

Style	Musical Features	Production Features
Dance Music	• Upbeat dance tempo – 120bpm to 140bpm designed for dancing in clubs and played by DJs • Four-to-the-floor bass drum and hi hat emphasis on the off-beat quavers (like disco) • Synth stabs on piano • Use of synth for bass lines • Samples taken from wide range of instrumental music/singing and spoken word/broadcast • Rapping used on some songs whilst soul influenced vocals also common • Instrumentation includes drum machine, percussion samples, synthesiser, samplers, turntables and vocals <i>(answer take from SQA past paper)</i>	• drum machine • repeated loops • sampler • synthesiser • virtual instruments • significant use of effects and processes. • sequencer. • accept MIDI. <i>(answer take from SQA past paper)</i>
Punk	• distortion on electric guitar • unrefined vocal style • simple chord structure. • aggressive hard rock sound • anti-establishment/political lyrics <i>(answer take from SQA past paper)</i>	• live sounding recording with little post production • DIY ethic to production • simple, raw, unprocessed sounds – no clever production tricks • Often distorted guitar used, though quite thin and harsh compared to heavy rock <i>(answer take from SQA past paper)</i>
Swing	• Dotted, swung rhythms • Improvised solos over same chord pattern • Main melody (known as head) played by whole ensemble • 12 bar blues chord progression • Large brass and reed section (trumpets, trombones, saxes, clarinets etc as well as drums, piano, double bass, vocals etc) • Walking bass line • Fast tempo You will also be asked to identify other genres and styles in the exam. Questions will be similar to questions 1(a) and 3(a) in the specimen question paper and question 3(a) in the 2019 past paper.	• Recordings mainly captured through live performances • Commercial success of gramophone players for playback of records • Development of carbon mics and later condenser and dynamics mics and valve amplification

Microphone question (specimen question paper, question 2(c))

The microphone question will ask you to describe how to record one part of a drum kit (bass drum, cymbal, hi-hat, snare drum or tom). You will need to specify the microphone type, polar pattern and placement.

BASS DRUM		• Big dynamic mic • Hyper cardioid • ½ way inside the hole pointing at the beater
CYMBAL		• Pair of large condenser mics • Cardioid • 60 inches apart from each other and about 30 inches above the kit
HI-HAT		• Small condenser mic • Cardioid • 3-4 inches above Hi-hat pointing down
SNARE DRUM		• Small dynamic mic • Hyper cardioid • 2-3 inches above the snare pointing at an angle towards the drum
TOM DRUM		• Big dynamic mic • Hyper cardioid • 3-4 inches above the rim pointing towards drum