

Topics in Music History

Sample Examination

Maximum
Marks

Confirmation Number

Total Marks

25 1. Briefly describe the historical significance of *five* of the following individuals and the influence of the work associated with each.

Philippe de Vitry: *Ars Nova*

Johanne Fux: *Gradus ad Parnassum*

Hector Berlioz: *Treatise on Modern Instrumentation and Orchestration*

Olivier Messiaen: *Technique de mon langage musical*

Pauline Oliveros: *Deep Listening: A Composer's Sound Practice*

Daniel Levitan: *This Is Your Brain on Music*

Example:

Individual and work: Philippe de Vitry: Ars Nova

i. Individual and work:

Topics in Music History

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ii. Individual and work: _____

iii. Individual and work: _____

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iv. Individual and work: _____

v. Individual and work: _____

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25 2. Write a detailed essay on *one* of the following topics. Answer this question on the enclosed Official Answer Sheets.

Discuss the emergence of tonality and its impact on tuning systems and performance practice in the decades framing the year 1600. Refer to specific works and composers.

Discuss sonata forms of the Classical era, with focus on the variety of approaches, anomalies, and innovative contributions of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Refer to *two or more* works by each composer, explaining the significance of each example provided.

50 3. Write detailed essays on *two* of the following topics. Answer this question on the enclosed Official Answer Sheets.

Discuss how Asian musical cultures, philosophies and religions have influenced the development of Western art music from the time of the Paris World Exposition of 1889 to the present, citing and explaining illustrative examples of specific compositions and composers.

Describe in detail *four* significant stylistic currents that emerged in the early twentieth century instrumental music in the wake of post tonality, referring to specific composers and representative compositions.

Discuss how 20th- and 21st-century opera and musical theater have been shaped by historical/political events and social justice initiatives, with reference to specific works by at least *four* of the following composers:

John Adams

Philip Glass

James Rolfe

Dean Burry

Lyn-Manuel Miranda

Kaija Saariaho

Ian Cusson

Meredith Monk

Anna Sokolovic

John Estacio

Juliet Palmer

Judith Weir

Official Answer Sheet

Sample Examination

Essay responses MUST be written on both sides of the Official Answer Sheet.



The Royal Conservatory®
The finest instrument is the mind.

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