**Stage 1 Music**

**Assessment Type 2: Musical Literacy**

**Task: Sonata Form**

**Purpose**

* to demonstrate your understanding of sonata form
* to apply your skills in score reading and analyse the style, structure, and musical elements in a piece of music in sonata form

Read the following information:

**Sonata Form:** an innovation of the classical period. The form of the sonata movement is as follows:-

* A slow, impressive INTRODUCTION (often omitted).

the EXPOSITION, in which two musical subjects (themes) are used. A first vigorous subject, often using a strong rhythmic motif and notes of the tonic and/or dominant triads

A second, more lyrical subject in a related key

* The DEVELOPMENT, in which one (occasionally two) of the subjects is developed
* The RECAPITULATION, in which the original two subjects are repeated. The ***difference*** between the exposition and the recapitulation is that the **exposition** modulates to the **dominant key** or another related keywhile the **recapitulation** always modulates back to the **tonic key** to finish off the movement.
* The CODA, which means ‘tail’ ending, a neat finish to the movement.

**Mozart’s Symphony No. 40 in G minor K. 550, 1st movement**

In the first movement of this symphony, there are two subjects, one in G minor and the other in Bb major. The first subject is a beautifully curved melody in octaves. From bars 17-20 Mozart uses an extended cadence. The first subject ends at bar 43; there is then a silence of one bar. The second subject starts in Bb major (related major). There is interplay between the woodwinds and strings. Bar 66 begins the closing section of the second subject. At bar 77 there is a long codetta. At bar 88 there is an extended cadence.

 In the development section, Mozart developed only the G minor theme.

The two quavers and a crotchet figure at the outset of the first movement and is an important rhythmic motif used throughout. The Development is based entirely on the first subject, and modulation is constant throughout the fantasia-like development section. At bar 160, the woodwinds ‘herald’ the recapitulation in a beautifully elegant and smooth manner.

At bar 185 Ab is used as a pivot note that takes the recapitulation in a new direction, culminating in a dramatic coda to end the movement.

Mozart’s last three symphonies were all composed in 1788, a year of tremendous creative output for Mozart. This symphony K. 550 was originally scored without clarinets, which made it sound transparent in comparison to the revised version with clarinets that Mozart later added. Mozart was one of the first composers to incorporate clarinets in a symphony. This makes K. 550 a piece of orchestration history.

The horns are pitched in two different keys, Bb and G. This is quite unusual for the late 18th century.

The main theme is quite noticeably longer than most of Mozart’s themes, and use of chromaticism is a feature.

The recapitulation adds new thematic material (bars 198-210) but it is based around the bridge material in the exposition.

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| **Section** | **Material****(letters indicate themes)** | **Key** |
| **Exposition** |  |  |
| Main Theme – 1st subject | **a** | **G minor** |
| Bridge | **a b c** | **G minor to Bb Major** |
| Secondary Theme – 2nd subject | **d** | **Bb Major** |
| Closing Theme | **e a**  | **Bb Major** |
| **Development** | **a** | **F# minor, several other keys and back to G minor** |
| **Recapitulation** |  |  |
| Main Theme | **a** | **G minor** |
| Bridge | **a b c**  | **G minor Eb Major, G minor** |
| Secondary Theme | **d** | **G minor** |
| Closing Theme and Coda | **e a**  | **G minor** |

**Assessment Description**

With Mozart’s first movement of K550 as an example, explore another movement or piece of music of your choosing, that has been composed using the structure of sonata form.

Following the score of your chosen work, locate and mark the sections, thematic material and keys as demonstrated in the table above.

**Assessment conditions**

Write a report that analyses how the composer has used at least two musical elements in the creation of the piece of music. Your report should be a maximum of 650 words, or a maximum of 4 minutes as an oral and/or multimodal presentation. Your annotated score should also be submitted for assessment.

The specific features being assessed are:

**Understanding Music**

* UM1 – development of knowledge and understanding of musical elements
* UM2 – communication of musical ideas.

**Responding to Music**

* RM1 – development of musical literacy skills
* RM2 - analysis and discussion of musical works and styles

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