

## 8D Mock aural test answer guide

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For Test 8D, the candidate is required to describe the characteristic features of a piece played by the examiner. Ideally, the candidate should respond freely without prompting, but if necessary the examiner will prompt with questions about particular features. A description of the piece is given here, with points listed for each of the features covered in the prompting questions. The points listed are neither definitive nor comprehensive and there are other ways of responding that would be equally successful. Candidates would not have to mention all the features given in order to receive full credit; as a guide they would need to mention features from within about two thirds of the main bullet points.

### 10. Wagner

- Use of harmony and tonality

*Major key with much chromaticism*

- Texture

*Mostly very thick/chordal, although upper melodic part emerges out of texture*

- Use of dynamics

*First half very loud and dramatic; second half has dim. to **pp**; very wide dynamic range*

- Character and mood

*First half: powerful, accented chords, strong rhythms; heroic, bold*

*Second half: smoother, descending melodic phrases, gentler dynamic level; tender, calm*

- Style and period

- Romantic (Tchaikovsky, Wagner)
- Dramatic dynamic contrasts, variety of textures suggest orchestral origins, intense chromaticism, flexibility of tempo