

VCE Music Composition 2023–2027

Aural and written examination – End of year

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). [VCAA examination rules](#) will apply.

There will be 15 minutes of reading time and 1 hour of writing time.

The examination will be assessed by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 20 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE Music Study Design 2023–2027* ('Units 3 and 4: Music Composition') is the document for the development of the examination. Outcome 3 in 'Units 3 and 4: Music Composition' will be examined.

All of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin Outcome 3 in 'Units 3 and 4: Music Composition', and the definitions of the compositional devices and music elements found on pages 15–19 of the 'Cross-study specifications' in the study design, are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book. An audio recording will play for the duration of writing time.

The examination will consist of short-answer and extended-answer questions, which may include multiple parts, based on three to five previously unheard excerpts of music. Excerpts may vary in length and represent a wide range of styles and traditions using diverse instrumental and/or vocal combinations, including digital instruments and other music technology. Questions will be derived from Area of Study 3 in Units 3 and 4, and will require students to respond to the music they hear. Students will be expected to refer to specific elements of music and/or compositional devices, including repetition, transition, variation and contrast, and formulate critical responses.

All questions will be compulsory. The total marks for the examination will be 75.

Answers are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the question and answer book.

Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

Relevant references

The following resources should be referred to in relation to the VCE Music Composition examination:

- *VCE Music Study Design 2023–2027*
- Music Composition – Support materials
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

During the 2023–2027 accreditation period for VCE Music Composition, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications, and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills from Outcome 3 in 'Units 3 and 4: Music Composition' and the definitions of compositional devices and music elements found on pages 15–19 of the 'Cross-study specifications' in the study design. Possible methods of documentation when responding are included on page 14 of the 'Cross-study specifications'.

Students should use [command/task words](#), other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published on the VCE Music Composition ['Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports'](#) page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.