VCE Music Investigation: Alternative instrument application guidelines

In some circumstances, for example a student plays a culturally specific instrument; application may be made to use that instrument to complete the Music Investigation study design and examination requirements as a soloist. In these situations students must indicate the instrument they wish to use and nominate one work that will underpin the selected Investigation Topic and be performed in the end-of-year performance examination.

The end-of-year performance recital examination for VCE Music Investigation requires students to perform at least four works. All works in the end-of-year performance examination program must relate to the Investigation Topic selected by the student for Unit 3 Outcome 1.

In these situations the following information should be used by schools and teachers to ensure that the application form for approval of alternative instruments is completed accurately. Schools and teachers should consider this information with the VCE Music study design, the current prescribed lists, which are published at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/music-investigation/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/music-investigation/Pages/index.aspx), and assessment information including criteria for the award of grades in the end-of-year Music Investigation performance examination provided on the VCAA website.

In addition to approval to use an alternative instrument, approval of the prescribed work that will underpin the student’s investigation is also required. This work must be performed in the end-of-year performance examination. Unpublished works including works composed by students may be submitted for approval. Complete notation (TAB is not acceptable) and a recording of the work, for example an audio CD or a MIDI file copied to CD, should be provided with the application.

Applications will only be processed for students who are enrolled in MC05 Units 3–4 with the focus (instrument) code AA.

Criteria

These criteria are drawn from the VCAA *Principles, guidelines and procedures for prescribed VCE Text lists*.

Approved alternative instruments will:

* enable the requirements of the study design and end-of-year Music Investigation performance examination to be met
* allow the student to have the opportunity to demonstrate the highest level of performance in relation to the criteria for the award of grades
* provide excellence, that is:
* the instrument has (for pitched instruments) an appropriate range and (for all instruments) allows use of an extensive range of performance techniques
* the works in the proposed performance program will be an excellent example of the style and/or genre, meet community standards, and, as appropriate, be:
* representative and characteristic of the styles relevant to the selected Focus Area
* representative and characteristic of other works relevant to the selected Focus Area
* of an appropriate level and standard, that is the works will be:
  + of appropriate technical standard with regard to the examination criteria
  + appropriate for the age and development of students and in that context reflect current standards and expectations.

Guidelines for approval of a solo alternative instrument for music investigation

Reviewers use the following statements to recommend approval or non-approval.

Approved

The following statements may be used to describe reasons why an instrument has been approved for solo performance in the end-of-year Music Investigation performance examination.

The instrument:

* will allow the student to meet the requirements of the study design and to have the opportunity to demonstrate the highest level of performance in relation to the criteria for the award of grades
* is able to perform a program of works of an appropriate standard and expected diversity within a Focus Area selected by the student.

The work proposed to underpin the Investigation:

* will allow the student to have the opportunity to demonstrate the highest level of performance in relation to the criteria for the award of grades
* is a representative and characteristic work relevant to the selected Investigation Topic
* is of a suitable standard, allows the student to demonstrate a diverse range of techniques
* is appropriate to the Investigation Topic and
* is musically interesting.

Not approved

The following statements may be used to describe reasons why an instrument has **NOT** been approved for performance in the Music Investigation end-of-year performance examination.

The instrument will **not** allow the student to:

* meet the requirements of the study design
* have the opportunity to demonstrate the highest level of performance in relation to the criteria for the award of grades.

The application:

* did **not** provide sufficient reasons or information as to how the instrument and/or
* no notated music is provided to allow for assessment.

Only incomplete notation is provided, for example only TAB or chord charts.

The instrument and/or specific repertoire does not display a sufficient range of techniques.

Instrument approved, prescribed work not approved

The following statements may be used to describe reasons why a work has **not** been approved to underpin the Investigation or for performance in the end-of-year Music Investigation performance examination:

* insufficient reason given in application
* no notation, chart or recording is provided to allow for assessment
* only TAB was provided
* the score or chart provided did not align with the arrangement cited in a recording and the range of techniques and conventions intended for inclusion in the performance was unclear
* the work:
* is not representative and characteristic of a music style relevant to the Investigation Topic
* is not approved because it does not allow the student to meet the criteria for the award of grades
* is too long for inclusion in a suitably balanced performance program presented within the time allowed for the examination
* lacks musical interest and does not include a sufficient range of techniques
* does not encompass a wide enough range in relation to the overall range of the instrument.

Other information

Where the instrument and work are approved, further information may also be included in the approval letter, for example:

* The movements of … [title of work] … that must be performed in the end-of-year examination are... or ... (for example, movement 1 or 3)
* No accompanied works are required for this instrument.
* No more than three (3) pre-recorded accompaniments may be used.