

Aural Exam Question #1

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 "[Money](#)" by *Pink Floyd*. It will be played for you six times to answer the question. (Excerpt 0:00-1:17)

Discuss the use of DURATION and TONE COLOUR in this excerpt.

8 marks

Blank musical staff with horizontal lines for writing.

SAMPLE



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EXPECTED RESPONSES & MARKING GUIDELINES

This question is based on "[Money](#)" by *Pink Floyd*. It will be played for you six times to answer the question.
(Excerpt 0:00-1:17)

Discuss the use of DURATION and TONE COLOUR in this excerpt.

8 marks

Better responses will:

Clearly set out their answer. Explore both concepts as thoroughly as the other. Keep the observations focused on the concepts of DURATION and TONE COLOUR. Comment on other concepts when a substantial link can be found to the question. Provide examples to support statements. Use traditional or graphic notation accurately when necessary.

Weaker responses may:

Provide a disjointed, unorganised answer. Explore one concept more than the other. Refer to concepts other than the concepts of DURATION and TONE COLOUR, without a clear link to the question. Fail to provide examples to support statements.

Responses MAY include:

DURATION

- introduction and first verses are in 7/4 (asymmetric metre)
- metre is initially evident through repetition of various sound effects on loop
- consistent moderately fast tempo
- vocal melody of each verse is made up of a combination of short punctuated phrases and longer, on-beat melodic lines
- shuffle feel
- most instruments play relatively short notes, with the exception of the guitar every two bars

TONE COLOUR

- A wide range of tone colours used, particularly in introduction – non-traditional ‘found sounds’ used to create repeated loop. These are generally harsh, bright and percussive
- bass guitar is mellow and relatively clean
- various effects such as delay and reverb are used on several instruments
- guitar uses tremolo effect, punctuating every two bars
- male vocal is forced at times

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☉ Comprehensively Explores DURATION and refers to appropriate examples ☉ Comprehensively explores TONE COLOUR and refers to appropriate examples ☉ 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 DURATION and refers to mostly appropriate examples ☉ Explores TONE COLOUR and refers to mostly appropriate examples ☉ 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 DURATION with some reference to examples ☉ Explores TONE COLOUR with some reference to examples ☉ 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 DURATION and TONE COLOUR 	1-2