

PART 2: COMMENTARY

Topic 4: Music in America (c.1890 – c.1960) [Track 3]

Listen to **Extract 3** and follow them from the score printed in the Insert. The extract is from *Washington's Birthday*, the first movement of *A Symphony: New England Holidays* composed by Charles Ives (1874 – 1954) in 1913 – 1919. The extract begins from **Section I (bar 43)** of the movement.

In this work, Ives is depicting the cold, bleak New England winter landscape and the 'old folks' sitting at home by fire, a 'barn dance at the Centre' and the 'bleakness of a February night'.

Answer **all** of the following questions below, referring to specific bar numbers and using detailed technical language where necessary.

(a) The following questions refer to **Bars 43 – 55** of the movement.

(i) Comment on Ives' use of treatment of **harmony** in this passage.

.....

 [4]

(ii) This section represents the 'cold, bleak New England winter landscape'. Elaborate on how this effect is achieved.

.....
 [2]

(b) The following questions refer to **Bars 56 – 162** of the movement.

(i) Elaborate, with reference to the score, on the **metrical complexity** heard between **bars 56 – 85**.

.....

 [4]

(ii) What stylistic reference might Ives be alluding to from **bars 92 – 104**? How does he achieve this?

.....
 [2]

- (iii) Comment on how the music from bars 142 – 162 is characteristic of Ives musical language, making reference to specific details (e.g. harmony, rhythm and texture) in the extract.

.....

 [5]

- (iv) Comment on the **formal structure** of bars 56-162, describing in detail how Ives uses parameters to delineate section(s) of music in these bars.

.....

 [7]

- (c) The following questions refer to **bars 163 – 185** of the movement.

- (i) **At the beginning** of this section of the movement, Ives quotes the folk tune 'Home Sweet Home' (score below). Discuss, with details, Ives' treatment of this borrowed tune found in the first and second violins (upper line).

Home Sweet Home

John Howard Payne, 1823

Henry Bishop

1. Mid-plea-sures and pa-la-cies though we may roam, Be it ev-er so
 hum-ble, there's no place like home. A charm from the
 skies seems to hal-low us there, Which, seek through the world, is ne'er
 met with else-where.

.....
 [2]

(iii) In this section, Ives also quotes a 'sentimental song of those days'. (This tune is **not** 'Home Sweet Home') The 'sentimental song' can be found in **bar 167 – 177 (Violin I)**. Discuss, with details, Ives' treatment of this borrowed tune.

[30 marks]

Topic 4: Music in America (c.1890 – c.1960)

Answer the question below.

Explain, in detail, how Ives used 'uncompromisingly modernist techniques' (SEAB Syllabus Guide, 2017) in his compositions. Illustrate your answer with specific examples drawn from relevant works which you have studied.

[10 marks]