

Aural Exam Question #4

This activity reflects a typical Music 1 HSC examination question in NSW. In the exam, you answer four separate 15 minute questions, adding up to a one hour exam. The first question is worth 6 marks, while all the others are worth 8 marks. **The question below is worth 8 marks and takes 15 minutes to complete.** Your teacher will play a recording for you, or you can find it online using the hyperlink below (click on the the title of the piece). As with all HSC preparation, it is a good idea to **print the PDF file and practice writing your response rather than typing it**, as that is what you will be doing in your actual exam. **Once you're done, give it to your teacher for marking and most importantly, feedback.**

This question is based on "[Gonna Get Over You](#)" by *Sara Bareilles*. It will be played for you six times to answer the question.

(Excerpt 0:00-1:00)

With reference to PERFORMING MEDIA, discuss the use of TEXTURE in this excerpt.

8 marks

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 sets of four horizontal lines (top, middle, baseline, and descender line).



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EXPECTED RESPONSES & MARKING GUIDELINES

This question is based on "[Gonna Get Over You](#)" by *Sara Bareilles*. It will be played for you six times to answer the question.

(Excerpt 0:00-1:00)

With reference to **PERFORMING MEDIA**, discuss the use of **TEXTURE** in this excerpt.

8 marks

Better responses will:

Provide an answer that is clearly set out and organised. Explore **TEXTURE** thoroughly, while commenting on **PERFORMING MEDIA** and the relevant expressive techniques for those instruments. Provide examples to support statements. Use traditional or graphic notation accurately when necessary.

Weaker responses may:

Provide a disjointed, unorganised answer. Refer to concepts other than the concept of **TEXTURE**, without a clear link to the question, or with a relevant link to **PERFORMING MEDIA**. Fail to provide examples to support statements.

Responses MAY include:

- Short four bar Introduction (small jazz ensemble sample) sets up tempo and shuffle feel
- Extra layers are added consistently throughout the excerpt
- Hi-hats accent just before beat 1 of Bar 5, signaling the entry of new instrumentation and greater clarity of sound
- Piano plays repeated octaves while finger clicks are heard on beats 2 and 4
- Bass guitar plays descending melodic line as female vocal enters and then plays short two-note phrases before maintaining a consistent, four beat crotchet pattern, mostly on the root of each chord.
- Snare doubles rhythm of finger clicks (beats 2 & 4) when bass guitar first enters, with kick drum playing on beats 1 and 3 once bass commences predictable four beat pattern.
- Female backing vocals are first heard on 'I simmer then I burn'
- Electric guitar with slight distortion plays broken chords and some melodic material underneath main vocal
- Female vocal provides main melodic material throughout
- The majority of instrumentation is played staccato and has clarity, contributing to a thinner, more clearly defined overall texture (the distortion on the electric guitar would be an exception here)
- Homophonic texture throughout

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensively explores TEXTURE and refers to appropriate examples Identifies PERFORMING MEDIA and shows an extensive understanding of related expressive techniques Demonstrates a clear aural understanding through descriptions of the musical concepts Uses musical terminology accurately, with some use of genre specific terminology Answer may include some inaccurate observations 	7-8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explores TEXTURE and refers to appropriate examples Identifies some PERFORMING MEDIA and shows some understanding of related expressive techniques Demonstrates an aural understanding through descriptions of the musical concepts but may make some generalisations Uses musical terminology accurately, but may have some inaccuracies Answer may contain inaccurate observations 	5-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explores TEXTURE and refers to some examples, with possible inaccuracies Identifies some PERFORMING MEDIA but shows little understanding of related expressive techniques Demonstrates some aural understanding through generalisations and may provide some supporting examples Uses some musical terminology with inaccuracies Answer may contain inaccurate observations 	3-4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates limited understanding of TEXTURE or PERFORMING MEDIA 	1-2