

Higher Music Technology
Fault/Solution Question



You will always encounter a question in the exam paper where you are asked to identify the recording fault and give a possible solution to the problem.

For example:

"Listen to this recording of an audio book.

Identify the fault and describe in detail how to correct it. You will hear this excerpt twice."

2017 Question Paper

Here is how you would answer this question.

When you listen to the audio, the voice heard dips in and out instead of staying at one consistent volume. Your answer should be something like this:

Fault: The noise gate is set incorrectly (**1 mark**)

Solution: Adjust the threshold on the noise gate to achieve a balanced recording (**1 mark**)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Faults in recording and their Solutions

Problem	Fault	Solution
Sound is unclear, woolly and distorted		
Vocalist has a wide dynamic range		
Boomy, excessive low frequencies are heard from vocals		
Squealing sound		
Sound is very thin and with too much hiss		
Sound is very thin		
Sound from another instrument is being picked up in a different channel		
Too many ‘s’ or ‘sh’ sounds		
Too much ‘b’ sound		
Hiss		
‘Clacking’ sound from flute keys		

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Problem	Fault	Solution
Nasty, distorted sound		
Hum		
Sound is very echoey		
Too much background noise		
Lifeless sound, without any dynamic range		
Rhythms are out of sync/ time		
Certain frequencies/ sounds are clipped or keep 'coming and going'		
Instrumental loop is completely out of place		
Recording quality is poor – it is very muffled and woolly sounding		
Metronome click is heard throughout individual track		

LIVEWORKSHEETS