



GCSE Music – Set Work 3 – Killer Queen

A: Queen’s History

- Queen has 4 members – Freddie Mercury, Roger Taylor, Brian May and John Deacon.
- Queen started making music in the 1970s. Their early music offered some escapism.
- Queen were very creative when recording and used advanced recording techniques.
- Queen released three albums before they had their first No. 1 which was Bohemian Rhapsody.
- Queen moved with the times and developed their musical style.
- They started off with a heavy rock feel and moved into soft rock also incorporating soul, jazz and pop.

B: Killer Queen

- Killer Queen came from Queen’s third studio album ‘Sheer Heart Attack’
- ‘Killer Queen’ was the first single from the album.
- ‘Killer Queen’ reached number 2 in the British charts and provided them with their first top 20 hit in the US, peaking at number 12 on the Billboard singles chart.
- The song won Freddie Mercury his first Ivor Novello Award.

C: DR SMITTH

D ynamics	No dynamic markings.
R hythm	Swung feel Every verse and chorus start with an anacrusis (upbeat). Syncopation is frequent throughout Triplets in bar 18.
S tructure	Verse-Chorus form See score for structure.
M elody	The text setting is mainly syllabic. The backing vocals use a mixture of words and vocal sounds. The melody starts mostly conjunct with small leaps of a third or fourth. The verse and chorus combine conjunct and wide angular leaps in the melodic line.
I	Lead vocals – Tenor Piano, overdubbed with a honky tonk Four electric guitars Drum Kit Guitar uses techniques such as slides, bends etc. Recording techniques include multi-tracking, EQ, flanger, distortion, reverb, wah-wah, panning and overdubbing. Backing vocals Bass guitar

T exture	The main texture is homophonic . Use of imitation . Layered rhythms Antiphonal (Music performed alternately by two groups)
T empo	Moderato tempo with a dotted crotchet pulse of 112 beats per minute. The time signature is mainly in 12/8 compound quadruple time.
T onality	The song is in Eb major . Opening in C minor and closing on an Eb major chord, the tonality is ambiguous at times. There are many passing strengthened by perfect cadences but moving to a new key, modulations .
H armony	Most chords are in root position . There is some use of dissonance and seventh chords Use of altered and extended chords . Pedal used bars 27–30.