

Aural Exam Question #5

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 "Why" by *Joe Satriani*. It will be played for you six times to answer the question.
(Excerpt 0:00-0:40)

With reference to **PERFORMING MEDIA**, discuss how the composer creates **INTEREST** 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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Aural Exam Question #5

EXPECTED RESPONSES & MARKING GUIDELINES

This question is based on “Why” by Joe Satriani. It will be played for you six times to answer the question.
(Excerpt 0:00-0:40)

With reference to PERFORMING MEDIA, discuss how the composer creates INTEREST in this excerpt.

8 marks

Better responses will:

Provide an answer that is clearly set out and organised. Explore a wide range of concepts, but explore these through reference to PERFORMING MEDIA and INTEREST. Provide appropriate examples to support observations, while using appropriate terminology. Use traditional or graphic notation accurately when necessary.

Weaker responses may:

Provide a disjointed, disorganised answer. Refer to few concepts, or fail to focus their response on PERFORMING MEDIA or INTEREST. Fail to provide examples to support statements and use terminology incorrectly in parts of their response..

Responses MAY include:

- Use of harmonics on clean electric guitar in opening is followed by sudden introduction of two more guitars and drums.
- One electric guitar plays simple riff with a slightly distorted tone, whereas the other plays a repeated 2-note riff with a ‘wah-wah’ effect. Electric guitar harmonics continue to be heard over the top of new guitars.
- Rainstick or similar instrument is used across transition from introduction into Section A. It is used in a different way throughout Section A, playing on the beat, mostly highlighting beats 1 & 3.
- Bass guitar plays sparsely during Section A, punctuating the downbeat occasionally with short, staccato notes – usually coinciding with kick drum
- Drum Kit plays subdued groove based around hats and kick in Section A – role is to accent 1st beat of bar
- Role of Drum Kit has changed throughout Section B, playing a standard rock beat (with slight variations)
- Pick slides by distorted guitars and fill by drums, indicate start of Section B
- Distorted guitars play melodic material in harmony Section B
- Role of bass guitar has changed, playing repeated 2 bar riff throughout Section B
- Electric guitars play a melody with a wide range, making sudden leaps at times through glissandi. Phrasing is often unpredictable, creating interest.

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensively explores the concepts, whilst keeping the response focused on INTEREST 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 the concepts, with some focus on INTEREST. There may be some inaccuracies or omissions 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 some concepts, with little focus on how INTEREST is created. 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 PERFORMING MEDIA, or how INTEREST is created 	1-2