

## **GCSE Composition Brief**

**Area of Study: 4**

**Topic: African Music**

**Brief:**

Compose a piece for percussion instruments that uses techniques found in African Drumming that is suitable for Dance GCSE students to choreograph a piece to. This could be for live performance, or done on Sibelius.

Or

Compose a piece for xylophones based on African instrumental music you have heard in class. It should include call and response and cross rhythms and the pitches should be taken from a pentatonic scale.

Or

Compose a piece in the style of African vocal music. It should include close harmony vocals and call and response. (Listen to Ladysmith Black Mambazo, and music from 'The Lion King' for inspiration.)

**Ideas to use...**

- Rhythmic ostinati
- Master drummer to control the performance
- Call and response
- Syncopation
- Solo sections
- Monorhythms
- Polyrhythms
- Cross rhythms (2 beats against 3 beats)
- Polymetric i.e. 3/4 , 4/4 and 5/4 time all together

Also use dynamics and tempo to shape your piece.

Make sure the piece has a clear and interesting structure, with a sense of direction and climax/resolution, with a strong ending.