

Assessment in Junior Cycle Music

The Junior Cycle places a strong emphasis on assessment as part of the learning process.

Assessment in Junior Cycle education involves gathering, interpreting and using information about the processes and outcomes of learning.

While different techniques may be employed for formative, diagnostic and summative purposes, the focus of the assessment and reporting is on the improvement of student learning.

...Music Specification, p.19

Participating and Music-Making in the Classroom

Students will...

- participate in activities that communicate their own creative ideas and the interpretation of the ideas of others
- develop fluency and technical control as they rehearse and present individually and with others
- use performance as a method of demonstrating their understanding of musical elements and instrumental/vocal techniques
- rehearse, revise, and refine music to perform for and with others
- learn about making informed musical decisions and judgements

...Music Specification, p.12

The Practical Examination

The Practical examination will...

- take place in third year
- be allocated 30% of the marks available
- be marked by the State Examinations Commission (SEC)
- will reflect what can be attained in three years of classroom-based tuition
- will assess technical control, fluency and musicality

In the practical...

- students will perform three songs/pieces and take an unprepared test
- solo and group performing may be freely mixed
- the songs/pieces may be presented on a variety of instruments or through a combination of voice and instruments

In the practical...

Students will choose from...

- aural memory (rhythmic or melodic) OR
- sight-reading (instrumental/vocal/rhythmic) OR
- improvisation for at least four bars

...Music Specification, p.23