**The Beatles:**

**‘With a Little Help from My Friends’**

**‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’**

**‘Within You Without You’**

**From Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band**

**Listening Exam Section B: Study Pieces**

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Listening Exam Section B: Study Pieces

**AQA Specimen paper:**

The Beatles: ‘With a Little Help from My Friends’, ‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’, ‘Within You Without You’ , from Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band

1. Identify the musical genres featured in each of these two songs from Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band: (i) With a Little Help from my Friends (ii) Within You Without You

* Rock / Pop
* Indian Classical

1. The dilruba and the sitar can be heard during Within You Without You. Identify two musical features present in this song because these instruments have been used.

* Sitar: adds drone; distinctive tone quality / timbre; use of pitch bend
* Dilruba: sustained notes/chords: adds a “wind”/softer timbre

1. State two reasons why the Beatles stopped touring and performing live by the time the Sgt Pepper album had been recorded.

* Amplification not powerful enough so audience louder than the band
* Song arrangements becoming too complex for live performance
* Song instrumentation too diverse e.g. strings, brass, Indian instruments
* Multiple harmony vocals which could not be performed live by four musicians
* Exhausting schedule from constant touring
* Safety issues e.g. physical threats is America, Japan and the Philippines
* Technological recording techniques used in original versions too complex to be replicated in a live performance situation

1. Explain how The Beatles were able to achieve a ‘new sound’ through their use of technology in ‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’. (8 marks)

* Automatic Double Tracking (ADT): Using analogue tape delay to copy another voice to avoid live double tracking
* Direct Input Transformer (DIT): The Abbey Road sound engineers invented a ‘transformer’ so that electric instruments could be recorded directly into the equipment rather than through a microphone. Later became known as DI. This greatly improves the sound quality captured/avoids the chances of feedback. DIT was used to record most of Paul McCartney’s bass lines on Sergeant Pepper.
* Close-micing: a microphone is placed close to an instrument or sound source, within three to twelve inches, producing a dry sound often with more bass. Also separates the individual sounds producing a ‘cleaner’ recording/making it easier to separate/pan tracks
* Reduction mixing (ping-ponging/Bouncing): dubbing multiple parts to just one or two tracks, allowing more room for additional overdubbing. Nearly always used with older 4-track machines due to the limited recording space available. Allowed George Martin (the producer) to add additional layers and vary the texture.
* Echo/Delay: Used on John Lennon’s vocal in order to ‘paint’ a psychedelic sound
* Hammond Lesley Speaker units used add further echo to the vocal parts and to George Harrison’s guitar.
* Lowry Heritage electric organ played by McCartney with added organ stops to create a ‘celeste’-like ethereal sound
* Distortion and Flange effects used on the guitar in the chorus
* Extreme panning: used particularly at the start of the song where the bass is extreme right, keyboard extreme left.

Listening Exam Section B: Study Pieces

**Rhinegold Listening tests book:**

The Beatles: ‘With a Little Help from My Friends’, ‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’, ‘Within You Without You’ , from Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band

1. Ringo Starr, who was not regarded as being a confident singer, sang the lead vocal on ‘With a Little Help from My Friends’.

Identify two ways in which Lennon and McCartney wrote a vocal part suitable for such a vocalist.

* Narrow range
* Call and response with other singers
* Syllabic lyric setting
* Phrases on one note

1. ‘With a Little Help from My Friends’ is introduced by a segue/link from the previous song (‘Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band’). This required the Beatles to modulate from C major to E Major.

Identify two ways in which this modulation is achieved.

* Use of rising parallel chords (C-D-E)
* Use of a rising scale in the melody
* Use of a guitar ‘turnaround’ phrases to prepare a perfect cadence (E-A-B)

1. Identify two ways in which panning is used in the recording of ‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’.

* Extreme panning
* Two guitars – one panned extreme left, one panned extreme right
* Organ panned left
* Drum kit panned left
* Vocals panned centre
* Bass panned centre

1. Explain how musical elements associated with Indian music are used in ‘Within You, Without You’. (8 marks)

Instrumentation:

* Sitar
* Tambura
* Dilruba
* Swarmandal
* Tabla

Melody:

* Raga (accept mixolydian mode)
* Doubling/ornamenting the melody
* Pitch bends
* Glissandi

Harmony:

* Drone
* Built on one main chord

Texture:

* Heterophonic texture (between vocal and dilruba) (additional credit for detail)

Rhythm/metre:

* Tala
* (Accept ambiguous metre / changing metre / irregular metre, etc.) (additional credit for detail)

**Renaissance Practice Paper 1:**

The Beatles: ‘With a Little Help from My Friends’, ‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’, ‘Within You Without You’ , from Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band

1. Which of the three songs by The Beatles: (i) uses a swung rhythm? (ii) ends with ‘repeat and fade’?

* With a Little Help from my Friends
* Within You Without You

1. Describe features of the use of rhythm and tonality in the first two lines of ‘Within You Without You’:

**We were talking about the space between us all**

**And the people who hide themselves behind a wall**

1. Use of rhythm in these two lines:
2. Use of tonality in these two lines:

* All crotchets and minims OR just two different note values / melody on the beat throughout / same phrase twice / details of interval eg falling 4ths… mostly stepwise and 4ths… ends on the mediant
* C major (with flat 7ths) OR modal (it’s transposed mixolydian mode… the mode starting on G

1. Describe two features of the instrumental introduction to ‘Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds’

* Monophonic
* Simple triple (or 3/4 time)
* Arpeggio shape(s) or disjunct
* (mostly) even crotchets / regular or balanced phrasing
* Synthesized harpsichord (probably an electric piano timbre)

1. Describe how percussion instruments are used in these three Beatles songs. You may refer to any OR all of the songs in your answer. (8 marks)

Within You Without You

* Use of tabla / Indian twin hand drums
* (Tabla) are able to produce a range of different timbres
* Use of Indian rhythmic cycles OR talas / 16 beat tintal in the vocal sections / 10 beat jhaptal cycle in the instrumental section

With a Little Help (and) Lucy In the Sky

* Standard pop drum kit / Ringo Star

With a Little Help

* Use of fills in introduction
* Standard pop patterns
* Back beat on snare
* Light snare sound (limited drum head in the mix)
* Swung rhythm on closed hats
* Fill on toms after first chorus
* Use of ride in third verse
* Kit and voice ‘duet’ in coda (combined with a stop-time effect in guitars and piano… or maybe Ringo just forgot and carried on anyway?)
* Ends with cymbal roll

Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds

* Verse and pre chorus – very light kit
* Brushes are used
* Kick, hats and ride
* Heavy crotchet hits on toms lead into chorus
* standard rock patterns in chorus with offbeat snare
* Fills in last (fade out) chorus

**Renaissance Practice Paper 2:**

The Beatles: ‘With a Little Help from My Friends’, ‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’, ‘Within You Without You’ , from Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band

1. Which of the three songs by The Beatles:

* Features the use of a drone?
* Begins with three chords rising in step… C-D-E?

1. Features the use of a drone? Within You Without You
2. Begins with three chords rising in step… C-D-E? With a Little Help from my Friends
3. Describe two features of the use of backing vocals in ‘With a Little Help from my Friends’

* Male vocals
* Close harmony
* Parallel motion (3rds and 6ths) / used in the introduction / and in the hook line of chorus
* Call and response OR alternation with solo voice / in verses 2 and 3 and again in ‘middle 8’
* Featured in the outro / with a closing, falling scale

1. ‘Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds’ uses two different time signatures in alternation. What are the two time signatures?

* 3 / 4 and 4 / 4

1. Describe how tonality and harmony are used in the three Beatles songs. You may refer to any OR all of the songs in your answer. (8 marks)

Within You Without You

* Modal / (transposed) mixolydian mode – accept C major but only if reference to ‘flat 7th’ or ‘B flat’ is included
* Use of drones / both tonic (C) and dominant (G)
* Harmony arises coincidentally from the alinement of the layered, independent lines (not based around chord progressions)

With a Little Help from my Friends

* E major
* Introduction use of chords ascending in tone stops… not diatonic
* Verse repetition of chord sequence I-V-II7-V7-1 / perfect cadences / and use of 7ths
* Chorus use of the flat 7 chord (D) and cycle of 5ths
* Plagal cadences
* (middle 8) begins in relative minor
* Plagal cadence in subdominant
* Coda chromatic chords
* Tierce de Picardie

Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds

* Introduction and verse: tonally ambiguous / despite notionally A major / descending chromatically / non diatonic / unrelated chords / inverted chords
* Pre-chorus: B flat established for 8 bars / then cycle of 5ths ending with imperfect cadence in G major / leading to….
* Chorus in G major / standard I-IV-V progression / repeated / also used in repeat to fade coda plus addition of secondary dominant – A major

**Renaissance Practice Paper 3:**

The Beatles: ‘With a Little Help from My Friends’, ‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’, ‘Within You Without You’ , from Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band

1. Which of the three songs by the Beatles

* Ends with background crowd noise?
* Has changes of key signature?
* Ends with background crowd noise? Within You Without You
* Has changes of key signature? Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds

1. Describe two features of the string playing (violin, cello and dilruba) in ‘Within You Without You’ which give an Indian feel to the music.

* Use of glissando
* Ornaments
* Molto legato ‘snaking’ effect
* Senza vibrato (without vibrato)
* Double stopping on drones
* Pizzicato on rhythmic ostinato

1. Who is the lead singer on ‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’ and who is the lead singer on ‘Within You Without You?

* Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds: John Lennon
* Within You Without You: George Harrison

1. Describe the use of texture and/or structure in the three Beatles songs. You may refer to any OR all of the songs in your answer. (8 marks)

Within You Without You (texture)

* Drone(s)
* Solo over drone
* Layered, independent lines
* Hints of heterophonic (verse 2 ‘we all could share’)
* Melody in unison / strings in octaves / call and response or antiphonal (in instrumental passage)

Within You Without You (structure)

* Introduction (alap) verse 1 – verse 2 – chorus (gat or jor) – (extended) instrumental (jhala) – verse 3 – chorus – (brief) coda… strophic (credit ‘strophic’ once only)

With a Little Help From My Friends (texture)

* Homophonic or melody plus chords / drum fill / call and response between lead and backing vocals / in the middle 8 some independent interplay between vocals and bass guitar / ends with backing vocals fill or countermelody

Within a Little Help From My Friends (Structure)

* Introduction – verse 1 – chorus – verse 2 – chorus – middle 8 – verse 3 – chorus – middle 8 – chorus – coda… (strophic)

Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds (texture)

* (introduction) monophonic / (verse) layered or independent lines / (pre- chorus) homophonic or melody plus chords / melody doubled (octaves) / drum solo fill / (chorus) melody in 3rds plus chords and bass riff

Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds (structure)

* Introduction – verse 1 – pre-chorus – chorus – verse 2 – pre-chorus – chorus – verse 3 – chorus – repeat to fade… strophic

**Renaissance: Section B:**

The Beatles: ‘With a Little Help from My Friends’, ‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’, ‘Within You Without You’ , from Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band

1. Which of the three songs by the Beatles would be described as

* Psychedelic Rock?
* Fusion?

1. Psychedelic Rock? ‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’
2. Fusion? ‘Within You Without You’
3. Concept albums.
4. What is a concept album?
5. What is the underlying concept behind the ‘Sgt Pepper’ album?
6. What is a concept album? An album in which the tracks are linked by an overall theme or story (as opposed to a compilation of individual songs)
7. What is the underlying concept behind the ‘Sgt Pepper’ album? This album is based on the music and experiences of a fictional Edwardian era military band
8. ‘With a Little Help from my Friends’
9. Who is the singer on this track?
10. Who is the producer of this track?
11. Who is the singer on this track? Ringo Starr
12. Who is the producer of this track? George Martin
13. Describe how the composers / arrangers / performers have achieved contrasts in these Beatles songs. You may refer to any OR all of the three songs in your answer. (8 marks)

Within You Without You

* Changing interaction of Indian and Western elements / Indian sitar / tabla /Western lyrics / strings
* Tabla silent in a number of passages with resulting absence of pulse / beat
* Addition of new layers / for example bass drone / violin countermelody
* Instrumental section / call and response / and syncopated violin pizzicato / improvised instrumental exchanges (at the end of the instrumental section) / call and response between voice and violins / enigmatic and quirky )or just self-indulgent) voices / laughter at the end

Within a Little Help from My Friends

* Use of fills / call and response between lead vox and backing vox / and introduction of backing vox harmonies ‘Do you need…’ (starting) in minor key / and backing vox take the lead in this section
* Also a syncopated bass line
* Introduction of ride cymbal

Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds

* Verse – moderate tempo in compound time contrasts with louder / chorus in a faster tempo / and simple quadruple time / also, chorus has addition of organ chords / and a more mobile bass line / addition of guitar doubling vox in verse / and a different bass line in the last verse