

Section 1:

#1 "Musical instruments are extremely advantageous as it helps cognitive development. From learning how to read music to experimenting with sensory techniques, musical instruments provide a perfect opportunity for students to learn something new whilst benefiting their mental wellbeing." a. Strengths:

- Highlights the cognitive benefits of learning a musical instrument.
- Mentions specific skills such as reading music and sensory techniques.

b. Weakness: Lack of depth → Your explanation focuses on the benefits but doesn't provide enough detail or evidence to support your claims. Phrases like "extremely advantageous" and "perfect opportunity" are quite vague and could be strengthened with more specific examples or research findings.

c. Exemplar: ***"Learning a musical instrument has been shown to enhance cognitive development in children. Studies have found that activities such as reading music and experimenting with different playing techniques can improve skills like memory, attention, and problem-solving, all while providing a fun and engaging way to support mental wellbeing."***

#2 "Music has never been so sweet, its charming melody not only casts an ethereal song, it's honey to our youth's brain, helping them with cognitive development and making them healthier."

a. Strengths:

- Uses vivid and poetic language to capture the reader's attention.
- Emphasises the positive impact of music on children's cognitive development and overall health.

b. Weakness: Overuse of figurative language → While the metaphors and imagery are creative, they can be a bit overwhelming and may distract from the main point. Phrases like "ethereal song" and "honey to our youth's brain" sound nice but don't really add substance to your argument.

c. Exemplar: ***"The sweet melodies of music offer more than just auditory pleasure; they provide a powerful tool for enhancing cognitive development and promoting overall health in children."***

#3 "Musical instruments provide an opportunity for our youth to create life-long benefits to the brain, which is something that everyone should have a chance at." a. Strengths:

- Emphasises the long-term benefits of learning a musical instrument.

- Suggests that this opportunity should be available to all children.

b. Weakness: Lack of specificity → Your statement about "life-long benefits to the brain" is quite broad and could be more convincing with specific examples. What kinds of benefits are you referring to, and how do they last a lifetime? Adding more details would make your argument stronger.

c. Exemplar: ***"Learning a musical instrument in childhood has been linked to lasting benefits such as enhanced memory, creativity, and emotional regulation skills, highlighting the importance of making this opportunity accessible to all students."***

Your persuasive piece does a good job of highlighting the potential benefits of learning a musical instrument, particularly for children's cognitive development and mental wellbeing. Additionally, your use of vivid language helps to engage the reader and make your argument more compelling. However, to strengthen your piece further, you could focus on providing more specific examples and evidence to support your claims. Also, while the figurative language is creative, be careful not to overuse it at the expense of clarity and substance. Try to strike a balance between making your writing engaging and ensuring that your main points are clear and well-supported. Finally, consider expanding on the idea that everyone should have the opportunity to learn an instrument, perhaps by addressing potential barriers or counterarguments. ■

Score: **42/50**

Section 2:

Topic: Why should learning a musical instrument be compulsory in primary schools?

Basic Argument: Learning a musical instrument is good because it helps your brain develop. Everyone should learn a musical instrument.

Enhanced Argument: Musical instruments are extremely advantageous as ~~it helps~~ [they help] cognitive development. From learning how to read music to experimenting with sensory techniques, musical instruments provide a perfect opportunity for students to learn something new whilst benefiting their mental wellbeing.

#1 Advanced Argument: Music has never been so sweet ; its charming melody not only casts an ethereal song, ~~it's~~ [it is] honey to our youth's brain, helping them with cognitive development and making them healthier. #2 Doesn't everyone deserve to receive the benefits of learning a musical instrument? Wouldn't it be great to help everyone have good mental wellbeing? Learning a

musical instrument engages with so many parts of the brain from both the left and right hemispheres, which expands and strengthens the corpus callosum, ~~which is~~ [the] essentially ~~the~~ bridge between the two hemispheres. It helps. It strengthens. It changes lives. #3 Musical instruments provide an opportunity for our youth to create life-long benefits ~~to~~ [for] the brain, which is something that everyone should have a chance at. Some people might think children playing instruments can sound like a cacophony, but really, it's their brain's song of happiness.