Name

J. S. BACH

Edexcel A Level (from 2016)

Johann Sebastian Bach: Cantata 'Ein feste Burg ist user Gott' BWV 80

Resources:

A short introduction to the Baroque era: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ak976AWRrNk A Level Music Study Guide (Rhinegold Education)

Edexcel A Level Anthology of Music (Pearson)

'Ich Elender Mensch' worksheet

All of the web-links can be found here: https://linktr.ee/ListeningLinks

Context and other music

Read pages 75 to 85 in the Study Guide. Make brief notes on the next page under the following headings:

- Musical context the Cantata genre
- Original purpose
- The text
- Treatment of the chorale melody
- Aspects of harmony
- Tonality
- Sonority (timbre)
- Texture

You are advised to spend no less than an hour on this.

This resource provides you with some contextual awareness before you tackle a 'Question 5' practice question on this topic. You should also study the resource on 'Ich Elender Mensch' and extracts from Handel's 'Messiah' which you can use as wider listening examples in the 'Question 6' practice essay.

Area of Study 1: Vocal Music

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Comprehension questions

Read pages 75 to 85 in the Study Guide. Then answer the questions on page 110 (14 marks). The marks available are: a (3); b (2); c (3); d (4); e (2)

Exam Practice of Question 5 (20 marks) – 30 minutes writing time

In order to achieve top marks your essay will need to demonstrate a thorough explanation of a range of elements in the unfamiliar piece. You will need to ensure that relevant works are used to justify salient points. You will make excellent use of musical vocabulary and provide full musical justification/exemplification to support composer's intentions.

Question 5: Vocal Music

Listen to Movement 2 of Bach's Cantata BWV 80.

This movement is intended to help the church congregation reflect on the reading of the day. Discuss how the composer met this intention, giving musical reasons for your answer. Relate your discussion to other relevant works. These may include set works or other music.

Alles, was von Gott geboren, lst zum Siegen auserkoren.

Mit unsrer Macht ist nichts getan, Wir sind gar bald verloren. Es streit' vor uns der rechte Mann, Den Gott selbst hat erkoren.

Wer bei Christi Blutpanier In der Taufe Treu geschworen, Siegt im Geiste für und für.

Fragst du, wer er ist?
Er heißt Jesus Christ,
Der Herre Zebaoth,
Und ist kein andrer Gott,
Das Feld muß er behalten.

Alles, was von Gott geboren, lst zum Siegen auserkoren.

Everything that is born of God is destined for victory.

Nothing can be done through our strength, we are soon already lost.
The righteous Man battles for us, that God himself has elected.

Whoever, with the bloody banner of Christ is sworn into the fealty of baptism, conquers in the spirit again and again.

You ask, who is He?
He is called Jesus Christ,
the Lord of Sabaoth,
and there is no other God,
He must control the battlefield.

Everything that is born of God is destined for victory.

The mark scheme for question 5 is available as a separate document.

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Read pages 8-9 in the Anthology of Music and answer the following questions (10 marks).
 Whose philosophy involved having the congregation take an active part in Christian worship? (1) What form did this contribution take? (1) Using your knowledge of the different movements in the Cantata you are studying, name the four different sorts of movements found in cantatas. (1) For what purpose did Bach compose a weekly Cantata? (1) Explain what each of these instruments is: cembalo; violone; organo; bass sackbut. (2) Who wrote the chorale tune and what does the title mean in English? (1) Explain the compositional process this Cantata went through. Include dates and times of year. (2) In which church was this Cantata first sung? (1)
Continue on a separate sheet of lined paper.

Question 6: Vocal Music

Now try the Question 6 essay on page 110 of the Study Guide. Remember you must give context and mention relevant works to back up your points. You should mention the oratorio 'Messiah' by Handel, the chorales mentioned on pages 49-55 of the study guide and the cantata 'Ich Elender Mensch'.

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Other music listening examples:

Baroque Music Overview: https://youtu.be/Ak976AWRrNk

What is a violone? https://youtu.be/S3-nAWn2EH8

The 'other music' selected here includes the other movements of the cantata *Ein feste Burg*, the cantata *Ich Elender Mensch*, the oratorio *Messiah* by Handel, movements from *Gloria* by Vivaldi and Bach's *St Matthew Passion*.

What is a Cantata? https://youtu.be/f4ZU4PIXqu4

Johann Sebastian Bach: Ein feste Burg BWV 80: https://youtu.be/eTq3gszPsIQ

Ein feste Burg secco recitative example

Erwäge doch, Kind Gottes (bass recit.): https://youtu.be/8q9Ozj_-7FE

This extract from Handel's Messiah contrasts passages of secco recit. with accomp. recit. culminating in a chorus: https://youtu.be/zk-RQz6jZqw

Score of Johann Sebastian Bach Ich Elender Mensch: imslp.eu/files/imglnks/euimg/7/76/IMSLP512898-PMLP149290- bachNBAI,24ichelendermensch,werwirdmicherloesenBWV48.pdf

Recording of Ich Elender Mensch: https://youtu.be/C3EBfiFBEAs

Lecture on The Vocal Music of Bach: https://youtu.be/XLVOoFNvO9Y

George Frederick Handel:

And the Glory of the Lord from Messiah: https://youtu.be/4egNeuAf0Bg

Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah: https://youtu.be/7YaGwl7GjlA

Worthy is the Lamb and Amen (The Final Chorus) from Messiah: https://youtu.be/3x2fSxOeij4

I know that my Redeemer Liveth from Messiah: https://youtu.be/qShczRbvO5E

Aria - Why do the Nations from Messiah https://youtu.be/yNcZgu9yFjU

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Other music listening examples continued:
Johann Sebastian Bach
St John Passion Opening Chorus Herr unser Herrscher: https://youtu.be/quBYEomIAZM
Translation of this Chorus: Lord, our ruler, whose fame in every land is glorious! Show us, through Your passion, that You, the true Son of God, Through all time, even in the greatest humiliation, Have become transfigured!
Antonio Vivaldi - Gloria:
No.1 Gloria: https://youtu.be/0ICW_iZcti4
No.3 Laudamus te: https://youtu.be/Bfv8rqL5FVI
No.10 Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris: https://youtu.be/pDCoHfr7sgE
No.12 Vivaldi Gloria cum Sancto Spiritu (Final Chorus): https://youtu.be/azS9Km5kK8g