



IB MUSIC

Music Subject Guide (simplified)

The Areas of Inquiry

The IB Music curriculum identifies four categories of music, called “Areas of Inquiry,” based on the purpose the music serves:

- Music for sociocultural and political expression
 - Music for listening and performance
 - Music for dramatic impact, movement, and entertainment
 - Music technology in the electronic age
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Contexts

Music is further categorized by its “context,” based on how far removed it is from your own experience.

- Personal
 - Local
 - Global
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Assessments

There are two external assessments (graded by IB) and two internal assessments (graded by your instructor and moderated by IB.)

External Assessments

- Exploring Music in Context
- Presenting Music

Internal Assessments

- Experimenting with Music
- The Contemporary Music-Maker



Exploring Music in Context

External Assessment, Part 1

Due March 22

- A **Music Journal** of 2400 words featuring excerpts, notes, and analysis of studied music from all four Areas of Inquiry across personal, local, and global contexts (PDF)
- A research-based **composition**, maximum 32 bars/1 minute in length (mp3/PDF)
- A research-based **performance**, from a different Area of Inquiry than the composition, maximum 2 minutes in length (mp3/PDF)

The composition and performance should be serious attempts, based on the music studied in the Music Journal, to reproduce the style of the researched source material.

Presenting Music

External Assessment, Part 2

Due April 20

- Upload 12 minutes of **solo performance**.
- Upload 6 minutes of **compositions**.
- **Program Notes** of 600 words briefly describing each solo and composition and clearly stating the Area of Inquiry (PDF)
- A **bibliography** of sources used from the Program Notes.

Make sure each Area of Inquiry is represented by at least one composition or performance. These performances and compositions should be serious works carefully selected to demonstrate the full extent of your musical capabilities.

Experimenting with Music

Internal Assessment, Part 1

Due April 20

- Three experimental **compositions**, each 1 minute in length (mp3/PDF)
- Three experimental **performing excerpts**, each 1 minute in length (mp3/PDF)
- An **Experimentation Report** of 1500 words explaining and analyzing all six experimentations and clearly stating the context and Area of Inquiry for each.

Make sure the six experimentations deal with unfamiliar music from local/global contexts and cover all four Areas of Inquiry. The excerpts in this category do not have to be polished products, but rather demonstrations of the student interacting with new techniques, styles, and genres, and attempting to transfer those into practical exercises.

The Contemporary Music-Maker

Internal Assessment, Part 2

Due April 30

For this assessment, students must conceive, plan, and execute their own projects. This project must be “guided by musical intentions” and the final product needs to demonstrate “musical and technical proficiency,” but other than that, it is relatively open-ended.

The submission will be a 15-minute documentary video with the following components:

- Project Proposal (1 minute)
- Prospectus / Plans, Materials, Collaborators (1-2 minutes)
- Collaboration in Progress (5-6 minutes)
- Final Product (up to 7 minutes)