

VCE VET Music Industry Certificate III in Music Industry (Technical Production) Written examination – November

Assessment criteria for 2004 examinations

All questions in the examination will be related directly to the underpinning knowledge and skills detailed in the units of competence in the Unit 3–4 sequence from the Certificate III in Music Industry (Technical Production) [CUS30201].

Any stimulus material used within the examination will be related to one or more of the units of competency.

The examination in any one year will assess a representative sample of the underpinning knowledge and skills detailed in the units of competence.

Conditions

The examination will be completed under the following conditions:

- There will be 15 minutes reading time
- The duration of the examination will be 90 minutes
- The end-of-year examination will be conducted on a date to be published annually by the VCAA
- Students will be permitted to bring only the following stationery items into the examination room for use during the examination: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers
- Dictionaries, correction (white-out) liquid/tape and blank sheets of paper are not allowed in the examination room in this subject
- Students will not be required to use information and communications technology in the examination.

Contribution to study score

The end-of-year examination will contribute 34% to the scored assessment study score.

Examination structure

All questions will be compulsory for all students.

The examination paper will consist of two sections.

- Section A will require students to listen to a CD of excerpts of recordings and respond to questions based on those recordings.
- Section B will require short and/or extended responses.

The examination paper will be in the form of a question and answer book. Students will provide their answers to the examination questions in the spaces provided in the question and answer book. Each question on the examination paper will be followed by lined spaces that will provide a guide to the amount of written response anticipated. Further guidance is provided by the number of marks allocated to each question, which will be clearly stated below each question.

Mark apportionment

The examination paper will be constructed on the basis of students being able to score about a mark a minute. This means that the examination paper will have a total number of marks available in the range of 75 to 100.

The mark allocation on the examination paper will match the following:

CUSSOU12A Edit sound using digital systems	approx 30% – 40%
CUSSOU11A Operate sound mixing console	approx 20% – 30%
CUSSOU08A Operate sound reinforcement system	approx 15% – 25%
CUSSOU09A Mix sound sources	approx 15% – 25%

Sample questions and advice

The following sample material provides an indication of the type and range of questions teachers and students can expect on the Certificate III in Music (Technical Production) examination in November 2004. It is not intended to form the basis of a sample examination paper.

Teachers should refer to the Examination section of the *VCE Administrative Handbook 2004*, *VCE VET Music Industry Assessment Guide* and to the *VCAA Bulletin* for further advice during the year.

The sample materials require responses of varying lengths. The marks in this material are provided as an indication of the length and detail of the response that would be expected. The marks allocated to individual questions on the examination paper may vary from year to year.

The topic headings which follow are used to identify general skill areas across the four examinable units of competence.

Topic: Production requirements

Outline the production requirements appropriate to each of the following productions.

- Talkback programs
- Commercials

4 + 4 = 8 marks

Topic: Operating a sound mixing console

Describe what is happening to the signal at each of the numbered items in Figure #.

(A PA diagram will be provided with hardware items numbered.)

10 marks

Describe two applications where you would use the components from each of three processing domains.

6 marks

Topic: Microphones

Describe the advantages and disadvantages of using a dynamic microphone.

- Advantages
- Disadvantages

4 + 4 = 8 marks

Topic: Recognising sound mixes

This type of question would generally occur in Section A of the examination paper. A CD containing excerpts of recordings would be played. (One excerpt will have unaffected sound, the other excerpt will have a signal processor applied – for example dry vocal, then vocal with effect, dry vocal then vocal with heavy compression.)

- a. Identify the recording process used from the options provided.
- b. Describe the way in which the parameters have been set.
- c. Explain why the sound might have been made in this way.

6 + 6 + 8 = 20 marks

Topic: Sound theory and application

Figure # is a representation of a digital sound wave. Label the different components.

(Students would be required to label one or more of the axis, sampling rate, bit depth and so on.)

6 marks

What are the standard industry bit depths and sampling rates for CD?

4 marks

Topic: Midi recording

Define the term 'quantising'. Why would you quantise a track? How would it help and how would it detract from the recording?

6 marks

What is the difference between a midi file and an audio file?

4 marks

Topic: Identifying recording errors

This type of question would generally occur in Section A of the examination paper. A CD containing excerpts of recordings would be played. (The excerpt will incorporate errors that have been made at the recording stage.)

- a. Identify the errors contained in this (these) recording.
- b. For each of the errors identified, describe how they could be rectified.

4 + 8 = 12 marks

Topic: Editing

List and describe five processes of editing.

10 marks

Describe how the editing section of a software program can be used to edit music that you have already recorded.

10 marks

Topic: Live music

You have been asked to design the sound for the following act in its described environment. You will need to create an equipment list and prepare room and stage layouts.

Act: a four-piece band with vocals in the environment of a school hall with loud air conditioning, long reverberation time and all hard surfaces.

15 marks

Topic: Occupational Health and Safety

Describe four key OH&S issues relevant to working in a music technology career.

8 marks

Explain the correct manual handling procedures applicable to the carrying of large equipment such as an amp rack up two flights of stairs.

6 marks

Topic: Scenario based problem solving

You arrive at the venue and are preparing to complete a sound check after the crew has set up all equipment for you. As you turn on the PA system, you are greeted with the loudest 'buzz' that you have ever heard. Where might you start your search for the problem and how might you rectify it?

15 marks