



MUSIC

A Level Subject Information



Music A Level

Component 1: Performing Music: 30% of the qualification.

Externally assessed.

Students are required to perform one or more pieces as a recital in a public performance. They can play or sing a solo, in an ensemble or improvisation. The total performance time must be a minimum of 8 minutes.

Component 2: Composing: 30% of the qualification

Externally assessed.

Students will produce a total of two compositions.

Composition one carries 40 marks and must be at least 4 minutes in duration. It must be related to either a list of briefs which relate to the areas of study or a free composition.

Composition two carries 20 marks and must be from a list of briefs which assesses compositional techniques. This composition must be at least 1 minute in duration..

Component 3: Appraising: 40% of the qualification

Written examination.

Assessment is through a 2 hour examination paper set and marked by Edexcel.

Areas of Study

Students will study a variety of set works linked to the following areas:

Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions.

Alongside studying the set works in depth, students are expected to study music which is linked to the genres and composers.

Section A: Areas of study and dictation

- Three questions related to the set works
- One short melody/rhythm completion exercise

Section B: Extended response: Two essay questions

- One linking a piece studied as part of the set works and an unfamiliar extract.
- One giving a choice of three questions evaluating one of the set works they have studied with links to their further listening.

What do I need to be able to do?

Summer Holiday Preparation:

- Keep practicing your instrument(s) / voice(s) everyday.
- Listen to a variety of music which could come under the areas of study headings – develop an eclectic listening library!

How to hit the ground running:

- Students must have studied music at GCSE.
- For the performing component it is advisable that students are able to perform at Grade 6 or higher by the time that they start the course.
- If you are not already in a vocal group, join one – excellent training to help you with the aural component of the exam.
- Be prepared to listen to and read around your set works – do not just settle for what is covered in the lessons – develop a thirst for knowledge.
- As well as practicing your instrument(s) / voice regularly, spend regular, short amounts of time trying compositional ideas out also – not just what your teacher ask you to do – set yourself some challenges.

Music A level students are expected to be involved in the department's extra-curricular programme throughout the A level course.

