

# High Storrs Sixth Form

## 2024 Bridging Work

**Subject: Sound Technology**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



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# Sound Technology Bridging Work

*The component 1 coursework on the Sound Technology course involves using the recording studio to record and mix your own version of a pop song.*

**Task 1.** Make an information sheet on **dynamic microphones** and **condenser microphones** and the differences between them. Describe:

- How the two microphone types work
- In which circumstances you would choose to use each one.
- A description of common **Polar Patterns**. This could include polar pattern diagrams
- A description of what **Frequency Response** means. This could include a frequency response diagram
- A description of what **Sensitivity** means.



**Task 2.** Write a 500 word description of what a producer does when they go to mix a piece of music. Write an introductory paragraph on the purpose of mixing a song is and a paragraph on each of the following processes:

- Balancing a mix
- EQ
- Compression
- Reverb
- Panning



What does the word mean? Why is it necessary? Which instruments would you be more likely to apply that process to?

Some pages that could help start off your research:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audio\\_mixing\\_\(recorded\\_music\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audio_mixing_(recorded_music)) – Features a section giving a basic explanation on each of these processes.
- <https://www.soundonsound.com/techniques/mixing-essentials> - Gives a more in depth, detailed and ‘professional’ look at how to mix a song.

*The component 2 coursework requires you to compose your own piece of music which uses technology in a creative way.*

**Task 3.** Write a 500 word essay on the following question:

*Evaluate how creative production details add interest to a song of your choice.*

You can choose any song that you like but it should be something which makes creative use of sound technology. Some technology that a suitable song might include could be: **synthesizers, drum machines, tape effects, samplers** and **sampled audio**, interesting **recording techniques, edited audio** and effects such as **reverb, delay** and **distortion**. Describe how these technologies have been used and give your own analysis of what they add to the song.

An evaluation of just one production element (sampling) from ‘*Make Me Feel*’ by Janelle Monae might say:

*“Janelle Monae uses sampling to create unusual percussive sounds for her song. At 0.00 she uses just a tongue ‘cluck’ and a finger click for a rhythmic accompaniment. These original sounds have probably been recorded and put into a sampler allowing her to program then into a beat. They give the song a unique and much more interesting timbral palette than if the rhythm had been played on a typical drum kit.”*

For each production choice that you describe include:

- Where it can be heard. (*For the example above it is at 0.00*)
- What it sounds like. (*“A tongue cluck and a finger click”*)
- How the technology has been used. (*“The sounds have been recorded and then added to a sampler”*)
- Why this choice was made. (*They give the song a unique and more interesting timbral palette than a drum kit would*)