

Performance assessment grid 2: Expression and interpretation

In this grid, marks are awarded for communicating a musically convincing performance through the use of musical elements as appropriate to the piece performed. The text in italics is to be applied to ensemble performances.

Level	Mark	Expression and interpretation
	0	No rewardable material
Level 1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate or inconsistent tempo throughout. • Little or no appropriate dynamic contrast, and little or no attention given to phrasing and articulation. • The performance communicates poorly. • <i>In ensemble performances there is little awareness of balance.</i>
Level 2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An unsuitable or inconsistent tempo in places. • Limited use of dynamics, phrasing and articulation to shape the performance. • The performance struggles to communicate and may sound mechanical. • <i>In ensemble performances there is occasional awareness of balance.</i>
Level 3	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of tempo is usually appropriate and consistent • Some use of dynamics, phrasing and articulation to shape the performance, but several opportunities, notated or otherwise, are missed • The performance demonstrates some involvement with the music. • <i>In ensemble performances there is a good awareness of balance throughout</i>
Level 4	7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of tempo is appropriate and consistent throughout. • Appropriate use of dynamics, phrasing and articulation to shape the performance. • The performance communicates very well, with no more than one or two less successful moments. • <i>In ensemble performances there is excellent awareness of balance throughout.</i>