

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award

Set Task: Responding to a Music Brief

Digital template for Activity 1

Learner Name: Nellie Tagg	Candidate Number: 0708
Centre name: Sheffield Springs Academy	Centre Number: 36512

Activity 1: Initial response to the music brief

You must outline:

- what you plan to do in response to the brief
- how your proposed response will address the aims of the brief
- how you will use musical elements, genres, styles and playing or producing techniques to re-interpret your chosen piece
- your consideration of the resources and skills development needed to produce the final piece of music (time, materials, space etc).

Response to the music brief:

The song I have chosen for this brief is THATS HOW YOU START OVER by Diana Ross. I chose this song because I can change it from an upbeat disco song to an ambient song and the message of new beginnings is linked to the lyrics of starting over again. I will create my piece using band lab in a backing style track. This means it could be exported and uploaded into an online platform like launch pad magazine.

The style of the original song is in a disco genre which has a fast tempo and upbeat feel with a dominate drum beat and repeated chord sequence. The genre I have decided to turn into is ambient which has a much softer and calmer atmosphere. This style of music tends to use synth, piano, drums bass, bells. The reason I chose this was because an ambient style of music can use realistic sounds and looped based sounds and teenagers might have access to an online music program where they could use loop base sounds. The softness of ambient music might appeal to a wider teenage audience because it is less stereotypical. The song is in the key of Ab major and uses the chords Db Ab E Bbm. The chords are repeated and give a sense of flowing. I listened to different examples of ambient music to increase my understanding of the style. I listened to AT THE RIVER by Groove Armada and TEARDROP by Massive Attack. In these examples they use soft sounds and a slow tempo. During my piece I want to keep a structure for example an intro and then a shortened verse section, instrumental, chorus, chorus, outro. I am planning on singing it live with the track playing in the background.

How I plan to meet the aims of the brief

I have been asked to reimagine a piece of music for a target audience of teenagers with the theme of new beginnings, of how not all relationships last and that people can find someone else in time. My piece of music shows this by changing the style of music. My project shows that you can adapt to new beginnings and how change can be a good thing. I have changed a classic disco song into an ambient style. I will input all the track parts onto band lab and then sing the vocal part live. I will use the main lyrics which link into the theme of new beginnings. I got the original chords of the song from chordify and by having this I would be able to look at the chords given and add them onto BandLab to start making the backing track of the song but then being able to turn it into an Ambient song and it still sounding like the original song. I plan to sing it like that original song with the same tempo and the same tune. I plan to make the song into a new version by adding light and airy sounds throughout the backing track and a bass line to give it a calmer and more relaxing feel and this is to get rid of the disco sound that was in the original song. By turning a love song into a calmer feeling song but with the same lyrics can be a good thing for teenagers because I plan to sing a verse and chorus which talk about how relationships come and go and how time can heal you and people are able to move on and find peace in a breakup, by singing this teenagers can relate to break ups meaning they are more likely to listen to the sound and if it is turned into an ambient style teenagers can feel calmer and maybe able to get peace of mind after a break up. This is good for new beginnings and moving on in life.

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What musical elements, genre, style and production techniques I will use

I plan to change the piece's structure by creating a longer intro and start on verse 5 the lyrics will describe how you will begin again through the words laugh, tears and learning. Then I will go onto the last chorus to link with the verse I will have previously sung. I will slow the tempo down to about 125bpm which keeps the same rough tempo of the original. To create a more ambient tempo I will use long chords. I plan on making a more relaxed drum rhythm and a felt piano for the chords. I will then want to use an electric bass for the bass of the backing track. I want to add these effects to make sure it gives an ambient sound instead of it still sounding like a disco song. I will change the tune of the original song of disco into an Ambient style and by doing this I will add airy sounds to make it sound calmer and more melodic. I also want to add a bass line and a drumbeat so when all the chords and sounds are added together it will add more texture and by having all these things in my piece it will add more dynamic to it. When I finish making the backing track, I will have that on in the background and sing the parts of the song I used in it.

Resource and skill development needed to produce a final piece of music

To create this piece of music I will need digital audio workstation (DAW) the type I will be using is Band lab to create my backing track to sing my song THATS HOW YOU START OVER. I will also need the chord sheet for the backing track, and I will also need the lyrics for my song. This will help me when singing my song to help me keep track of what part of the song I am going to sing to help it link to new beginnings.