



# Cambridge Pre-U

## MUSIC

9800/03

Paper 3 Section C: Commissioned Composition

May/June 2021

PRE-RELEASE MATERIAL



To be given to candidates on receipt by the centre.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Write your centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
- Choose one of the following Commissions and compose a piece in accordance with the instructions given for each Commission. Your piece may be in any style you choose. You should judge the duration of your piece as an essential part of the composing process, bearing in mind either the length of the given texts (in Commissions 1 or 2) or the nature of the materials or the structure (in Commissions 3 or 4). However, you are advised not to make your piece unduly long: you should aim at a maximum duration of approximately four to six minutes.
- Your finished composition must be submitted in the form of a recording on CD-R in audio format (playable on a normal domestic CD player), together with:
  - Either**
    - (a) a score in conventional staff notation, if that is appropriate to the style of your music
  - Or**
    - (b) an explanatory document (graphic or diagrammatic score and commentary), if your music is in a style that cannot be conventionally notated.
- Whenever possible, the recording of your composition should be made using real instruments and performers. However, if that is not possible, a sequenced performance will be accepted.
- Your teacher must complete a form to authenticate the composition as your own work. The completed composition must be submitted to Cambridge International together with your coursework for Section B and answer script for the Section A examination.

This syllabus is regulated for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

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**Section C: Commissioned Composition (30 marks)**

Choose **one** of the following commissions. You should state clearly on the front of your work which commission you have chosen.

- 1** Compose a setting of the following poem for solo voice with accompaniment for piano, guitar or an ensemble of not more than four instruments:

Who comes so damp by grass and grave  
At ghastly twilight hour,  
And bubbles forth his pois'nous breath  
On ev'ry shudd'ring flow'r?

Who dogs the houseless wanderer  
Upon the wintry wold;  
And kisses – with his frothy lips –  
The clammy brow and cold?

Who, hideous, trails a slimy form  
Betwixt the moonlight pale,  
And the pale, fearful, sleeping face?  
Our little friend – the Snail.

*Ah, Who?* by H. Cholmondeley-Pennell (1837–1915)

- 2** Compose a song for solo singer with accompaniment for piano, guitar or pop, rock or jazz group, to the following lyrics:

If anyone asks you how I am  
Just say I'm doing fine  
If you will do that for me  
I'll do the same for you sometime

And if anyone asks you where I've gone  
Just say I'm down the line  
I don't want my friends to see me like this  
Maybe some other time

Too much rain fallin'  
Too much rain fallin'  
There's just been too much rain fallin' down on me

But if anyone asks you where I've gone  
Oh, don't say where I am  
Just say you saw me and I'm doin' fine  
'Cause I'm doin' the best I can

Too much rain fallin'  
Too much rain fallin'  
There's just been too much rain fallin' down on me

*Too Much Rain* by King and Stern (adapted)

- 3 Compose a *Fantasia* on a theme of your own invention for any instrumental ensemble of your choice. The composition should include a simple statement near the beginning; subsequently the music should explore varying levels of complexity.
- 4 Compose a piece based on either or both of the following cells:

(a) Pitches:



(b) Rhythm:



Your piece may be composed for:

- any solo instrument or ensemble of your choice
- any combination of synthesised sounds
- any combination of synthesised sounds with sounds produced from acoustic instruments.

You may use the given cells in any way you wish, and you may add further ideas of your own to those specified. At least one of the given cells **must** be used in the primary materials of your piece.

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