



[Home](#) > [Grade descriptors for GCSEs graded 9 to 1](#)



Updated 6 September 2017

Contents

1. [Grade 8](#)
2. [Grade 5](#)
3. [Grade 2](#)

1. Grade 8

1.1 To achieve grade 8 candidates will be able to:

- 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

[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)

Services and information

[Benefits](#)

[Births, deaths, marriages and care](#)

[Business and self-employed](#)

[Childcare and parenting](#)

[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](#)

Departments and policy

[How government works](#)

[Departments](#)

[Worldwide](#)

[Policies](#)

[Publications](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Help](#) [Cookies](#) [Contact](#) [Terms and conditions](#) [Rhestr o Wasanaethau Cymraeg](#)

Built by the [Government Digital Service](#)

OGI

All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated



© Crown copyright