2026.M49

2026L067G1EL

Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2026

Music

Composing

Ordinary Level

Thursday 18 June Afternoon 3:15 - 4:45

100 marks

Examination Number

Date of Birth

For example, 3rd February 2005 is entered as 03 02 05

Centre Stamp

Instructions

Write your examination number and Date of Birth in the boxes on the front cover.

There are **two** sections in this examination paper.

Section **A**	Melody Composition	40 marks	3 questions
Section **B**	Harmony	60 marks	3 questions

- Answer as follows:

  ◦ one question from Section **A** – Melody Composition

  and

  ◦ one question from Section **B** – Harmony

- Write your answers in blue or black pen. You may use pencil for staff notation and chord boxes.

- Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. There is space for extra work/ roughwork at the end of the booklet. Label any extra work clearly with the question number and part.

- This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.

Section A Melody Composition 40 marks

Answer **one** question only in this section:

Question 1 Continuation of a given opening (40 marks)

or

Question 2 Setting music to a given text (40 marks)

or

Question 3 Composing to a given dance rhythm or metre or form (40 marks)

Question 1 **(40 marks)**

Continuation of a given opening

Answer (a) **and** (b).

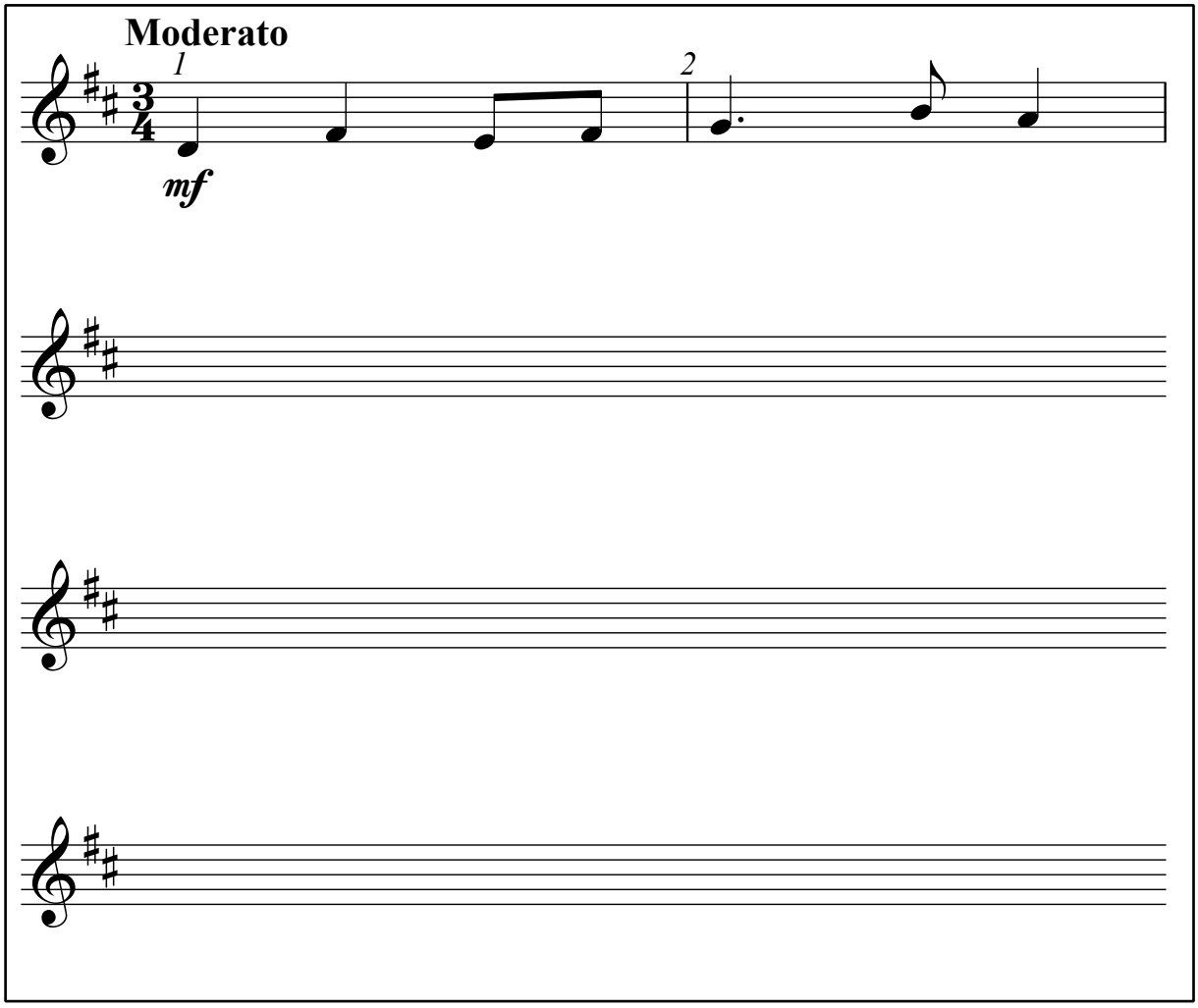
(a)
- Continue the given opening to make an eight-bar melody, ending on the keynote, that is, doh.
- Add appropriate phrasing and expression marks to the melody.
- Choose a suitable instrument for your melody from the following list:

☐ oboe

☐ violin

☐ flute

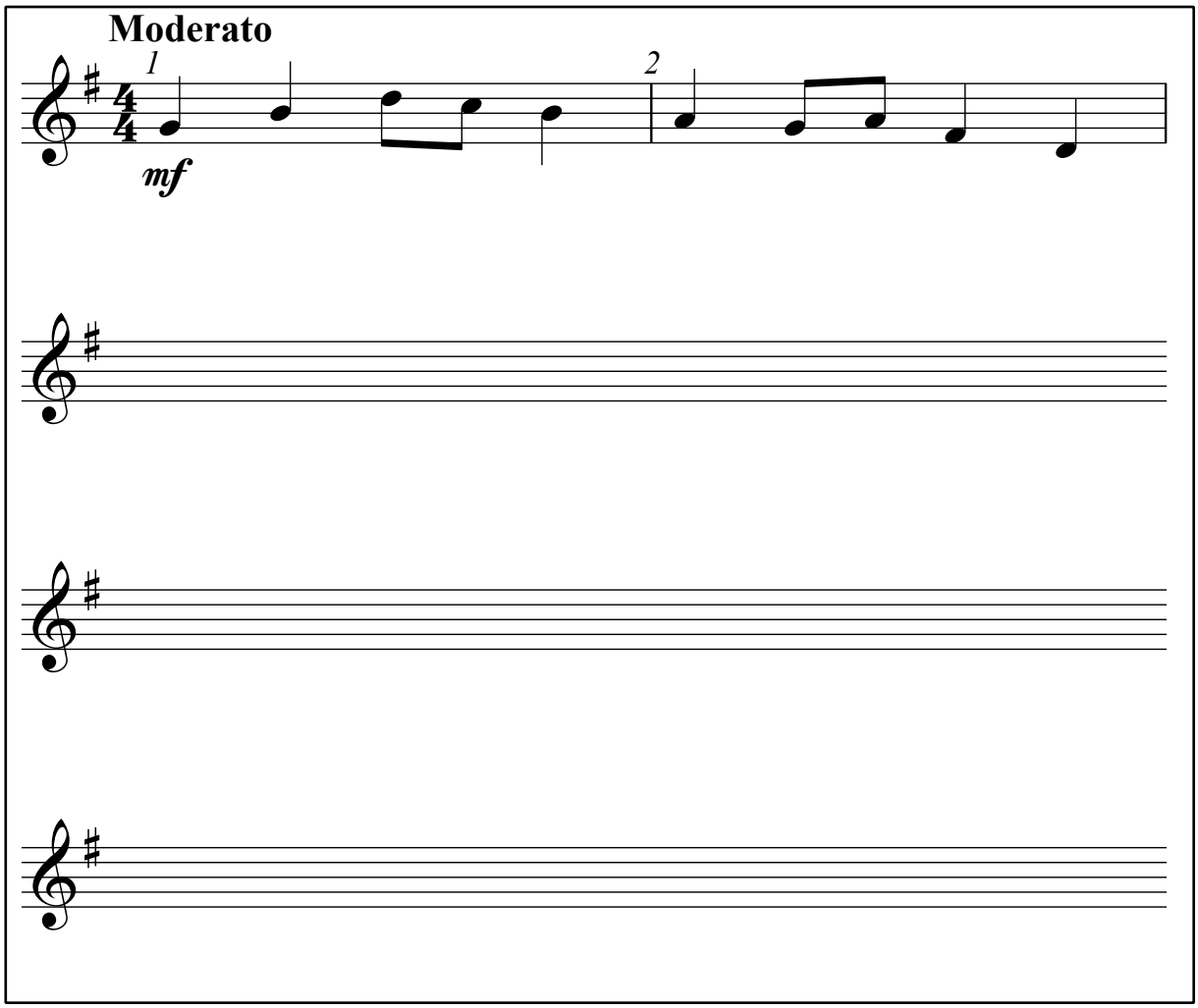
☐ trumpet



and

(b) • Continue the given opening to make an eight-bar melody, ending on the keynote, that is, doh.
• Add appropriate phrasing and expression marks to the melody.
• Choose a suitable instrument for your melody from the following list:

- ☐ oboe
- ☐ violin
- ☐ flute
- ☐ trumpet



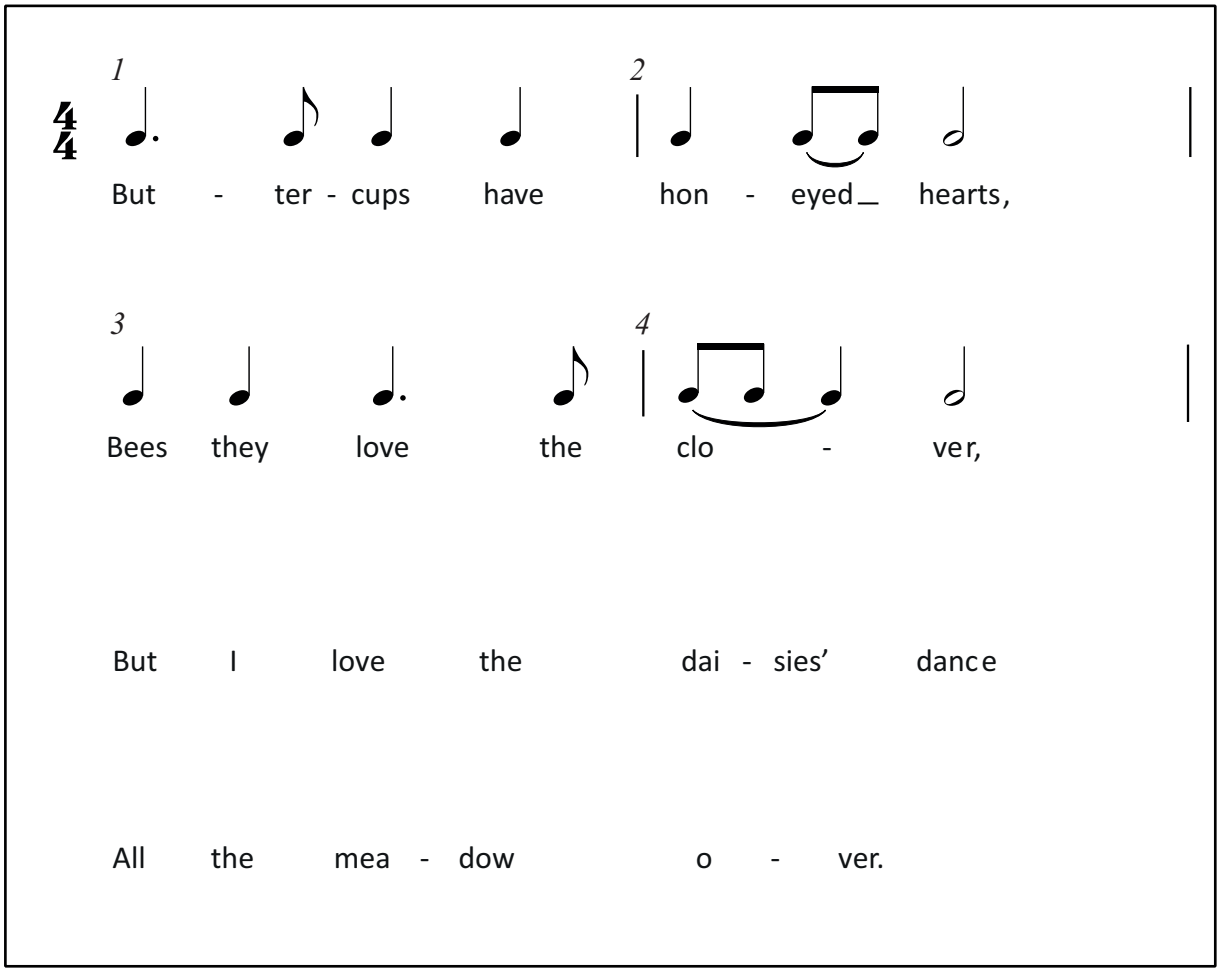
Question 2 **(40 marks)**
Setting music to a given text

Answer (a) **and** (b).

Here is an extract from the poem *Daisy Time* by Marjorie Pickthall.

Buttercups have honeyed hearts,
Bees they love the clover,
But I love the daisies' dance
All the meadow over.

(a) • The first two lines have been set to a rhythm. Compose a rhythm to fit the remaining words.



(b)
- Using the rhythm that you composed at (a), continue the opening below to make a melody of eight bars.
- End on the keynote, that is, doh.
- Write the words under the notes.
- Add appropriate phrasing and expression marks to the melody.



Question 3 **(40 marks)**

Composing to a given dance rhythm or metre or form

Answer (a) **and** (b).

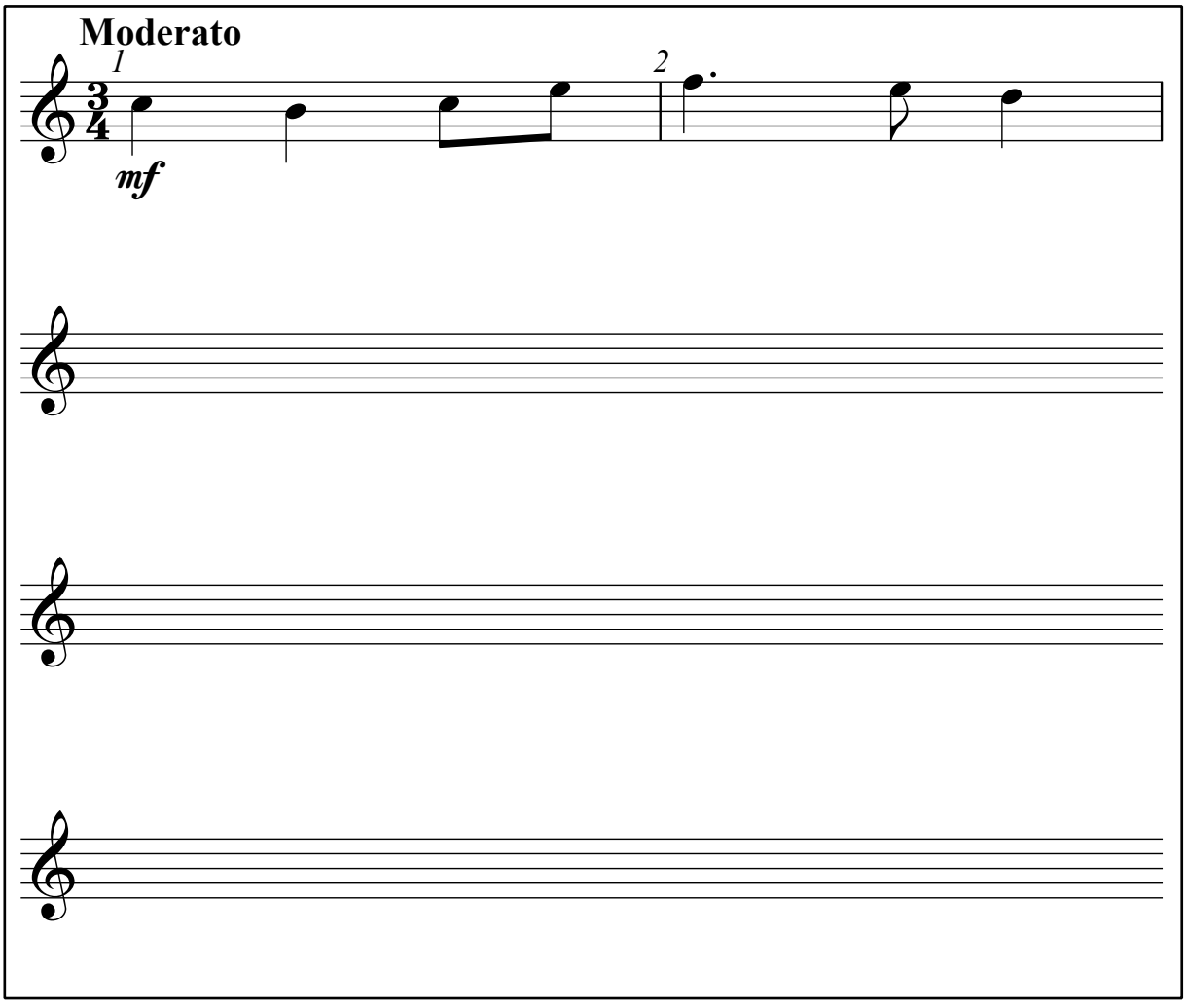
(a)
- Study this opening of a waltz.
- Continue the given opening to make an eight-bar melody, ending on the keynote, that is, doh.
- Add appropriate phrasing and expression marks to the melody.
- Choose a suitable instrument for your melody from the following list:

☐ oboe

☐ clarinet

☐ flute

☐ violin



and

(b) • Study this opening of a march.
• Continue the given opening to make an eight-bar melody, ending on the keynote, that is, doh.
• Add appropriate phrasing and expression marks to the melody.
• Choose a suitable instrument for your melody from the following list:

- ☐ oboe
- ☐ clarinet
- ☐ flute
- ☐ violin



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Section B — Harmony — 60 marks

Answer **one** question only in this section:

Question 4 Composing melody and bass notes from a set of chords at cadence points (60 marks)

or

Question 5 Adding bass notes and chord indications at cadence points (60 marks)

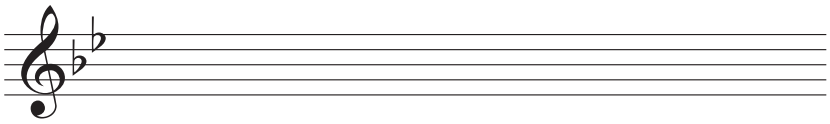
or

Question 6 Adding descant notes and chord indications at cadence points (60 marks)

Question 4 **(60 marks)**

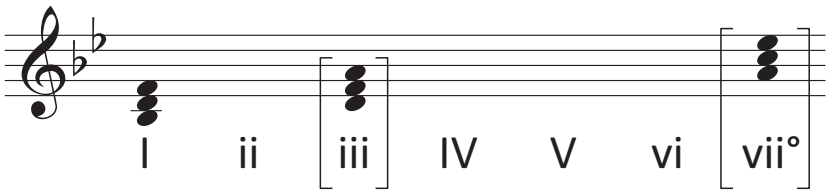
Composing melody and bass notes from a set of chords at cadence points

- Write out the scale of B♭ major on the stave below.



- Plot the chords available in this key (I, ii, IV, V and vi) either in the chord bank grid or on the stave below. The first chord is given.

Notes of chord	F D B♭		A F D				E♭ C A
Chord symbol	B♭		Dm				A°
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°



- Study the piece of music on the following page.
- Using the given rhythms, add melody and bass notes to complete the cadences and approach chords as follows:

(i) At **A**, an imperfect cadence with approach chord (I—ii—V)
(ii) At **B**, a plagal cadence with approach chord (vi—IV—I)
(iii) At **C**, an interrupted cadence with approach chord (IV—V—vi)
(iv) At **D**, a perfect cadence with approach chord (I—V—I)


A
B
C
D

Question 5 **(60 marks)**

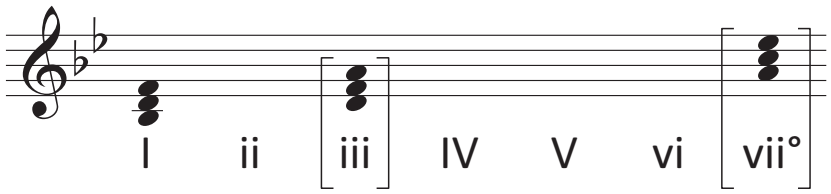
Adding bass notes and chord indications at cadence points

- Write out the scale of B♭ major on the stave below.



- Plot the chords available in this key (I, ii, IV, V and vi) either in the chord bank grid or on the stave below. The first chord is given.

Notes of chord	F D B♭		A F D				E♭ C A
Chord symbol	B♭		Dm				A°
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°



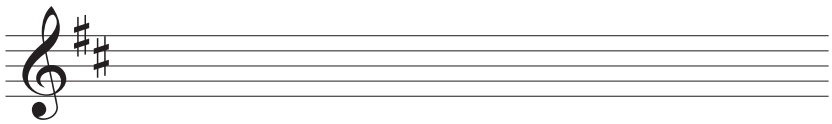
- Study the piece of music on the following page.
- Add suitable bass notes and chord indications to complete the cadences at **A, B, C** and **D**.
- You may use either chord symbols or Roman numerals, but not both.
- Do not repeat the same chord in adjacent boxes.


A
B
C
D

Question 6 **(60 marks)**

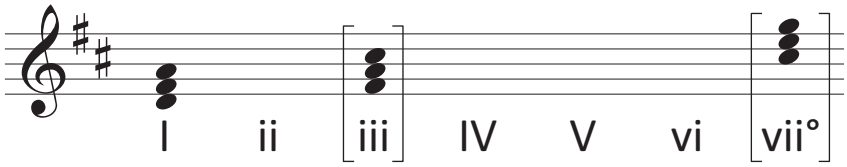
Adding descant notes and chord indications at cadence points

• Write out the scale of D major on the stave below.



• Plot the chords available in this key (I, ii, IV, V and vi) either in the chord bank grid or on the stave below. The first chord is given.

Notes of chord	A F♯ D		C♯ A F♯				G E C♯
Chord symbol	D		F♯m				C♯°
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°



• Study the piece of music on the following page.
• Complete the phrase endings by adding suitable chords and descant notes at the cadence points **A, B, C** and **D**.
• You may use either chord symbols or Roman numerals, but not both.


A
Descant
Melody
Bass
B
C
D

Extra work / Roughwork

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Leaving Certificate – Ordinary Level

Music Composing

Thursday 18 June

Afternoon 3:15 - 4:45