

ADVANCED GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR DIPLOMA LEVEL EXAMS

1. Clearly define the title of the work.

2. In what time period is this piece set in?

3. What were the main styles of writing for this period?

4. What were the main instruments used?



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5. What were the main forms used?

6. Name 3 composers of note – include one of the same nationality as your composer – who was writing music at the time.

7. Give the birth and death date of your composer?

8. What country is your composer from?

9. Briefly outline the main events in your composer's life with reference to how this impacted on their work.

10. Is this work typical of the time period? Why / why not?

11. Name other characteristics of your composer's style.



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12. What is your composer's main contribution to music?

18. Outline the form of the work in detail with special reference to the main and interesting points you note about its construction

19. Write down other terms or signs used that you may not be familiar with.



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Preparation Hints:

1. Mark your music LIGHTLY in pencil indicating cadence points, pedals and special features ensuring that you remove the marks before the exam
2. Briefly study actual forms used so you are aware of possible deviations in your chosen works
3. Ensure a sound working knowledge of the history of music
4. Be aware of similar works or other works from the same opus by your composer. For example, if you are performing a 1st movement (which is part of a 3 movement work), have an understanding of the other two movements. Similarly, if you are playing a section from a larger work (for example, a Suite, then have a working knowledge of the construction, key plan and character of the whole work)
5. Great information can be found online but make sure your sources are reputable and verified
6. Don't forget to LISTEN to other performances of your chosen works

