

Aural Exam Question #8

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 link 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 "[Side Effects](#)" by *The Chainsmokers feat. Emily Warren*. It will be played for you six times to answer the question. (Excerpt 0:00-1:05)

Outline the roles of the SOUND SOURCES in this excerpt.

8 marks

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.



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EXPECTED RESPONSES & MARKING GUIDELINES

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Outline the roles of the SOUND SOURCES in this excerpt.

8 marks

Better responses will:

Provide a well organised response that identifies the sound sources, outline their roles and reference a range of concepts. Demonstrate a high level of aural awareness, accurately describing compositional techniques while providing relevant examples to support the statements. Use traditional or graphic notation accurately when necessary.

Weaker responses may:

Provide an unbalanced or, disorganised answer that may incorrectly identify sound sources. Lack evidence of understanding of the different roles. Make inaccurate observations of musical events and techniques or fail to identify them. Fail to provide appropriate examples to support statements.

Responses MAY include:

Intro

Two synth sounds crescendo to bring in first chord of verse. One is a second above the tonic note of the key, the other is a descending, sweeping percussive sound.

Verse 1

Repeated chord progression in a minor key. Bass guitar outlines the harmony with a syncopated bass line and the kick plays on all four beats, creating a strong, driving rhythm. Some synthesised percussion is heard at the end of the 4th bar. A female vocal sings the melody which is broken into a long phrase, followed by two shorter phrases across four bars, then repeated.

Pre chorus 1

The accompanying instruments of the verse are replaced with a piano playing semibreve chords on the first beat of the bar and an electric guitar with a delay effect playing on the offbeat. Still in a minor key but it finishes with a major chord. The same synthesised sounds heard in the intro, lead into the chorus.

Chorus

Dense texture due to all previous instrumentation re-entering. Addition of various percussive sounds such as claps create rhythmic interest.

Verse 2

Similar to Verse 1 but snare plays on beats 2 & 4 with some hi hats and claps to create rhythmic interest. This verse is half the length of the first

Pre chorus 2

Repeat of Pre chorus 1 but synth provides harmonic material and kick drum on beats 1 & 2, as well as some hi hats, maintain momentum towards next chorus.

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Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly and comprehensively outlines the role of the sound sources Uses appropriate examples to support all statements Demonstrates a high level of aural awareness and understanding Uses musical terminology accurately Answer may include some inaccurate observations 	7-8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines the role of the sound sources with some inaccuracies or observations overlooked Uses mostly appropriate examples to support statements Demonstrates a sound level of aural awareness and understanding Uses most musical terminology accurately Answer may include inaccurate observations 	5-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines the role of some sound sources with inaccuracies or omissions Uses some examples to support statements, but may be inaccurate Demonstrates a basic level of aural awareness and understanding Uses some terminology Answer includes inaccurate observations 	3-4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates limited understanding of the role of the sound sources 	1-2