

## **A Level Music Technology:**

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Music Technology (9MT0)

### **Subject content**

#### **Area of Study 1: Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes**

In component 1, the focus of this Area of Study will be on the use of recording and mixing techniques to capture, edit and produce a recording. In component 2, the focus will be on the use of sound creation and manipulation techniques to create, edit and structure a technology-based composition. In component 3, the focus will be on the capture, arrangement of sounds and mixing and mastering techniques that have been used on a series of unfamiliar commercially available recordings and in component 4, the focus will be on use of sound creation and processing techniques to correct and mix a recording.

#### **Area of Study 2: Principles of sound and audio technology**

In component 2, the focus of this Area of Study will be the knowledge and understanding of the principles of sound and of audio technology in relation to unfamiliar commercially available recordings provided by Pearson in the exam. In component 4, the focus will be the knowledge and understanding of the principles of sound and of audio technology in relation to theoretical and practical contexts provided by Pearson in the exam.

#### **Area of Study 3: The development of recording and production technology**

In component 3, the focus of this Area of Study will be the knowledge and understanding of the history and development of recording and production technology from current digital technologies back to the mono, analogue recording technologies in the 1930s.

The table below identifies where each Area of Study is covered in the components.

Area of Study Component

#### **1: Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes**

- 1: Recording
- 2: Technology-based composition
- 3: Listening and analysing
- 4: Producing and analysing

#### **2: Principles of sound and audio technology**

- 3: Listening and analysing
- 4: Producing and analysing

#### **3: The development of recording and production technology**

- 3: Listening and analysing

### **How it is assessed**

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Music Technology consists of two externally-examined papers and two non-examined assessment components.

Students must submit their non-examined assessment (NEA) and complete the examinations in May/June in the year of certification.

#### **Component 1: Recording (\*component code: 9MT0/01)**

Non-examined assessment: externally assessed  
20% of the qualification  
60 marks

#### **Content overview**

Production tools and techniques to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording.

#### **Assessment overview**

- One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs provided by Pearson, consisting of a

minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments, released on our website on 1st June in the calendar year preceding the year in which the qualification is to be awarded.

- Keyboard tracks may be sequenced.
- Total time must be between 3 minutes and 3½ minutes.
- Logbook and authentication form must be supplied.

**Component 2:** Technology-based composition (\*component code: 9MT0/02)

Non-examined assessment: externally assessed

20% of the qualification

60 marks

**Content overview**

Creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition.

**Assessment overview**

- One technology-based composition chosen from three briefs set by Pearson released on our website on 1st September in the calendar year preceding the year in which the qualification is to be awarded.
- Synthesis and sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects use must be included.
- Total time must be 3 minutes.
- Logbook and authentication form must be supplied.

**Component 3:** Listening and analysing (\*component code: 9MT0/03)

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

25% of the qualification

75 marks

**Content overview**

- Knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles, in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied by Pearson.
- Application of knowledge related to all three areas of study:
  - recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
  - principles of sound and audio technology
  - the development of recording and production technology.

**Assessment overview**

- This paper comprises two sections: A and B and all questions are compulsory.
- Unfamiliar commercial recordings to accompany questions on the paper will be provided to each student.
- Section A: Listening and analysing (40 marks) – four questions, each based on unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied by Pearson (10 marks each).
- Section B: Extended written responses (35 marks) – two essay questions. One comparison question, which uses two unfamiliar commercial recordings (15 marks). The second essay uses the final unfamiliar commercial recording provided by Pearson (20 marks).

**Component 4:** Producing and analysing (\*component code: 9MT0/04)

Written/practical examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (plus 10 minutes setting-up time)

35% of the qualification

105 marks

**Content overview**

- Knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied to unfamiliar materials provided by Pearson in the examination.
- Application of knowledge related to two of the areas of study:
  - recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
  - principles of sound and audio technology.

### **Assessment overview**

- This paper comprises two sections: A and B and all questions are compulsory.
- Each student will be provided with a set of audio/MIDI materials for the practical element of the examination, to include:
  - audio files relating to three instrumental/vocal parts.
  - a single MIDI file from which a fourth instrumental part will be created or synthesised.
- Students will correct and then combine the audio and MIDI materials to form a completed mix, which may include creating new tracks or parts from the materials provided.
- Section A: Producing and analysing (85 marks) – five questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided that include both written responses and practical tasks.
- Section B: Extended written response (20 marks) – one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit.