Essay Question

**It is often argued that musical education is beneficial for students. Evaluate the possibilities of music for improving students’ academic results. Compare your answer to the notes provided on the next page.**

### Abstract A

Increasingly sophisticated devices offer the possibility to be "with" music everywhere, and at all times. Media, considered here as a means of communication, are present to a considerable extent in the lives of children and teenagers. This article examines research on technology-mediated musical education, exploring and conceptualizing how youth experience music through different types of media. The framework for the article comes out of studies in and outside school environs, focusing upon diverse practices such as: musical conceptions and practices of homeless youth, the construction of gender identity among primary school students, singing mediated by technologies and their use by youth from different socio-economic levels, musical educational practices of rappers and DJs, coeducational music between youth and adults, musical socialization of working class youth, and music learning via portable technologies.

### Abstract B

This article presents the results of a research by Whitworth University music professor Richard Strauch which assesses the freshman class for Whitworth's 2007-08 academic year. Strauch found that Whitworth students who stuck with their high school music program had higher GPAs and standardized test scores upon entering the university than Whitworth's general freshman class, and that students who continued their involvement in music remained academically above average. Strauch's findings are the result of surveying only one class of students at one small liberal arts university and do not attempt to declare a causal relationship between music involvement and academic success. But they are of interest to teachers fighting the current trend of kids dropping out of school music programs to bolster their resumes with additional extracurricular activities.

### Abstract C

The aim of this paper is to consider what we know about the ways that transfer can occur in relation to the skills developed through active engagement with music and how they may impact on the intellectual, social and personal development of children and young people. The paper considers how increasing the amount of classroom music within the curriculum can increase social cohesion within class, greater self-reliance, better social adjustment and more positive attitudes, particularly in low ability, disaffected pupils the influence of musical training emerges quickly. The positive effects of engagement with music on personal and social development will only occur if, overall, it is an enjoyable and rewarding experience. The quality of the teaching, the extent to which individuals perceive that they are successful, and whether in the long term it is a positive experience will all contribute to the nature of any personal or social benefits.

### Answers

**It is often argued that musical education is beneficial for students. Evaluate the possibility of musical education for improving students’ academic results.**

**Below are the articles ranked by relevancy. Did you evaluate them similarly in your essay?**

1. **Most Relevant = Abstract B**

This article provides a case study of how students’ scores were affected by musical education. Directly related to the question.

1. **Abstract C**

This article focuses on how musical education can be beneficial to students in the widersense, its **“**impact on the intellectual, social and personal development”. This could have an indirect impact on their academic results and some of the information in this article might be useful as background or supporting information.

1. **Least Relevant = Abstract A**

This article focuses on the musical practices of students. It focuses on how students experience music and motivations for making music. It does not focus on the impact of musical education on their studies.