

QUESTION 3B

Area of Study 1: Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven

Explain briefly how Beethoven's symphonies differ from symphonies written by Haydn and/or Mozart.

[10]

SAMPLE ANSWER

Beethoven wrote 9 Symphonies whereas both Mozart and Haydn wrote many more. Haydn wrote 104 and Mozart wrote 41. However, Beethoven's symphonies are generally longer than those written by Mozart and Haydn.

All three composers used the classical structure of 4 movements with the first movement in Sonata form, but Beethoven tended to enlarge the movements, particularly the first. There is still use of a continuo in early Haydn symphonies and structure was the main consideration in symphonies by Haydn and Mozart. Beethoven continued the Viennese symphonic tradition in his early symphonies but by the time he wrote his third symphony he was being more innovative and the first movement in particular is much longer and more dramatic than previous symphonies. Beethoven also developed the third movement from a traditional Minuet and Trio which usually had a stately three in a bar to a faster and livelier Scherzo movement that was often one in a bar. There are other features of Beethoven's symphonies that show he was trying to be innovative. For example, there is a March movement used in the second movement of the Eroica Symphony. This is the first time a march has been used in a symphony. Other developments include Symphony no. 6 which is descriptive and paints a picture of the countryside. This Symphony is also in 5 movements instead of the normal 4. Haydn wrote several symphonies which had names but these were often added later. For example Symphony no. 100 is called the Military Symphony because of its use of percussion in the second movement and the Surprise symphony (no. 94) is so-called because of the loud chord which appears at the end of the first theme. Another innovative idea of Beethoven's was to include the use of a choir in the Symphony no. 9 which is why it became known as the choral symphony.

8 marks awarded

Commentary

This is a good answer that provides relevant detail on symphonies in the Classical period. There are examples showing some knowledge of Haydn symphonies and the changes that were made by Beethoven.

The mark scheme gives the following guidance for 7-8 marks:

Answer makes clear comments on other symphonies with good relevant examples provided.

Further detail showing some knowledge of early Haydn symphonies as well as the use of thematism in Haydn symphonies would move this answer into the top band. More detail on Beethoven symphonies showing clear knowledge of music studied would also improve this answer.