

## Engaging with Learning Inside and Outside the Junior Cycle Music Classroom

### Teacher Questions - 02<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2020

- Q:** Is it being suggested that a student send the video via WhatsApp? We are not allowed to do this. We found that students needed to upload the audio/video file to google drive to share.
- A:** Each school has autonomy to decide the most appropriate way for students to share audio/video and we encourage each school to observe their individual school policy. We are merely suggesting ways in which audio/video could be shared and how the teachers chose to share their audio/video with us during this project. Uploading audio/video files to Google drive or Microsoft Teams/OneNote was a popular response from teachers in our recent survey.
- Q:** Is there a fee for the apps/software that you have suggested?
- A:** For information regarding pricing, please reference the individual software website.

### Classroom-Based Assessments

- Q:** What are the key dates for CBA2?
- A:** The NCCA published document [Revised arrangements for the completion of Classroom-Based Assessments \(CBAs\) for the cohort of students 2018-2021](#) (students in third year in 2020/2021) tells us the key dates for both of our Classroom-Based Assessments. These are also available here: <https://www.jct.ie/music/assessment>
- Q:** How many pieces have my 3<sup>rd</sup> years to include in their programme note?
- A:** The DES published document [Assessment Arrangements for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2021](#) tells us that students will perform two pieces or songs, instead of the expected three, and an unprepared test for their practical examination. The knock-on effect from this is that students will reference two pieces for their programme note (CBA2).
- Q:** Do 2<sup>nd</sup> years still have to complete the Composition Portfolio?
- A:** The NCCA published document [Revised arrangements for the completion of Classroom-Based Assessments \(CBAs\) for the cohort of students 2018-2021](#) is for the cohort of third year students 2021. Second years will engage with the composition portfolio (CBA1) as outlined in our specification.
- Q:** Does the Composition Portfolio finish when the students have submitted their two pieces for CBA1?
- A:** No, the learning for the composition portfolio arises from the ebb and flow of classroom practice which is informed by the 36 learning outcomes over the three-year cycle. The written examination will then assess a sample of these 36 learning outcomes.
- Q:** I had finished and assessed CBA1: Composition Portfolio before school closures in March 2020. Can this be recorded on the JCPA for 3<sup>rd</sup> years?
- A:** Schools have autonomy to report back on the Classroom-Based Assessment's for their students.

### Final Written Examination

- Q:** In the dictation question will there be an option for students to use tonic solfa and stick notation?
- A:** The Junior Cycle Sample Paper, published earlier today contained no specific dictation question. However, dictation was included in parts of other questions. For all queries regarding exams please contact [practicals@examinations.ie](mailto:practicals@examinations.ie)

The answers outlined in this document are correct at time of publication

## Practical Examination

- Q:** Is it damaging to use antibacterial wipes on guitars and ukuleles?
- A:** As referenced in the [Return to School Guidance for Practical Subjects in Post-Primary Schools and Centres for Education](#), it will be important to follow the manufacturer's instructions in relation to the cleaning and disinfecting of instruments.
- Q:** Does the max of 10 minutes of practical work apply only to singing and the playing of wind/brass instruments?
- A:** For clarification in relation to this please contact the Department of Education and Skills at [reopeningschools@education.gov.ie](mailto:reopeningschools@education.gov.ie)
- Q:** How long does a room need to be ventilated for after performing?
- A:** The [Return to School Guidance for Practical Subjects in Post-Primary Schools and Centres for Education](#) states that performing should take place in a well-ventilated space and should be aired appropriately afterwards. Music teachers have shared that they are avoiding consecutive practical activities and are aiming to spread them throughout the day. They have also shared that windows and doors are kept open as much as possible. For further clarification please contact the Department of Education and Skills at [reopeningschools@education.gov.ie](mailto:reopeningschools@education.gov.ie)
- Q:** When will the practical examinations be held in 2021?
- A:** We are awaiting confirmation of the practical examination dates 2021 from the State Examinations Commission. Please contact [practicals@examinations.ie](mailto:practicals@examinations.ie) for further information.
- Q:** Can students choose to do sight clapping as an unprepared test?
- A:** Yes. As per the [Music Practical Examinations 2021: Memorandum](#), candidates may choose from aural memory (rhythmic or melodic), **sight reading** (instrumental/vocal/rhythmic) or improvisation.
- Q:** Can my student sing a duet for her first piece and play the piano for the second?
- A:** The specification requirements tells us that the student can present any mix of instruments in a solo and/or group setting. The [Assessment Arrangements for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2021](#) tell us for the cohort of 3<sup>rd</sup> year students 2021, they will perform two songs or pieces for their practical examination.
- Q:** Can students improvise on a rhythm in the practical examination?
- A:** Yes. As per the [Music Practical Examinations 2021: Memorandum](#), candidates who choose improvisation may improvise on a given rhythmic/melodic/harmonic phrase or on a given mood. They will be required to improvise for at least four bars.
- Q:** What is the total length of time for the practical examination?
- A:** The duration of the examination, including the unprepared test is 15 minutes. Candidates will not be permitted to exceed the allocated time.
- Q:** Can a student present their sight-reading test on an instrument other than their performance instrument(s)?
- A:** Yes. Candidates may choose an instrumental, vocal or rhythmic sight-reading test. For further clarification please contact [practicals@examinations.ie](mailto:practicals@examinations.ie)

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## Resources

- Q:** An bhfuil na “strategies” dos na scoláirí ar fail as Gaeilge?
- A:** Tá an t-aistriúchán den dialann mhachnaimh an dhalta tosaithe faoi láthair.
- Q:** Where can I find the resources from this webinar?
- A:** The resources will be available on our website [www.jct.ie/music](http://www.jct.ie/music) in the coming days.

## Miscellaneous

- Q:** In this virtual practical project, is it the teacher who does the editing?
- A:** For our World in Union project, the team mixed and edited all the audio and video. Our suite of resources was created to support you, as well as your students, in editing a virtual practical project.
- Q:** How long did the virtual practical project take to complete?
- A:** There were 56 tracks for our World in Union project, and we were fortunate to have the team work together on this. The greater number of contributors you have, the greater amount of time you will need to mix and edit. One tip: be sure to align individual tracks to the master audio track as they are being submitted.
- Q:** How could a teacher who is setting up the music department in a school best provide their students (many of whom are beginners) with practical opportunities and using technology to suit their strengths?
- A:** To answer this question we will need to explore your school and student context further with you. Please resubmit this query at [info@jct.ie](mailto:info@jct.ie) and mark it for the attention of the Music Team. Looking forward to hearing from you.
- Q:** I am currently setting up the music department in my school. Is there any additional allocation if a school is setting up a music department?
- A:** As you may be aware, there is an equipment list available which is currently being updated by the Planning and Business Unit of the Department of Education and Skills. For additional allocation, we would advise discussion with your principal as your first step. It is best for the school to send an email to [furnitureequipment@education.gov.ie](mailto:furnitureequipment@education.gov.ie) to outline the student choice and interest in the subject, and explain why additional equipment is needed. The school will need to have established music in their curriculum and prove viability before they can apply for an additional funding.
- Q:** Can a student change their practical pieces after their programme note has been submitted?
- A:** Our Junior Cycle Music Specification tells us on p.22: for the Classroom-Based Assessment 2, the student will prepare a programme note to inform an audience on the content of their upcoming practical examination.

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