

Name _____

Area of Study 1: Vocal Music

J. S. BACH

Edexcel A Level (from 2016)

Johann Sebastian Bach: Cantata 'Ein feste Burg ist unser 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.

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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,
Ist zum Siegen auserkoren.

Everything that is born of God
is destined for victory.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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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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/eTq3gszPslQ>

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/7YaGwl7GjIA>

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>

