



Ofqual

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Guidance

Grade descriptors for GCSEs graded 9 to 1: music

Updated 15 July 2016

Contents

1. Grade 8
2. Grade 5
3. Grade 2

1.

Grade 8

1.1 To achieve Grade 8 candidates will be able to:

[↑Contents](#)

- perform challenging music with a high degree of fluency and sensitivity
- compose using a wide range of musical elements with sophistication, creating effective musical ideas and sustaining interest through their development
- demonstrate, through aural identification, accurate knowledge of a wide range of musical elements, contexts and language
- evaluate music to make convincing judgements using musical terminology accurately and effectively

2.

Grade 5

2.1 To achieve Grade 5 candidates will be able to:

- perform music with some technical challenges broadly fluently with some sensitivity
- compose using a range of musical elements with coherence, creating musical ideas and developing interest with some success
- demonstrate, through aural identification, mostly accurate knowledge of a range of musical elements, contexts and language
- evaluate music to make clear judgements using musical terminology appropriately

3.

Grade 2

3.1 To achieve Grade 2 candidates will be able to:

- perform simple pieces with limited fluency and sensitivity
- compose using a range of musical elements, creating musical ideas with some appeal and limited development
- demonstrate, through aural identification, some knowledge of musical elements, contexts and language
- evaluate music to produce simple reflections with inconsistent use of musical terminology

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[Business and self-employed](#)

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[Citizenship and living in the UK](#)

[Crime, justice and the law](#)

[Disabled people](#)

[Driving and transport](#)

[Education and learning](#)

[Employing people](#)

[Environment and countryside](#)

[Housing and local services](#)

[Money and tax](#)

[Passports, travel and living abroad](#)

[Visas and immigration](#)

[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

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[How government works](#)

[Departments](#)

[Worldwide](#)

[Policies](#)

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