**Music Writing Topics**

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

1. Write about the following topic:

**There are many types of music in the world today. Why do we need music? Is the traditional music of a country more important and should it be preserved or is international music that is heard everywhere nowadays more useful to a society?**

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

Write at least 250 words.

1. Write about the following topic:

**Some people think that the government should fund music, dance and arts lessons for children. Others think that they should be funded by private businesses or by children’s families.**Discuss both views and give your own opinion.



 C. Write about the following topic:

**Some people say that music is a good way of bringing people of different cultures and ages together.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?**



**Music Essay Topics**

1. How Has Music Influenced Cultural Events Around the World?
2. How Has Music Been Used As Propaganda in Recent Political Races?
3. What Is the Difference Between High Culture and Low Culture in Current Music?
4. What Impact Does Modern Music Have on Society? Will This Change Over the Next Decade?
5. How Has the Production of Music Advanced in Recent History?
6. How Is Modern Music Connected to Music in Other Time Periods, Such As Baroque? What Correlations Can You Find? What Has Changed?
7. What Connections Can Be Made Between Different Music Genres?
8. What Connections Can Be Made Between Popular Music and Contemporary Culture?
9. How Does Music in Other Countries Connect to Your Own?
10. How Has Music Evolved in Other Countries?
11. What Cultural Situations Have Played the Key Role in Music Production?
12. What Connections Can Be Made Between Social Class And Music Genre?
13. What Influence Does Music Have on Society?
14. What Comparisons Can Be Made Between Music and Other Types of Media?
15. In What Ways Are Poetry And Music Alike? In What Ways Are They Different?
16. Does Poetry Have the Same Influence On Culture That Music Does?
17. What Conclusions Can Be Made Based on Where Musical Instruments Originated?
18. Does Classical Music Still Play an Important Role in Music Production Today?
19. What Are Some of The Key Processes Used In Music Production Today?
20. What Components Are Essential for Skilled Musicians to Produce Popular Music?
21. What Cultural Characteristics Are Frequently Noticed In Modern Music?
22. How Important Is Music Theory In Music Production Today?
23. Does The Ability to Read Music Lead to Success? Could The Beatles Read Music?
24. Why Do Some Musical Artists Have Someone Else Write Their Music for Them?
25. What Effects Does Music Have on the Brain?
26. How Does Creating Music Influence the Way That People Think?
27. What Difficulties Have Arisen In Music Production Due to Advancements?
28. Will the Culture Found In Music Stay Intact or Fade Away Over the Years? What Were the Trends Recently?
29. What Role Do Women Have In Music Production? Is There a Wage Gap?
30. What Difficulties Do Minority Groups Face When It Comes to Music Production? What Difficulties Are Present In The Music Industry In General for Minority Groups?

[Composing Music](https://www.musictheoryacademy.com/category/composing-music/)

WRITING A MELODY

*“What are you going to send me out of the room humming?”*  
This is the most common question I ask my students when teaching them [how to compose music](https://www.musictheoryacademy.com/composing-music/how-to-compose-piano-music/).

Think of any great piece of music from any genre and it will *(most likely)* have a great melody.  
I have heard it often said that “*writing music takes 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration*”.  
I’m not sure of the maths, but melodic writing certainly involves a combination of these 2 elements.  
Sometimes a **great melody will just pop into your head** as though it has been divinely inspired; on other occasions you will have to work at 2 or 3 **melodic ideas over a long period of time**, mixing them up until you finally produce a melody that inspires.

THE MELODY WRITING TOOLKIT

It helps if you have an awareness of what’s in the melodic toolbox.  
So, here are a few ideas for **how to write a good melody**.

CHOOSE A KEY

Choose a key to compose in.  
*Basic rule of thumb – if you want your piece to sound****happy or uplifting****then choose a****major scale****.  
If you want it to sound****sad/reflective/melancholic****then choose a****minor key****.*  
If you are just starting out I suggest you compose using **C major and A minor**.

There are **2 main ways of composing a melody** through improvisation- writing a motif/riff and writing a melody over a chord progression.

MOTIF WRITING (OR MOTIVIC DEVELOPMENT)

This is a very popular way of writing and developing a melody.  
You can compose a melody in this way by either improvising on an instrument/voice or by using a sheet music software programme.

1. **Play *(or sing)* the scale of the key** – try playing it going up and then play it going down.  
2. **Try picking out 3 or 4 notes** of the scale. Mix up the order you play them in.  
3. **Try repeating 1 or 2 of the notes** and **change the rhythm** of what you are playing until you find an idea you are happy with (this initial idea that you come up with is called a motif).  
4. **Record/write down** your motif.  
5. **Repeat the above process** until you have 4 or 5 possible melodic ideas/motifs.

WRITING A MELODY OVER A CHORD PROGRESSION

Most contemporary popular music is written in this way.

1. **Work out the primary chords** of the key you are writing in (these are chords 1, 4 and 5 of the scale and are written in Roman numerals – I IV V). For example, if you are writing in C major the primary chords are C F and G. If you are writing in A minor the primary chords are A minor, D minor and E.  
2. **Choose a chord progression**. A chord progression is simply the order in which you choose to change chords. I suggest that you start by writing a chord progression over 4 or 8 bars. Make sure you start and end on chord I. Other than that, simply try experimenting to work out which sounds “best” where.  
3. Play your chord progression on the piano using your left hand. Once you can play the chord progression you are ready to improvise a melody over the top.  
4. **Improvise a melody** – Play the 3 notes of each chord one after another in the right hand (this is called a broken chord) at the same time as you are playing the chord in the left hand. In other words, if you are playing a C major broken chord you would play C – E – G. Try mixing up the order you play them in (you could play G then C the E). Maybe play 2 of one of the notes (G-G-C-E), etc.. Also, try varying the rhythm of the notes you are playing.  
You will soon find that melodic ideas come and “work” with the chord progression you have chosen.

DON’T FORGET

Always record/write down your melodic ideas as soon as you have thought of them – whether you prefer to use a phone, mp3 recorder, or manuscript paper, it doesn’t matter; the key is getting the idea down. It is incredibly frustrating to come up with a great melodic idea, make yourself a cup of tea to celebrate and then sit back down at the piano only to find you have forgotten it!!