

Classroom Evaluation Template

This template should be used for Classroom evaluations of CD-ROMs and Websites that are designed for student or teacher use.

Please don't use bullet points, bold or italic type in your evaluation, as this will not be recognised when the file is uploaded to the TEEM website.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

This information is very important to your evaluation. Much of it can be found in the evaluation brief that came from TEEM.

TEEM ID ref: 69B009

Title: eMedia Intermediate Guitar Method

Publisher: eMedia

Type: CD-ROM

Evaluator Name: Drew Buddie

School: Royal Masonic School

Date: April/May 2003

Duration of Use: 5 weeks

Key Stage: 4

School Year: Year 11

Subject(s): Music

Topic(s): Guitar tuition

Machine used: Pentium3, 256 RAM, software installed on hard disc, 800 x 600 resolution

2. INSTALLATION AND ACCESS

This package installs with ease onto a standalone computer or a network. For trial purposes, installation was tested on a 650 MHz iMac (standalone), 800MHz iMac (standalone), a standalone PC and the school network. In the latter case it was intended that the package would run from the school's multimedia server, ensuring swift access across the network.

The package could be installed by a complete novice as little ICT experience would be required.

3. PLANNING TO USE THIS TITLE

A. Purpose of using this title

Guitar tuition does not take place as part of the school's music Curriculum. However, pupils are able to have private tuition in a number of instruments, of which the guitar

is one, and which is delivered by peripatetic music teachers.

It was intended that for the trial of this package it would be used to support, but not replace, the work being done by the music teachers. This was primarily of interest because private lessons are expensive and the music teacher is only available for 30 minutes per week and pupils often need support between lessons.

B. What does the title offer that other resources don't?

This title is a truly outstanding resource. The content is of such a high quality that using the package is almost like having your own private guitar tutor on 24-hour call. The package makes use of a plethora of multimedia features, sound, video, animation etc., and as such is innovative and engaging.

It is a particularly useful package if the student has used the Beginners Guitar Tutor which is produced by the same publishers, as they will be familiar with the format. However, the package stands alone on its own merits.

I find it impossible to think of another way that a pupil could receive such expert tuition without having another person actually in the room with them.

C. Differentiation

Each lesson can be repeated as many times as you wish and the ability to record your performance means you can listen to yourself and compare your performance against the professional version. As a result, you can keep practising until you get it right.

It is not designed for beginners, though – such users would need to use the Beginners Tutor which is available separately.

4. YOUR CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE OF WORKING WITH THIS TITLE

A. How did you organise the classroom?

Individual users used a computer within the Music classroom or the ICT department. The performance nature of this title meant that pupils using it had to work in a quiet room with no other pupils around – this was easy to arrange, but could be problematic for schools with limited resources. In addition, pupils had to use headphones when other students were in the same room.

B. The Context

It was intended that the pupils using this software should use it to support their private guitar tuition. We then endeavoured to discover, through interview, if the tutoring software had improved their performance compared to solely having a 30-minute guitar lesson once a week.

C. Ease of use – Design and Navigation

Although the screen looks jam-packed full of content, the pupils were unanimously impressed with how easy it was to use the package. It is a very quick process to get used to the way the package works and the user knows where they are within the program at all times.

D. Monitoring and Assessment

Pupils can record and play back their performances within the package. As a result, different sound files can be saved and compared against the professional version. In addition, the pupils' performance was assessed by the music teacher to see if any improvement had been made since the previous lesson.

E. Staff and Pupil Comments and Work

All students who used the package were extremely impressed with it. Two wanted to go out and buy it for use in their own home. They were most impressed with the high quality of content and variation in the tasks. They liked the fact that they could watch video footage and listen to professional performances at the touch of a button. The ability to record and play back their own performances was also appreciated.

The music teacher felt that the package was immensely useful and that used in the way we had used it, to support pupils' work rather than the sole method of delivery, was the best way to use it.

It received the thumbs up all round.

5. SUMMARY

A. Ease of Use

The secret of this package is its ease of use. There is no doubt that the content is of very high quality and that a great deal of thought has been given to the way it is presented to the user. However, this would count for nothing if it was not easy to use. I am pleased to say that this package shows how it should be done – it is sheer class.

B. Classroom Experience

This package was tried out in an unusual setting, in that it was used with individual pupils in their own time, as opposed to a whole class. This scenario gave ample opportunity to observe individual use of the package and to monitor progress. It was extremely rewarding to hear the improvement in the pupils' performance as a result of using the package. I have no doubt that this resource will continue to have great value in our school even though guitar playing is not part of the Curriculum.

If you have any aspiring Mark Knopflers or Brian Mays in your school, they will thank you forever more if you make this package available to them!