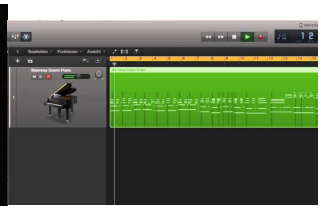
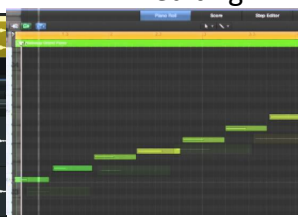
NCFE Revision Guide – Written Exam Paper

1a. Two ways a **MIDI keyboard** can **input information** into a DAW	1. **Notes played** from keyboard to input **pitch** and **length of note** 2. Using **fader** to **control mixing**	 MIDI keyboard
1b. Other types of **MIDI controller**	**MIDI drums** MIDI guitar	

2a. How is **sound created**?	**Audio** – by **playing** an instrument/singing **Software instrument track** – by **MIDI information triggering sounds** from a synth	Audio Software instrument 
2b. How can the **sound be changed** in a DAW (Logic Pro X)	**Audio** – **Audio editing tools** and EQ **Software instrument track** – **MIDI editing tools** e.g. quantize, lengthening, copy	Audio editing MIDI editing 

3a. What is **reverb**?	**Plug in** used to make a **voice** sound like it was **recorded in a large hall**	Reverb plug in Noise gate plug in
3b. What is a **noise gate**?	**Plug in** used to **minimise unwanted background sounds**	

4. A **microphone** is plugged in but **no sound** is coming out	**Problem** – DAW track not in **monitor mode** **Solution** – **Turn on monitor mode** on track	 Monitor mode in Logic

5. What is **MIDI quantise**	Putting notes that are played in **into time**	 MIDI quantise in Logic

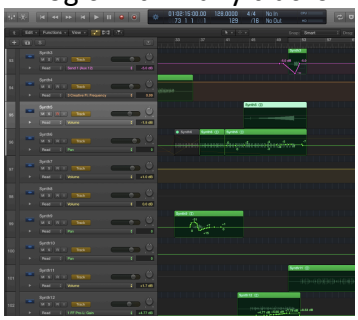
6a. Two types of **audio files**	1. WAV 2. Mp3	WAV used for CDs 	mp3's are not great quality
6b. Best type of audio file for a **CD**	WAV Why – It has the highest quality audio for CD		

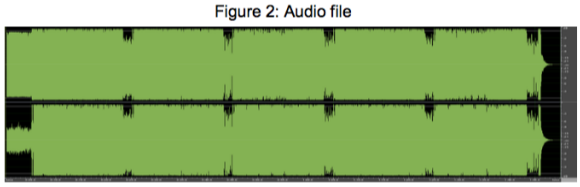
7a. What instruments: **Dance music**	Vocals, Laptop, Sampler, Keyboard, Drum machine	Dance music e.g. Avicii 	Rock e.g. Green Day
7b. What instruments: **Rock music**	Vocals, Guitar, Bass guitar, Keyboard, Drums		
7c. What instruments: **Jazz music**	Saxophone, Trumpet, Upright bass, Piano, Drums		

8. What does **C7** mean?	1. The **root note** is C 2. The chord is **extended** by adding a **7th note**	 C7 played on the piano

9a. Features: **80s Electronic music**	**Synthesizers** used for majority of sounds e.g. Depeche Mode	Depeche Mode live 	Grandmaster Flash live
9b. Features: **Rock music**	**Electric guitars** used extensively often with **distortion** effects e.g. Iron Maiden		
9c. Features: **Hip hop music**	**DJ decks** used for **effects** and **scratching** e.g. Grandmaster Flash		

10a. Other than studio monitors, how else can you **listen to music**?	Headphones	Headphones 	Studio monitors

11. Before **1970s** most studios used **4 track tape**. Now modern DAWs have virtually **unlimited tracks**.	Explain **two advantages** of having more tracks: 1. Allows you to **try out more ideas** as more tracks are available 2. Allows you to **layer instruments** to make **more complex** recordings	4 track tape Logic with many tracks 
12a. Where would you place **3 microphones** on the **drum kit**?	 1) Kick drum; 2) Snare; 3) Overhead	Drum mic placements Condensor microphone
12b. What type of **microphone** would you use and why?	**Type**: **condenser** mic **Why**: Used as **overhead mic** to get **high frequency detail** from drum kit	
13. Describe 2 **health and safety issues** in this picture of a small studio workstation	1. **Cup of tea** – liquid could fall onto equipment and cause electrocution. 2. **Loose wires** – someone could trip over	 Example of health and safety issues
14. Explain what the term '**Foley**' means	Sound recorded using **props** to **mirror sounds** on screen	 Foley being recorded

15a. Identify the **problem** with this **audio file**	Sound is **distorted**	Figure 2: Audio file  Distorted audio file
15b. How could this have been **avoided** during recording?	Use the **gain control better** e.g. so the sound is recorded **without clipping**	 Gain control dial on audio interface

16a. What is a **sampler**?	A device used to **play back** a recorded sound at a **variety of pitches (high or low)**	Sampler
16b. What is a **synthesizer**?	A device used to **create sounds** using **shaped waveforms**	Synthesizer

17. You have been asked to **create** the sound of an **explosion** for use in a video. Evaluate **2 different methods** of sound creation to create this sound	**Recording:** 1) Sounds more **realistic** 2) Could be **expensive** to record 3) Might take a **long time** to record e.g. health and safety factors **Synthesis:** 1) Sound **may not be as realistic** as a recording 2) May be **much cheaper** to produce as no actual explosion is needed 3) **Very quick** to produce using tech **Conclusion:** Recording is better if **quality** is more important than **costs** and **time**, but Synthesis is better if the project is needed to be done **quickly** and at a **lower cost**	Recording Synthesis