779/8)

Past Paper (Practical)

Assessment window: 26 January 2022 – 25 February 2022

Time allowed: 10 hours

Total marks: 60

Please complete the details below clearly and in BLOCK CAPITALS.

Centre name		Centre number	
Learner name		Learner number	
Learner declaration: I confirm that the work contained in this external assessment is all my own work. I have not copied work directly from handouts / Internet / textbooks or any other source. If I have used a quotation, then I have referenced this appropriately. My full name above is my registered name with NCFE. Learner signature: _____ Date: _____			

Learner instructions

- Use black or blue ink.
- Complete all tasks.
- Read the scenario and each task carefully.
- The marks available for each question are shown in brackets.

Resources

- Word processor or pen
- Headphones/speakers
- Individual workstation / device with:
 - access to a digital audio workstation (DAW)
 - audio output and controller input capabilities
 - capacity to save / store digital files.
- Audio / MIDI files:
 - Bells and Lead Synth.wav
 - Drums.wav
 - Electric Piano.mid
 - Synth Pads.wav
 - Vocals.wav
- Chords and lyrics sheet.

To be completed by the Examiner	
Task	Mark
Task 1	
Task 2	
Task 3	
Task 4	
Task 5	
Task 6	
TOTAL	

Instructions continue over the page. Please turn over.

This page is intentionally left blank

Past Paper

Evidence requirements

Each task gives details of the evidence that you need to provide.

This will include:

- audio files
- explanations and reviews of the processes you have applied. These could include:
 - written responses (either in the space after each task or as a separate word-processed document)
 - annotated screenshots
 - screencasts with commentary. Screencasts must be no longer than 3 minutes per task.

Electronic evidence

If you have produced screenshots as evidence, put them in a single electronic document.

If you have produced any electronic written responses, put them in the same document.

Clearly label each piece of evidence with the evidence reference shown in **bold** in each task.

Save the document with the following file name:

- Surname_Initial_learner number
eg. Smith_J_123456789.

The preferred format for documents is PDF. Your invigilator will be able to advise you of other acceptable file formats, if necessary.

Audio files should be saved with the following file name:

- Surname_Initial_learner number_evidence reference
eg. Smith_J_123456789_Task 3 Rough Mix.

The audio files should be saved as .wav, .mp3 or .aiff files. **Do not** submit DAW files or MIDI files as evidence.

The invigilator will tell you your learner number and you can see the evidence reference in **bold** in each task.

At the end of the assessment, there is a checklist. This will help you to make sure that you have included all the evidence needed.

You should remember to save your work regularly during the assessment.

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Scenario

You are working as a freelance producer. A record company has asked you to produce a remix for a popular music artist.

The record company wants you to produce the remix in a style of your choice.

The company has supplied you with four stereo audio files and one MIDI file. The files may require some corrective editing.

The artist has provided a chords and lyrics sheet which includes the original tempo of the piece.

Your final remix must:

- consist of at least 16 tracks
- include a combination of software instrument / MIDI and audio tracks
- be between 3 minutes 40 seconds and 5 minutes in length.

The tasks begin on the next page. Please turn over.

Task 1 – Planning and stylistic context

[10 marks]

You should spend approximately 1 hour on this task.

Develop a plan to create your remix. Use the audio / MIDI files provided and the suggested chord structure as source material.

You can use the source material as creatively as you wish, but the artist would like you to include all of the lyrics.

Your plan must include the way that you will use the source material and combine it with your own original elements to produce a remix.

In your plan, you must refer to the style you have chosen, considering each of the following:

- structure
- harmony
- melody
- rhythm
- instrumentation.

Remember that your remix must contain at least 16 tracks, and that these must be a combination of software instrument / MIDI and audio tracks. The completed remix must be between 3 minutes 40 seconds and 5 minutes in length.

You must provide your plan, explaining the choices you have made. You should label this work with the evidence reference **Task 1 Plan**.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Blank lined area for writing, featuring horizontal dashed lines.

Please turn over

Task 2 – Development of sounds using sampling and synthesis

[10 marks]

You should spend approximately 2 hours on this task.

Using the plan you created in Task 1, start to work on the sounds you will use in your remix.

You must create tracks that include a combination of:

- software instrument / MIDI tracks
- audio tracks.

Your software instruments must include:

- **at least one** original sampler patch created using elements of the source material
- **at least one** original synth patch, used throughout the remix.

You must explain:

- what you intended when you chose and created sounds
- the processes you used to create your original sounds.

You should label this work with the evidence reference **Task 2 Sounds**.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Blank lined area for writing.

Past Paper

Task 3 – Use of MIDI and audio editing tools

[10 marks]

You should spend approximately 3 hours on this task.

Using your Task 1 plan and the sounds developed in Task 2, develop your remix.

You must use:

- MIDI editing tools
- audio editing tools.

Remember that your remix must contain at least 16 tracks and be between 3 minutes 40 seconds and 5 minutes long.

You must provide:

- an audio file showing your work so far. You should label this with the evidence reference **Task 3 Rough Mix**
- an explanation of how you have used MIDI and audio editing tools to create your remix. You should label this with the evidence reference **Task 3 Editing**.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Past Paper

Task 4 – Use of mixing techniques and tools

[10 marks]

You should spend approximately 2 hours on this task.

Using the arrangement you created in Task 3, apply mixing tools and techniques to the remix.

You must provide evidence showing how you have used the following to create the mix:

- EQ
- effects including send / return (bussing) and inserts
- dynamics processing
- balance
- automation.

You must provide:

- an audio file of your mix. You should label this with the evidence reference **Task 4 Final Mix**
- an explanation of how you have used mixing tools and techniques. You should label this with the evidence reference **Task 4 Mixing**.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Past Paper

Task 5 – Use of mastering techniques and tools

[10 marks]

You should spend approximately 1 hour on this task.

Using the mix you created in Task 4, apply mastering tools and techniques to produce your final audio masters.

You must provide:

- a mastered audio file for streaming. You should label this with the evidence reference **Task 5 Stream Master**
- a mastered audio file for CD production. You should label this with the evidence reference **Task 5 CD Master**
- an explanation of how you have used mastering tools and techniques. You should label this with the evidence reference **Task 5 Mastering**.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Blank lined area for writing, consisting of multiple horizontal lines.

Past Paper

Please turn over

Task 6 – Evaluation

[10 marks]

You should spend approximately 1 hour on this task.

You must now review your remix and the processes you used to create it.

Your review must cover the following areas:

- use of software functions
- selection of musical elements
- progress from unmixed to mixed to mastered track
- success of outcome
- effectiveness of your plan
- plans for future development.

Your review should be set out using the headings in the list above.

You should label this work with the evidence reference **Task 6 Review**.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Blank lined area for writing, consisting of multiple horizontal lines.

Past Paper

Please turn over

Evidence checklist

Task number	Evidence reference	Evidence type – please tick (✓) one	
		Handwritten	Electronic
Task 1	Task 1 Plan		
Task 2	Task 2 Sounds		
Task 3	Task 3 Rough Mix		
Task 3	Task 3 Editing		
Task 4	Task 4 Final Mix		
Task 4	Task 4 Mixing		
Task 5	Task 5 Stream Master		
Task 5	Task 5 CD Master		
Task 5	Task 5 Mastering		
Task 6	Task 6 Review		

This is the end of the external assessment.

This page is intentionally left blank

This page is intentionally left blank