

Language used for Excellence in NCEA Music Exams

Generally:

Achievement – identify = knowledge

Merit – Explain/Describe = in depth knowledge

Excellence – Apply/Analyse = comprehensive knowledge

The following are phrases used for Excellence from previous NZQA exams.

L2 Score Reading

- Repetition - **gives a sense of unity to the melodic line**
- Pedal note - **gives a sense of suspense or stability to the music.**
- Similarities - **providing a thematic link between the passages**
- Similarities - **linking the passages harmonically.**
- The similarity of the melody line creates a sense of unity for the listener throughout the extract.
- More complex rhythmic part - **giving a faster rhythmic momentum.**
- Staccato - **give a feeling of brightness and energy / emphasise the semiquaver syncopation**
- Accents - **emphasise the off-beat motifs**
- Differences - **The triplets in the accompaniment provide energy and momentum.**
- **The accompaniment's crotchet-beat harmonic style in the second system is more march-like and stately.**
- Marcato - **which heavily emphasise those notes / beats of the bar.**
- Differences - **dissonant rather than consonant**
- Sequence - **which creates the sense of build- up**
- Syncopation/repetition - **creates a sense of momentum / excitement**
- Chromatic scale - **which creates the sense of build- up to a climax**
- Monophonic texture - **to provide a strong, definitive ending.**
- Off-beat rhythms - **give a feeling of syncopation and freedom**
- Fast semi-quavers - **give a feeling of energy and excitement**
- Tonic pedal - **emphasises the tonic key / centres the harmony around the root of chord I**
- Similarities - **to maintain a consistent / familiar mood or feel.**
- Dynamics - **build to a climax in the fourth bar, where the dynamics and pitch reach their highest point.**
- Piano - **left and right hands of the piano part in Ex.11 are rhythmically independent**
- Textural density - **repeated / arpeggiated instead of being sustained, and the drummer's part is more active / complex.**
- Sequence - **descending melodic sequence, which creates a sense of downward momentum.**

L3 Harmony

- Inversions used - **to create smooth bassline.**

- V7 chords used - **to strengthen the dominant function of the chords as modulations occur.**
- Perfect cadences - **establish modulations in bars 2–3, 7–8 and 8–9.**
- Harmonic rhythm - **Variety creates a sense of freedom and unpredictability.**
- Non-harmonic notes - **Non-harmonic notes create smooth melodic contour / add interest to the melody line.**
- Title of the piece - **underlines a sense of freedom.**
- Use of chromatic notes - **strengthens harmonic progression and creates tension which needs a resolution.**
- Chords - **underlying cadences (plagal / perfect) support modulations.**
- **non-harmonic notes create smooth melodic contour / add interest to melody**
- repetition - **helps to create unity and a sense of simplicity**
- melody/chord relationship - **dissonance is a result of melody rather than use of complex chords.**
- Non-harmonic notes - **appoggiatura in bar 5, which increases the expressiveness of the music by creating an unexpected dissonance.**
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