Student _____

School _____

Teacher _____

Pre-Junior Cycle Examination 2026

Music

Common Level

1 hour 30 minutes

280 marks

Total Mark

Question	Mark
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
Total	
Grade	

Rough Work

Instructions

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

- Write your answers in the spaces provided. Use pencil for staff notation and blue or black pen for your answers.
- Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. Anything written outside the answer areas may not be corrected.
- Listen carefully to announcements and if you cannot hear the recording clearly, inform the Superintendent immediately.
- There will be suitable pauses throughout for you to read and answer questions.

Question 1

Excerpt 1, played twice.

(a) Listen to the excerpt and answer the questions below.

(i) The first instrument we hear is a _____.

(ii) The second instrument we hear is a _____.

(iii) The third instrument we hear is a _____.

Excerpt 2, played twice.

(b) The accompaniment consists of

☐ block chords ☐ broken chords ☐ scales

Excerpt 3, played three times.

(c) Number the order in which the families of instruments are heard.

Families	Order in which they are heard
Upper Strings	
Percussion and Lower Strings	1
Brass	
Woodwind	

Excerpt 4, played twice.

(d) Describe the accompaniment played on the uilleann pipes in this excerpt.

Answer:

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Excerpt 5, played three times.

(e) **(i)** Create a suitable title for this piece of music.

Title:

(ii) Describe two features of the music that reflect the title you have chosen.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

Excerpt 6, played three times.

(f) Circle five words *in total* in Lines 2 and 3 where you hear a chord change.

One word in Line 1 has been circled to show you how to indicate a chord change.

Line 1 Oh Grace, just hold me in your arms and let this moment (linger)

Line 2 They'll take me out at dawn and I will die.

Line 3 With all my love, I place this wedding ring upon your finger.

Line 4 There won't be time to share our love for we must say goodbye.

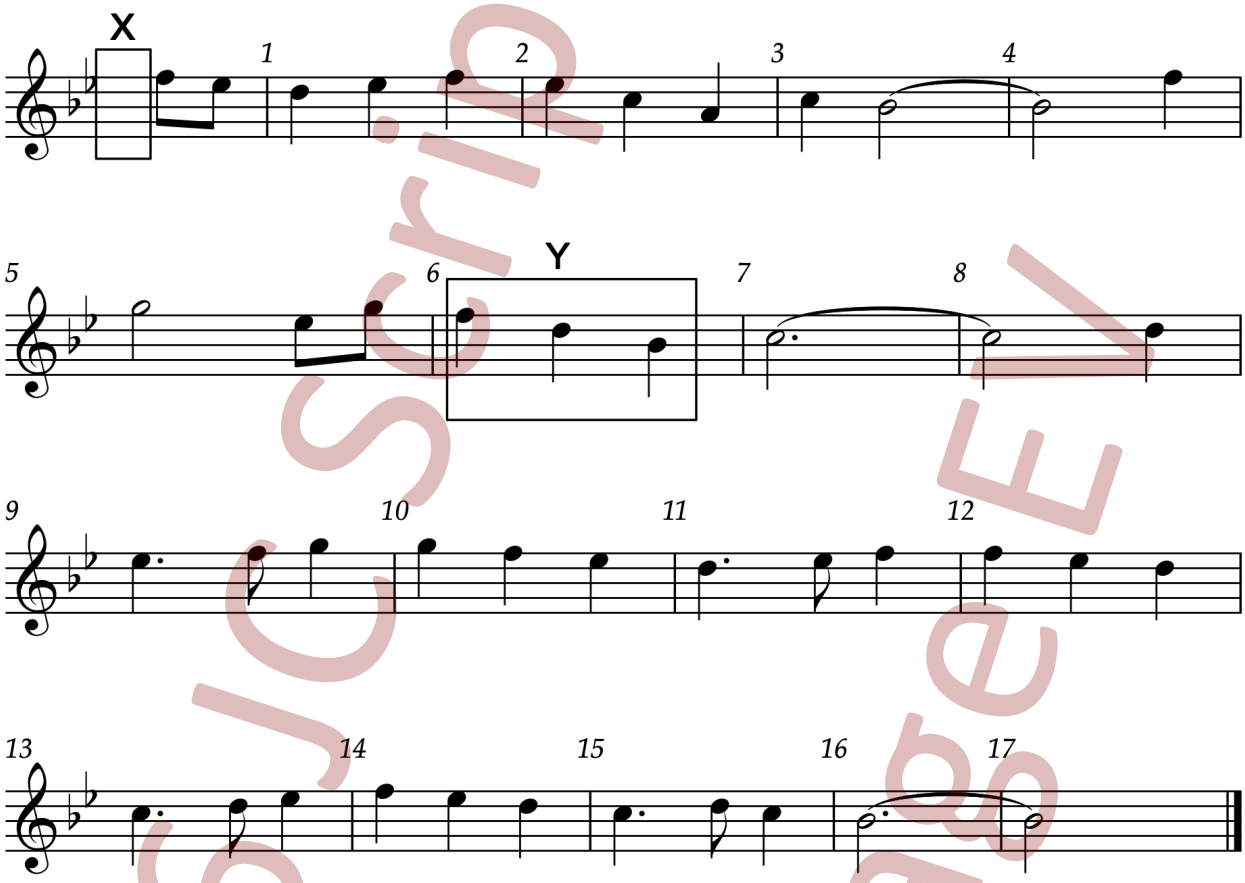
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Question 2

(a) Excerpt 1, played once only.

- Listen to the excerpt and follow the score below.
- Answer the questions below and on the next page.



(i) Insert the missing time signature on the score at **X.**

(ii) Name the three notes at **Y** on the score.

Note 1: _____	Note 2: _____	Note 3: _____

(iii) These three notes form the chord of

F major	D minor	B♭ major
☐	☐	☐

(iv) Select one of the following bars where this triad also fits the melody.

Bar 4	Bar 9	Bar 15
☐	☐	☐

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(v) The curved line in bars 3–4, 7–8 and 16–17 is called a

slur	tie	phrase mark
☐	☐	☐

(vi) Why are there only two beats in bar 17?

Answer:

Excerpt 2 and **Excerpt 3, played twice.**

(b) With reference to musical features, describe two differences between **Excerpt 2** and **Excerpt 3**.

Difference 1:

Difference 2:

Excerpt 4, played three times.

(c) Tick whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
(i) There are two beats in each bar.	☐	☐
(ii) The tonality is major.	☐	☐
(iii) The music changes key.	☐	☐
(iv) The texture is monophonic from start to finish.	☐	☐

This question continues on the next page

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- You have **three** minutes to answer the question.
- There is no music on the recording for **(d).**

(d) Excerpts 1–4 are examples of folk music.

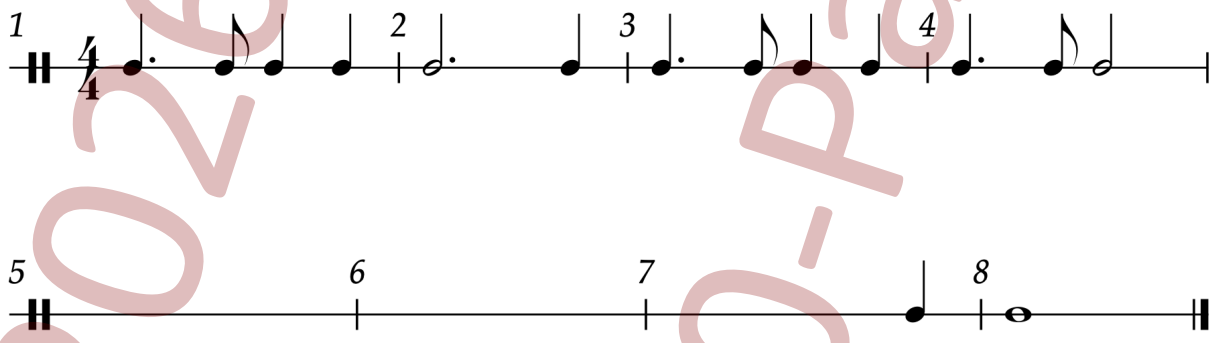
Write down two musical features often heard in folk music.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

Excerpt 5, played five times.

(e) Insert the rhythm for the **eight** missing notes in bars 5, 6 and 7 on the stave below.



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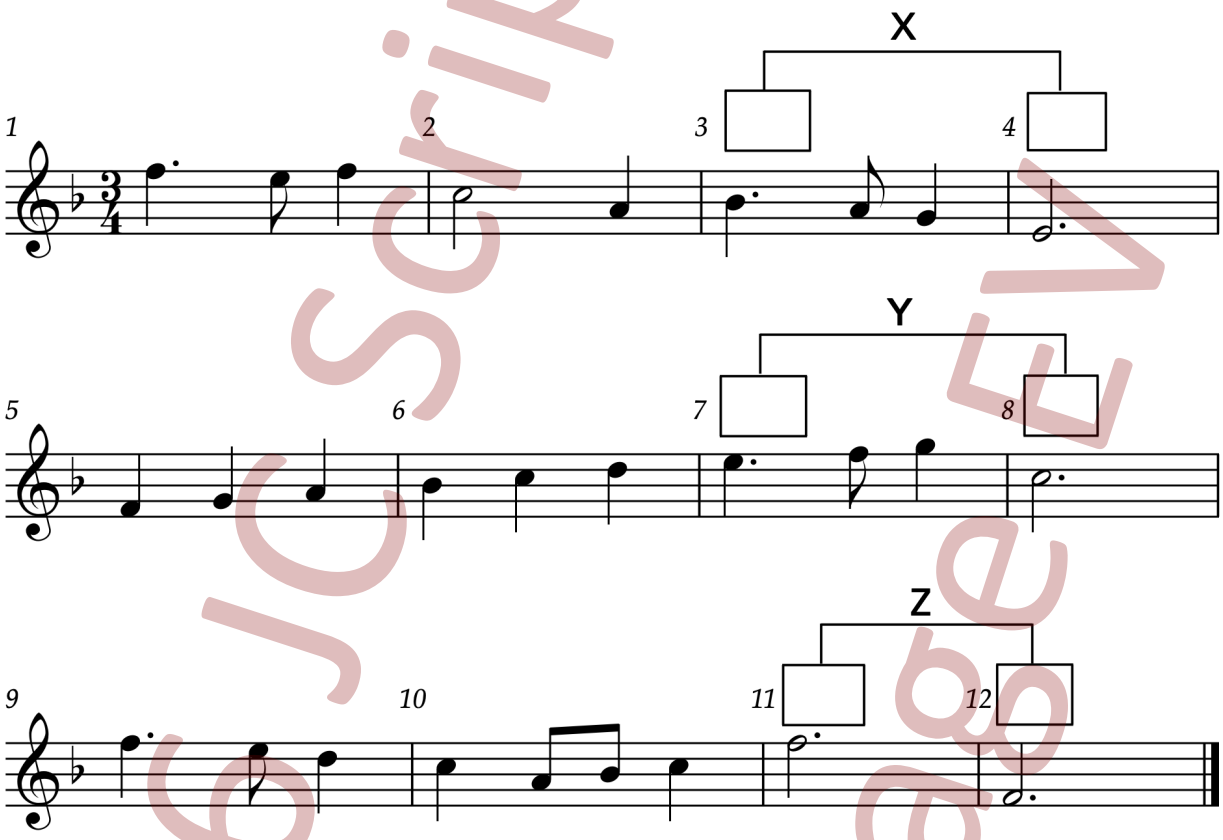
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Question 3

- You have **five** minutes to answer part **(a).**
- There is no music on the recording for this question.

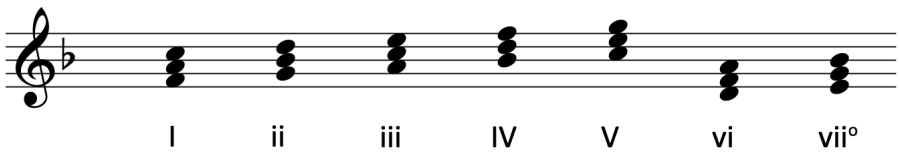
Composing Task

(a) Insert suitable chord symbols in the boxes provided below to create cadences at **X, Y** and **Z.**



Chord bank grid – key of F major

Notes of Chord	C A F	D B♭ G	E C A	F D B♭	G E C	A F D	B♭ G E
Chord Symbol	F	Gm	Am	B♭	C	Dm	E°
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°



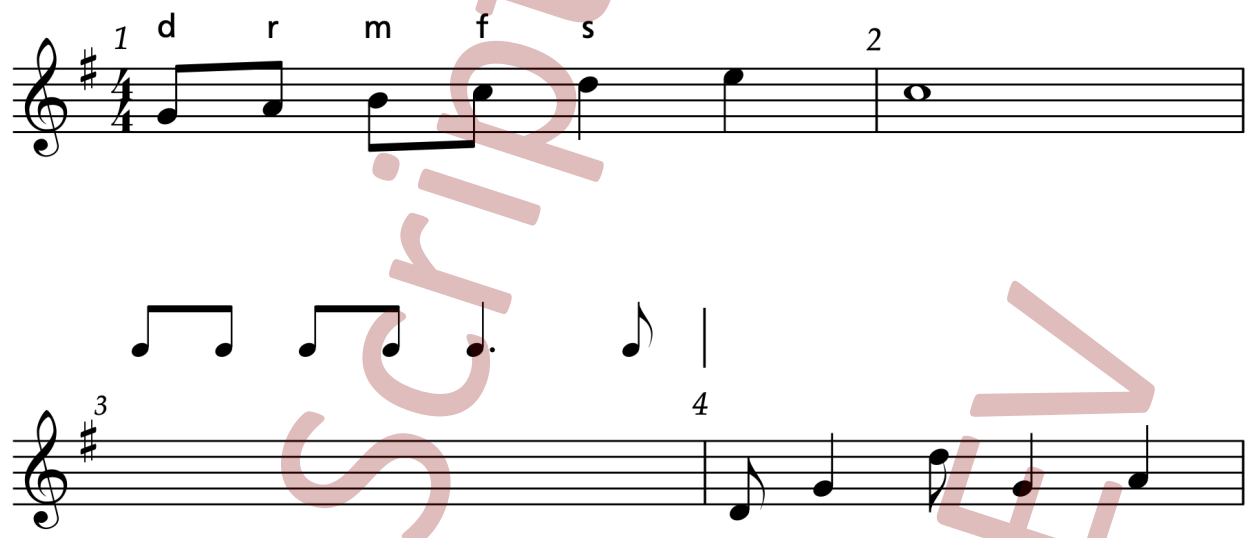
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(b) **Excerpt 1, played four times.**

Fill in the **six** missing notes on the stave in bar 3, using the given rhythm.
You may use staff notation or tonic solfa.

Tonic solfa:



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(c) **Excerpt 2, played twice.**

(i) The form of the music in this excerpt is

AABA ☐ AABB ☐ ABAB ☐

(ii) This form is known as

Answer:

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Excerpt 2 and Excerpt 3, played twice.

(d) With reference to musical features, describe two differences between **Excerpt 2** and **Excerpt 3.**

Difference 1:

Difference 2:

Excerpt 4, played twice.

(e) Describe the vocal style in this excerpt.

Answer:

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Question 4

Excerpt 1, played twice.

(a) **(i)** The start of this excerpt features the cellos and double basses playing

pizzicato ☐ *tremolo* ☐ *staccato* ☐

(ii) The violins play

a rising idea ☐ a falling idea ☐ syncopated rhythms ☐

Excerpt 2, played twice.

(b) **(i)** The solo instrument that plays the melody the first time we hear it is

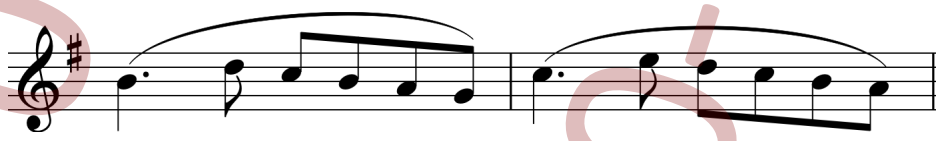
the guitar ☐ the piano ☐ the harp ☐

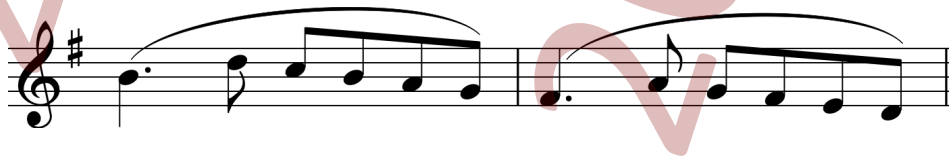
(ii) The instruments playing the melody the second time it is heard come from the

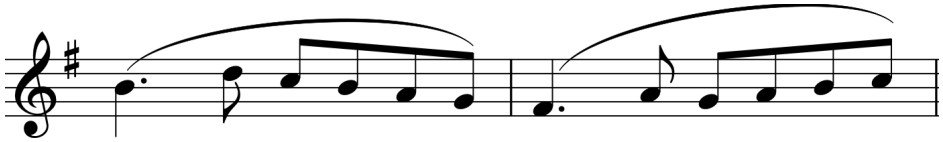
woodwind family ☐ brass family ☐ string family ☐

Excerpt 3, played three times.

(c) Select the melody which matches the sequence at the start of the recording.

☐ 

☐ 

☐ 

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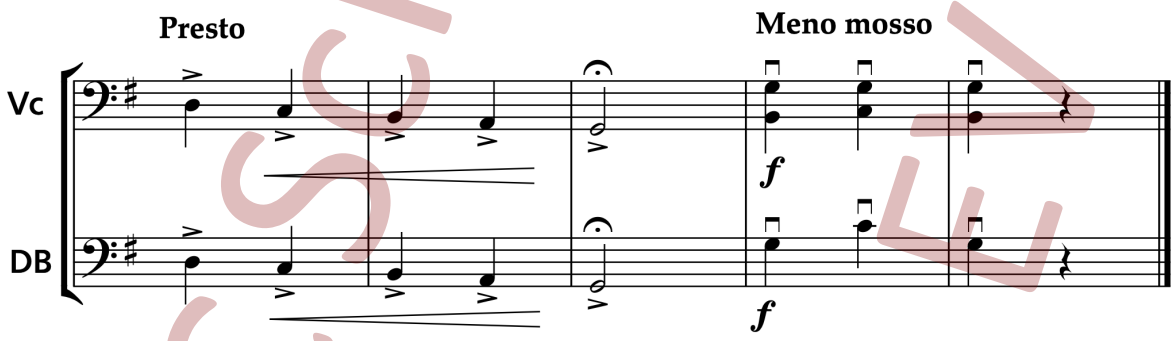
Excerpt 4, played twice.

(d) Describe an instrumental technique played on the harp in this excerpt.

Answer:

- You have **five** minutes to answer part **(e).**
- There is no music on the recording for this question.

(e) Here is the score for the final five bars of the piece for two of the string instruments.



(i) Which two instruments play these bars, according to this score?

Instrument 1:	Instrument 2:

(ii) In the first three bars, the instruments play

in unison	an 8ve apart	in harmony
☐	☐	☐

(iii) What symbol indicates that an accent should be placed on notes?

Answer:

(iv) Describe the dynamics and tempo of the five bars.

Dynamics:

Tempo:

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Question 5

(a) **Excerpt 1, played three times.**

(i) The excerpt has four beats in each bar. How many bars are there in the introduction?

6	12	18
☐	☐	☐

(ii) Which one of the following rhythms is repeated a number of times in the introduction?

☐ 

☐ 

☐ 

(b) **Excerpt 2, played three times.**

(i) **Verse 1** is sung by men. They sing…

in imitation	in unison	different melodies
☐	☐	☐

(ii) The accompaniment is played mainly by

brass and percussion	woodwind and percussion	strings and percussion
☐	☐	☐

Excerpt 3, played three times and Excerpt 2, played once more.

(c) This is **Verse 3**. Give two differences between **Verse 3** and **Verse 1.**

Difference 1:

Difference 2:

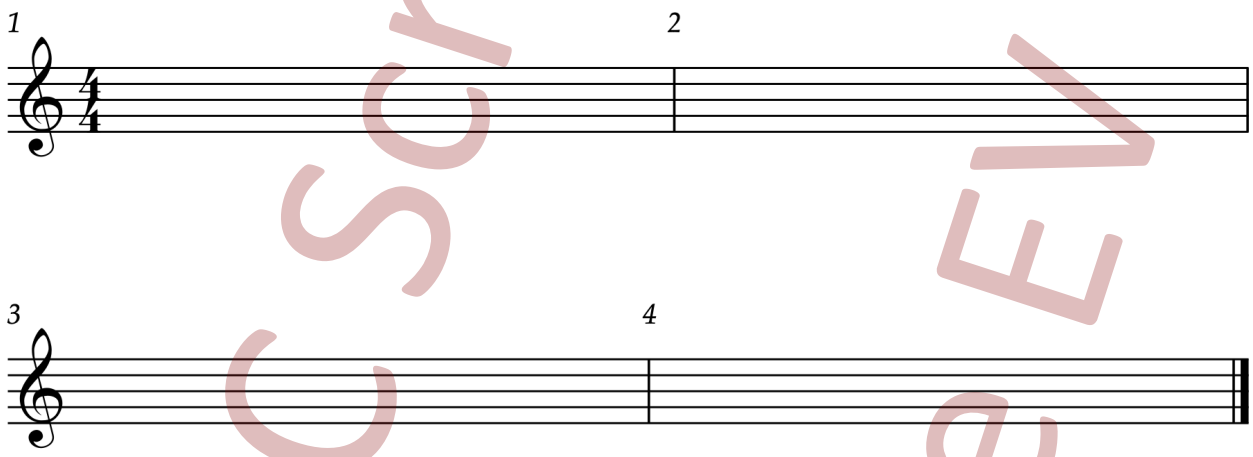
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- You have **eight** minutes to answer part **(d)**
- There is no music on the recording for this question.

Composing Task

(d) Compose a melody in the key of C major.

- Use a variety of note values (for example, crotchet, quaver, minim, dotted crotchet…).
- The range of your melody should be at least an octave.
- End on the keynote / doh.



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Question 6

Excerpt 1, played twice.

(a) This is the introduction to a song.

(i) What does the flute play at the very start?

dotted rhythm	*staccato*	trills
☐	☐	☐

(ii) What do the string instruments play?

arpeggios	sustained notes	triplets
☐	☐	☐

Excerpt 2, played three times.

(b) **(i)** What is the pulse of the music?

3	4
☐	☐

(ii) Name an instrument playing in the verse, apart from the strings and flute.

Answer:

(iii) The lyrics are printed below and one of the boxes has been ticked.

Tick three more boxes to show where flute motifs are played.

Line 1	I'm not in love, so don't forget it.	☐
Line 2	It's just a silly phase I'm going through.	☐
Line 3	And just because I call you up,	☐
Line 4	Don't get me wrong, don't think you've got it made.	☑
Line 5	I'm not in love, no, no.	☐
Line 6	It's because…	☐

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(c) Excerpt 3, played three times.

(i) This is another arrangement of the introduction and verse. Describe two musical features of the arrangement.

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

(ii) Reverberation is used in Excerpts 1–3. How does it affect the sound of the music?

Answer:

- You have **three** minutes to answer part **(d).**
- There is no music on the recording for this question.

(d) Choose one of the processing effects below. Give a brief description of it.
Tick one box only to show your choice.

☐ Distortion ☐ Compression ☐ Looping

Answer:

You have two minutes to complete the examination paper.

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