HSC Music 1 Course - Composition Requirements

Composition - Elective

Maximum composition length: 4 minutes.

Candidates will submit to the Board of Studies ONE original composition for each Composition elective.

The Composition must represent ONE of the THREE topics studied in the HSC course, as nominated on the 'Certification of Course Topics Studied' sheet.

If more than one Composition elective is presented, each Composition must represent a different topic from within the THREE topics studied in the HSC course, as nominated on the 'Certification of Course Topics Studied' sheet.

TWO copies of the written score and recording must be made. ONE copy of the written score and recording is to be submitted to the Board of Studies and the second copy and Composition Portfolio should be retained at the school. This copy should be available if necessary during the HSC examination marking operation.

A Composition Portfolio is to be developed as a record of the compositional process. This Portfolio may be requested by the Board of Studies to validate authorship of the composition. See the Music Stage 6 Support Document for more details regarding the Composition portfolio.

For the purpose of the Higher School Certificate examination, the term 'Composition' applies to original works. The composition should be of a musically substantial nature and should reflect an understanding of the stylistic features of the topic that it represents.

The marking of submitted compositions is based on both the written score and the recording. The recording is used as a guide to the intentions of the composer, and therefore the technical quality will not be taken into consideration. All details necessary to realise the score must be included on the submitted manuscript. Traditional and non-traditional notation is acceptable. If non-traditional notation is used, a key should accompany the score. Scores may be printed by computer. Page and bar numbers are to be included on each work and instruments/voices should be labelled on each page opening.

A statement of authenticity will be required, signed by the student, teacher and principal to validate the authenticity of the composition. This statement is to be included with the submitted composition.

Compositions must adhere to time limits.

Composition examination criteria

Candidates will be assessed on how well they demonstrate:

• stylistic understanding and topic representation
• understanding of musical concepts and the relationships between them
• knowledge of score conventions and performance directions.