

1.8 Assessment criteria for Task 1B: Multi-track Recording

- 1 Method of marking** Each piece of work is marked according to both the holistic assessment criterion, and the detailed assessment criteria. Holistic marking is used to ensure that the total mark derived from the other detailed assessment criteria is a true overall reflection of the standard of the student’s work. If the holistic mark selected does not match the total of the detailed assessment criteria, the mark for each detailed criterion and/or the holistic mark must be reconsidered until a single mark appropriate for the work is identified.
- 2 Order in which the assessment criteria will be applied** Either the holistic assessment or the detailed assessment criteria may be applied first. The holistic criterion is given first below.

Holistic assessment criterion

Holistic		
36–40	Outstanding	An impressive recording in which all parts are clear, well balanced, successfully processed and mixed. Sense of wholeness — all aspects of the recording are of a high standard.
31–35	Excellent	Convincing throughout in terms of clarity, processing and mixing. Any errors and/or misjudgements do not detract from a successful recording.
26–30	Good	Convincing for most of the time in terms of clarity, processing and mixing. Some errors and/or misjudgements, but too few to have a big impact.
21–25	Competent	Generally secure in terms of clarity, processing and mixing. Some errors and/or misjudgements, but the recording is still broadly successful.
16–20	Adequate	A serious attempt but some insecurity and inconsistency in terms of clarity, processing and mixing. Errors, misjudgements and technical problems begin to be intrusive, but the recording still has some positive features.
11–15	Basic	There are some significant problems in terms of clarity, processing and mixing. Errors, misjudgements and technical problems are intrusive.
6–10	Limited	Positive features are few. A few encouraging signs, but considerable difficulties — a weak end product in most areas. The submission may be incomplete.
0–5	Poor	Positive features are heavily outweighed by errors, misjudgements and technical problems. Insufficient work has been submitted to allow credit in every criteria.

Detailed assessment criteria

Criterion 1: Capture

1. Capture		
MICROPHONE PLACEMENT AND CLARITY OF SIGNAL	6	Fully considered choice and placement of microphones to produce a clear, focused capture of all tracks. Good depth of field.
	4-5	Appropriate choice and placement of microphones. Minor inconsistencies on one or two tracks.
	2-3	Some appropriate choices of microphone. Some poor positioning resulting in an inconsistency of line.
	0-1	Little evidence of appropriate microphone choice and/or placement. Unacceptable lack of clarity within many parts.
NOISE AND DISTORTION	5	Excellent signal-to-noise ratio. No noise or distortion.
	3-4	Slight noise or occasional clipping, but not intrusive.
	2	Some intrusive noise and/or distortion. Inappropriate gain and level setting.
	0-1	Unacceptably noisy and poorly made recording.

Criterion 2: Processing

2. Processing		
MANAGEMENT OF EQ	6	Excellent, without inappropriate constriction or exaggeration.
	4-5	Mainly good — slight EQ errors on some tracks.
	2-3	Inconsistent use of EQ — lack of attention to EQ on some tracks detract from the overall recording
	1	Limited or inappropriate use of EQ.
MANAGEMENT OF DYNAMICS	6	Excellent, appropriate to the style of music. Compression has been used where appropriate to good musical effect.
	4-5	Mainly good, but some over-compression or one or two tracks do not sit well in the mix due to lack of compression.
	2-3	Inconsistently applied dynamic processing — some intrusive misjudgements.
	0-1	Limited or no use of dynamic processing. Dynamics are detrimental to the music.
FX/ AMBIENCE	6	Excellent, creative use of stylistically appropriate effects.
	4-5	Well controlled use of appropriate effects.
	2-3	Some inconsistency in application of effects processing
	0-1	Unacceptably dry, reverberant or uncontrolled use of effects processing.

Criterion 3: Mixing

3. Mixing		
BALANCE AND BLEND	6	Consistently well balanced and effectively blended across all parts of the mix.
	4-5	Most tracks are well balanced. Some minor slips on one or two parts. Some effective blending of sounds.
	2-3	Inconsistent balance. Important parts may be masked. Some unsuccessful blends.
	0-1	Poorly balanced. Detrimental to the musical outcome.
USE OF STEREO FIELD	5	Creative, musically appropriate use of stereo field.
	3-4	Mainly good use of stereo field, but with minor inconsistencies
	2	Inappropriate or inconsistent use of stereo field.
	0-1	Little or no use of stereo field or significant misjudgements in panning.