

External assessment 2025

Stimulus book

Music

General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

Stimulus 1

‘Louder Than Words’ from *tick, tick... BOOM!* by Jonathan Larson

Play and/or read Stimulus 1 (4 minutes and 43 seconds).

Note: Some sounds are not scored but are part of the audio stimulus and may be used in responses where relevant.

Contextual information

‘Louder Than Words’ is the final song in American composer Jonathan Larson’s autobiographical rock musical, *tick, tick... BOOM!* Larson has struggled to find the success he desires, and as he approaches his 30th birthday he worries that time is running out for him to write music that will make a lasting impact.

Score

Source: Larson, J 2001

This content has been redacted for copyright reasons.

Audio can be found online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ec1njN-D7Nk>

Stimulus 2

‘Where?’ from *The Rabbits* by Kate Miller-Heidke and Iain Grandage (lyrics by Lally Katz and Kate Miller-Heidke)

Play and/or read Stimulus 2 (4 minutes and 40 seconds).

Contextual information

The Rabbits is an opera written by Australian composers Kate Miller-Heidke and Iain Grandage based on the book by John Marsden. It is an allegory¹ for the colonisation of Australia. ‘Where?’ expresses the composers’ thoughts about how the introduction of rabbits brought about changes in the Australian landscape.

1 a storytelling technique in which aspects of the narrative stand for something deeper or have a hidden meaning

Score

Source: Miller-Heidke, K & Grandage, I 2016

This content has been redacted for copyright reasons.

Audio can be found online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CG5eKJxeAD4&list=RDCG5eKJxeAD4&start_radio=1

Stimulus 3

‘Concerning Hobbits’ from *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* by Howard Shore

Play and/or read Stimulus 3 (1 minute and 3 seconds).

Note: Some sounds are not scored but are part of the audio stimulus and may be used in responses where relevant.

Contextual information

Hobbits are fictional, human-like creatures from the fantasy trilogy *The Lord of the Rings* by JRR Tolkien. They are deeply contented with their peaceful and rural way of life, rarely venture beyond the borders of their village and are resistant to change. Hobbits love food, cheer and song as well as peace and quiet. They are known for their brightly coloured clothes, pipe-smoking and well-tended farmland.

Score

Source: Shore, H 2001

This content has been redacted for copyright reasons.

Audio can be found online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL_3mlOPnGI

References

Stimulus 1

Larson, J. 2001, *Louder Than Words* from Tick, Tick...Boom! [audio recording],
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ec1njN-D7Nk>

Larson, J. 2001, *Louder Than Words* from Tick, Tick...Boom! [notated music and lyrics], EMI April Music INC.

Stimulus 2

Miller-Heidke, K. and I, Grandage, 2016, *Where? from "The Rabbits"* [audio recording],
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CG5eKJxeAD4&list=RDCG5eKJxeAD4&start_radio=1

Miller-Heidke, K. and I, Grandage, 2016, *Where? from "The Rabbits"* [notated music],
Copyright KMH, LK, IG

Stimulus 3

Shore, H. 2001, *Concerning Hobbits* from The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring
[audio recording], https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL_3mIOPnGI

Shore, H. 2001, *Concerning Hobbits* from The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (score reduction
by Oscar Hrankowski) [notated music and lyrics], Alfred Music



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