



ICSE 2025 EXAMINATION
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER
WESTERN MUSIC

Maximum Marks: 100

Time allowed: Two hours

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

*You will **not** be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.*

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

*Attempt **all** questions from **Section A** and **any four** questions from **Section B**.*

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets[].

Instruction for the Supervising Examiner

Kindly read aloud the Instructions given above to all the candidates present in the Examination Hall.

SECTION A

(Answer *all* questions from this *Section*.)

Question 1

Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options.

[20]

(Do not copy the question, write the correct answers only.)

(i) Both these instruments belong to the string family:

- (a) Violin and Viola
- (b) Violin and Harpsichord
- (c) Clavichord and Piano
- (d) Clavichord and Pipe Organ

[Recall &
Analysis]

(ii) The cello is the tenor voice of the orchestra.

- (a) False
- (b) True

[Recall]

(iii) This instrument is tuned in perfect fourths.

- (a) Double Bass
- (b) Violin
- (c) Viola
- (d) Pipe Organ

[Recall]

(iv) Choose the correct string family.

- (a) Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
- (b) Viola, Double Bass, Harpsichord, Violin.
- (c) Double Bass, Cello, Hawaiian Guitar, Harp.
- (d) Viola, Violin, Sitar, Koto.

[Recall]

- (v) Why is the Piano also called the Pianoforte?
- (a) The Piano is a relatively loud instrument and does not admit dynamic changes.
 - (b) Pianoforte – Instrument manufactured in forts.
 - (c) The Piano admits dynamic changes or different dynamic values.
 - (d) The Piano is the strongest keyboard instrument. **[Understanding]**
- (vi) This guitar shares the ability to play unlimited glissandos (sliding notes) and deep vibratos — characteristics in common with the human voice.
- (a) Hawaiian Guitar
 - (b) Classical Guitar
 - (c) Electric Guitar
 - (d) Ukulele **[Analysis]**
- (vii) The Bassoon is the largest woodwind instrument.
- (a) True
 - (b) False **[Recall]**
- (viii) The pipe organ may consist of more than one keyboard.
- (a) True
 - (b) False **[Recall]**
- (ix) The particular shape and material of the soundboard, the shape of the body and the fact that a guitar uses strings give the guitar its distinctive "sound."
- (a) False
 - (b) True **[Understanding]**

(x) Identify this musical instrument.



- (a) Vibraphone
- (b) Clavichord
- (c) Harp
- (d) Tubular Bells

[Recall]

(xi) The clavichord is a softer instrument compared to the harpsichord.

- (a) True
- (b) False

[Recall]

(xii) The Soprano voice of the brass section of the orchestra.

- (a) French horn
- (b) Trumpet
- (c) Trombone
- (d) Tuba

[Recall]

(xiii) Name the instrument that is the alto voice of the orchestral string section.

- (a) Violin
- (b) Cello
- (c) Viola
- (d) Double Bass

[Recall]

- (xiv) Identify the instrument that has a quill plectrum.
- (a) Piano
 - (b) Clavichord
 - (c) Harpsichord
 - (d) Violin
- [Recall]**
- (xv) What are the playing techniques associated with the guitar family of instruments?
- (a) Glissando, Chord tremolo, Staccato, Legato
 - (b) Picking, Fretting, Slides, Vibrato
 - (c) Single Notes, Legato, Chords, Trills
 - (d) Glissando, paradiddle, grace notes, secco.
- [Recall]**
- (xvi) String bending, a guitar technique, is the most lyrical and a great conveyor of emotion.
- (a) False
 - (b) True
- [Recall]**
- (xvii) Name the type of guitar which is typically played with the instrument in a horizontal position on the performer's lap or otherwise supported.
- (a) Classical Guitar
 - (b) Lap Steel Guitar
 - (c) Bass Guitar
 - (d) Spanish Guitar
- [Recall]**
- (xviii) I am a keyboard instrument operated by both the hands and feet of the player, where pressurised air produces sound as it escapes pipes. Who am I?
- (a) Accordion
 - (b) Pipe organ
 - (c) Harpsichord
 - (d) Jazz organ
- [Analysis]**

(xix) All wind instruments are Aero-phones:

(a) True

(b) False

[Recall]

(xx) All woodwind instruments use reeds:

(a) True

(b) False

[Recall]

SECTION B

(Answer any four questions from this Section.)

Question 2

What is a concerto? What is its general structure? Explain any one movement of a Concerto of your choice.

[20]

[Analysis]

Question 3

Summarize the life and works of any two of the following musicians:

[20]

(i) Miles Davis

(ii) Duke Ellington

(iii) Louis Armstrong

(iv) George Gershwin

[Application]

Question 4

Write short notes on any four of the following:

[20]

(i) New Orleans Jazz

(ii) Kansas City Jazz

(iii) The origin of the word Jazz

(iv) The Swing (or Big Band) Era

(v) The instruments used by Jazz musicians

(vi) Some of the greatest exponents of Jazz (from any era)

[Application]

Question 5

Comment briefly on any four of the following genres of music. Especially mention the most prominent exponent in each genre. [20]

- (i) Folk
- (ii) Gospel
- (iii) R & B
- (iv) Rock
- (v) Soul
- (vi) Reggae
- (vii) Country

[Analysis]

Question 6

Write an essay on the popular music artist/group with the most lasting influence on your musical appreciation. Give special emphasis to the following: [20]

- (i) Their early careers
- (ii) The genre of music characterized
- (iii) Their top hits in the charts
- (iv) Their most representative albums

[Application]

Question 7

Explain any four of the following sub-genres of EDM: [20]

- (i) Industrial
- (ii) Electro house
- (iii) Drum and Bass
- (iv) House music

[Analysis]

Question 8

Summarize the life and works of any two of the following composers: [20]

- (i) Ludwig van Beethoven
- (ii) Johannes Brahms
- (iii) George Frideric Handel
- (iv) Johann Sebastian Bach

[Application]

Question 9

What is a DAW? What is your DAW of choice? Briefly describe each feature, explaining how it enables musicians to record music. [20]

[Application]

Question 10

Define a Symphony. What is its general structure? Explain briefly any one movement of a symphony you know. [20]

[Analysis]

Question 11

Trace your development as a musician from your earliest music experience till the present. [20]

Describe each significant music experience along the way. [Recall]



ICSE 2025 – SPECIMEN PAPER
DRAFT MARKING SCHEME – WESTERN MUSIC

| Question 1 | | [20] |
|---|---|------|
| (i) | (a) Violin and Viola | |
| (ii) | (b) True | |
| (iii) | (a) Double Bass | |
| (iv) | (a) Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass | |
| (v) | (c) The Piano admits dynamic changes or different dynamic values. | |
| (vi) | (a) Hawaiian Guitar | |
| (vii) | (a) True | |
| (viii) | (a) True | |
| (ix) | (b) True | |
| (x) | (d) Tubular Bells | |
| (xi) | (a) True | |
| (xii) | (b) Trumpet | |
| (xiii) | (c) Viola | |
| (xiv) | (c) Harpsichord | |
| (xv) | (b) Picking, Fretting, Slides, Vibrato | |
| (xvi) | (b) True | |
| (xvii) | (b) Lap Steel Guitar | |
| (xviii) | (b) Pipe organ | |
| (xix) | (a) True | |
| (xx) | (b) False | |
| Question 2 | | [20] |
| Concerto: Definition: The classical concerto is a piece of music composed for an instrumental soloist and orchestra. It is written to feature the musical skills and expressiveness of a single musician, the soloist, while being accompanied by a large group of musicians that make up the orchestra. It was developed and became popular during the Classical period of musical history, which occurred from about 1750 to 1830. Example: Bach's violin concerto in E major. | | |

| | | |
|---|---|------|
| <p>Composers: C.P.E. Bach, Mozart, and Haydn</p> <p>Concerto Form:</p> <p>A classical concerto is typically a longer piece of music and is broken into three movements. A movement is a shorter piece that is put together with other movements in order to create a large, lengthy piece such as a concerto. The three movements of a concerto usually alternate in tempo, or speed, with the first and third movements using a faster tempo, and the second using a slower tempo. Let's take a closer look at each of the three movements.</p> <p>The first movement of the concerto is usually set at a moderate to fast tempo. It is also usually the longest movement and uses a variant of the sonata form. A regular sonata form is built in three sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exposition, where the main melodies are stated • The development, where musical ideas are developed • The recapitulation, where the exposition is restated in the tonic key <p>However, the first movement of a concerto uses what is called a double exposition. This means that the first section of the movement is played twice, first by the orchestra alone, and the second time by the soloist accompanied by the orchestra.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates are expected to write an analysis of around 500 words on any one movement of any Concerto. | | |
| Question 3 | | |
| Candidates are expected to write an essay of around 250 words each on any two of the mentioned Jazz composers. | | [20] |
| Question 4 | | [20] |
| (i) | <p>New Orleans Jazz: New Orleans was a pivotal crucible that defined much of early jazz musically, culturally and socially. Being a seaport, it had influences from the Caribbean and Latin American countries which were thrown into the jazz mix; ragtime, which was a formal music emphasising syncopation, was a final ingredient. Many early jazzmen innovated on ragtime.</p> | |
| (ii) | <p>Kansas City Jazz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blues-based powerfully swinging big-band style, retaining basic jazz values, its rhythm section completing the smoothing out of New Orleans 2/4 into 4/4. • The bands would be packed with great soloists and did not rely too much on arrangers. • Kansas City was a regional centre, a 'hot house' for jazz talent because musicians could work round the clock. 20-30 jazz clubs operated throughout the Depression era in the '30s. | |
| (iii) | <p>The origin of the word Jazz: The word was also spelt 'jass'; some think it came from the French word 'jaser' (to talk, perhaps indiscreetly). It was used in print as early as 1909 in reference to dancing, and in 1913 about US Army musicians 'trained on ragtime and "jazz" ', according to the Oxford English Dictionary Supplement.</p> <p>Clarence Williams claimed to be the first to use the word on sheet music around 1915, describing 'Brown Skin, Who You For?' as a 'Jazz Song':</p> <p>He said: 'I don't exactly remember where the word came from, but I heard a lady say it to me ' Oh, jazz me, baby,' when we were playin' some music.'</p> | |



| | | |
|--|---|------|
| (iv) | <p>The swing/Big band era:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The most innovative early jazz included soloists, most of whom were black, but arrangers and composers also became important, many of whom were in fact white.• In the jazz bands, the 'front line' played a collective improvisation, with everybody listening to everybody else, to make an improvised counterpoint.• From about 1935 to 1947, jazz-oriented dance bands became important. This was called the Big Band Era.• The Big Band Era began with the huge success of white bandleader Benny Goodman playing arrangements of earlier black bandleaders such as Fletcher Henderson and others. | |
| (v) | Instruments used by Jazz musicians: A very wide range of brass and woodwind, piano, bass, violin, banjo, drums, vocals. | |
| (vi) | <p>Any 5 of the greatest exponents of Jazz (From any era):</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ King Oliver▪ Louis Armstrong▪ 'Jelly Roll' Morton▪ Duke Ellington▪ Fletcher Henderson▪ Art Tatum▪ George Gershwin▪ Miles Davis▪ Charlie Parker▪ Ornette Coleman▪ Count Basie\▪ John Coltrane▪ Charles Mingus▪ Thelonius Monk▪ Billy Holiday..... Etc | |
| Question 5 | | [20] |
| Candidates are expected to comment briefly on any four of the mentioned Genres of music and name the most prominent exponent of each genre. | | |
| Question 6 | | [20] |
| Candidates are expected to write an essay of around 500 words on the life of their favourite artist or band, considering the following. a. Their early careers b. The genre of music characterized | | |



| | |
|--|------|
| c. Their top hits in the charts d. Their most representative albums | |
| Question 7 | [20] |
| Candidates are expected to describe briefly any four of the mentioned Sub-genres of EDM. | |
| Question 8 | [20] |
| Candidates are expected to write an essay of around 500 words each On any two of the mentioned Jazz composers. | |
| Question 9 | [20] |
| <p>DAW stands for Digital Audio Workstation. It's a piece of software that allows you to record multiple tracks, edit them, and mix them together, resulting in a single audio file (i.e. a song).</p> <p>There are also audio editors, but those are slightly different than digital audio workstations and often can't do as much. The unique thing about a DAW is it allows for multiple track recording and audio editing, while an audio editor is mainly just for (you guessed it) editing audio.</p> <p>You can get a DAW whether you have a Windows, Mac, or Linux computer (although some of them work only with certain operating systems).</p> <p>What can you do with a DAW?</p> <p>In general, there are four main functions of a DAW that at one time were held in separate programs. Nowadays, these four things are packaged into most DAWs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital audio processor (record, edit, and mix audio digitally)• MIDI sequencer (record, edit and mix MIDI notes)• Virtual instruments (receives MIDI info and translates it to different instrument sounds)• Music notation (turn MIDI notes into printable sheet music) <p>But what do these functions look like in real life?</p> <p>Here are the things you can do with a DAW . . .</p> <p>(Candidates will have to explain the following points)</p> <p>Recording a Live Instrument or Voice</p> <p>Recording Virtual Instruments</p> <p>Audio Looping</p> <p>Audio Editing.</p> <p>Audio Mixing</p> <p>Audio Effects</p> | |

Question 10

[20]

SYMPHONY:

Definition: An elaborate musical composition for a full orchestra, typically in four movements, at least one of which is traditionally in sonata form.

Example: Beethoven's Fifth Symphony

Famous Composers: Ludwig van Beethoven Johannes Brahms, Franz Joseph Haydn, Gustav Mahler, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Symphony Form:

| Movement 1 | Movement 2 | Movement 3 | Movement 4 |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Usually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allegro in sonata form - sometimes preceded by a slow introduction - in the tonic/home key of the work | <p>Usually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - either Adagio or Andante - in a key other than the tonic (e.g. a relative key) - built using structures such as three-part forms (e.g. ABA), theme and variations, or modified sonata form (minus the Development section) | <p>Usually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allegretto - minuet and trio - minuet was a stately dance, the trio often more gentle in character - moderate tempo - in the tonic key - in triple time - overall ABA form (with each section often in binary form) <p>(N.B. Beethoven replaced the minuet with a scherzo, which was faster)</p> | <p>Usually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allegro Molto (or Presto, or Vivace) - in the tonic key - in rondo or sonata form (or a combination!) - faster and lighter than the opening movement - often featuring themes of a folk-like character (especially in Haydn's works) |

*Candidates are expected to write an analysis of around 250 words on any one movement of any symphony.

Question 11

[20]

Candidates are required to write an essay of approximately 500 words, tracing their musical journey, describing significant experiences along the way.