

VCE VET Music Industry: Sound Production

Written examination – End of year

Sample questions

SECTION A

Question 1 (2 marks)

The following piano excerpt is in two parts. The excerpt will be played twice. The first part of the excerpt was recorded with two microphones. The second part of the excerpt was recorded with the same two microphones, but the position of one of the microphones was changed.

- a. Identify the term that is typically used to describe the audible result in the second part of the excerpt. 1 mark

- b. Describe what is occurring in the second part of the excerpt to produce the result identified in part a. 1 mark

Question 2 (3 marks)

The following acoustic guitar excerpt is in three parts. The excerpt will be played twice. The first part of the excerpt is unprocessed (dry), and the second and third parts of the excerpt have had an effect inserted on its channel.

- a. What effect has been applied to the second and third parts of the excerpt? 1 mark

- b. What parameter has been changed in the second part of the excerpt? 1 mark

- c. Describe an alternative method of achieving the same kind of change in sound in the second part of the excerpt within a digital audio workstation (DAW). 1 mark

Question 3 (2 marks)

The following electric guitar excerpt is in two parts. The excerpt will be played twice. The first part of the excerpt has had no effect added. The second part of the excerpt has had a processor inserted on its channel.

- a. What type of processor has been used in the second part of the excerpt? 1 mark

- b. Describe an alternative method of achieving the same kind of change in sound in the second part of the excerpt within a DAW. 1 mark

SECTION B

Question 1 (3 marks)

Suggest **three** desirable outcomes from conducting a production meeting prior to carrying out a mix from a recording.

Question 2 (4 marks)

You have been provided with a multi-track recording that was tracked live in a large acoustic space. No overdubs were carried out.

Identify two potential challenges in producing a mix of this recording and suggest how each challenge could be dealt with.

1.

2.

Question 3 (3 marks)

You have been provided with a multi-track recording that contains a number of alternate takes or playlists for a vocal part. You have been asked to select the best sections from each take to form a single vocal part and to mix the song.

- a. Complete the table below by numbering the tasks from 1 to 4 in the order in which they should be undertaken to carry out the mix.

1 mark

Order	Task
	Add reverb effects to each track where appropriate.
	Apply fades and edits to starts and ends of each track where appropriate.
	Review the recorded material and take notes.
	Comp the vocal.

- b. Justify your response to **part a**.

2 marks

Question 4 (2 marks)

A bass guitar track has an EQ plug-in followed by a compressor plug-in. The EQ plug-in has 10 dB of boost at 120 Hz applied.

What **two** possible audible effects will changes to the EQ plug-in have on the sound of the bass guitar?

Question 5 (4 marks)

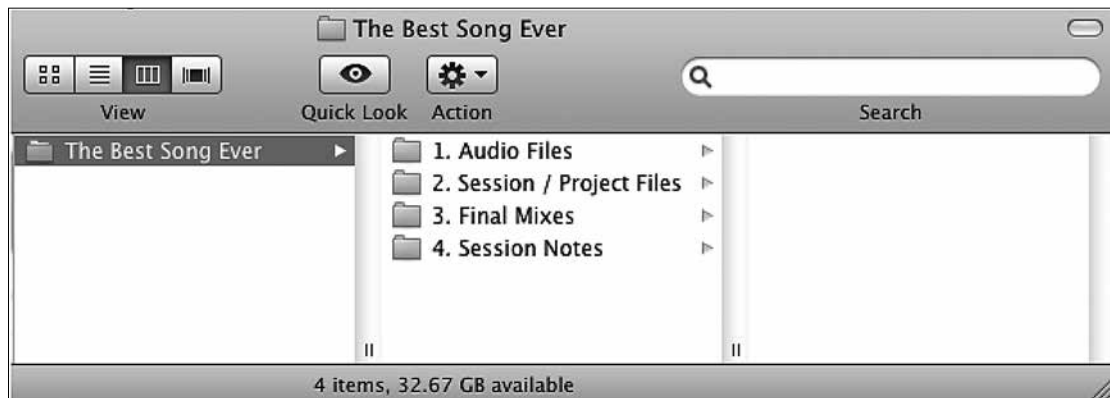
Propose a technique and the processor(s) required to achieve the following requests from artists in a mixing session where re-recording is not an option.

- ‘Brighten up the guitar, make it clearer, it sounds too muddy.’

- ‘Make the drums sound bigger and louder.’

Question 6 (4 marks)

You have completed a final mix for ‘The Best Song Ever’, and you are ready to save and archive the mix for later use. The folder/file hierarchy to be used for archiving is shown below.



Complete the table below by naming the file type(s) required for files saved in folder 3 and describing the contents of folders 1, 2 and 4.

Main folder name	Folder name	File type(s)	Description
The Best Song Ever	1. Audio Files	WAV/AIFF	
	2. Session / Project Files	for example, .ptx, .ptf, .logic	
	3. Final Mixes		compressed and CD-quality uncompressed formats of final mix
	4. Session Notes	for example, .doc, .eml, .pdf	

Question 7 (1 mark)

What common mixing technique allows for the adjustment of a track’s level during playback with any adjustments recorded for all subsequent playbacks?

Question 8 (1 mark)

What is considered a safe sound pressure level (SPL) for monitoring an eight-hour maximum mixing session?

Question 9 (2 marks)

Place an 'X' in the boxes next to the **five** tasks that can typically be considered as part of the mixing process.

Part of mixing process	Task
	Set up a microphone.
	Pan a track.
	Apply automation.
	Tune a guitar.
	Create an FX send and return.
	Set input gain.
	Set the parameters on a compressor.
	Label recorded tracks.
	Route signals to recorder inputs.