

# Music

## Task: What Makes a Successful Ensemble?

Study the performances and bibliographies of a range of successful music ensembles (groups and bands) e.g. The Beatles. Create a presentation about these ensembles and add the key elements below in your discussion of what makes a successful music group.

### Elements of musical ensembles:

1. Band members
2. Organisation
3. Communication e.g. musical interaction, interaction with audience,
4. Listening skills
5. Co-operation
6. Rehearsal
7. Repertoire
8. Strengths and weaknesses

| Pass  | Merit  | Distinction  |
|---|--|--|
| Give an explanation of the main elements that make a successful ensemble (group). | Give examples of each of the main elements using video footage of performances, or biographical materials (written articles) to support your explanations. | Discuss the importance of each element, and how it makes an ensemble (music group) work together successfully. Give more than one example of other musical groups that using the main elements you have discussed. |

### **Guidance questions to help structure your answer:**

Use these questions below to help you structure your answers:

#### **1. Band members**

What is an ensemble?

What is the role of each band member in the group? E.g. The role of the drummer is to .....

What are the responsibilities of each band member? E.g. The role of the singer is to...

#### **2. Repertoire**

What genre/s of music do the band specialise in? e.g. Rock, RnB

Do they have a big repertoire i.e. Do they explore different sounds?

What are the band's most popular singles

#### **3. Organisation**

Why is it important for this band to be organised? E.g. book and be on time for band rehearsals, bring all equipment to rehearsals etc..

#### **4. Communication e.g. musical interaction, interaction with audience**

What techniques do this band use to communicate musically with each other? E.g. count ins etc... (include video link of rehearsal/performance)

How does this band communicate with the audience? E.g. waving hands etc...(include video link of live performance)

#### **5. Listening Skills**

Why is it important that each member of the band can be when they are playing together ?

#### **6. Co-orporation**

Why is it important that each band member makes a contribution, helps each other, offers up ideas during rehearsals?

#### **7. Reheasals**

Why are rehearsals important?

Where, when and how often do this band need to rehearse?

#### **8. Strengths and Weaknesses**

What are the strengths of this band/group compared to other bands?

What are the weakness of this band/ group compared to other bands?

Can you give examples?