



## North Halifax Grammar School – A Level Transition Work

### A level Music

#### Specification

Edexcel Music

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-2016.html>

#### Course Overview

##### **Appraisal ( 40%) Examined at the end of the course**

Students will study selected excerpts of the following set works:

##### **Vocal Music**

- J. S. Bach, Cantata, Ein feste Burg,
- Mozart, The Magic Flute:
- Vaughan Williams, On Wenlock Edge: Nos. 1, 3 and 5

##### **Instrumental Music**

- Vivaldi, Concerto in D minor, Op. 3 No. 11
- Clara Wieck-Schumann, Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1
- Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique: Movement I

##### **Music for Film**

- Danny Elfman, Batman Returns:
- Rachel Portman, The Duchess:
- Bernard Herrmann, Psycho:

##### **Popular Music and Jazz**

- Courtney Pine, Back in the Day:
- Kate Bush, Hounds of Love:
- Beatles, Revolver:

##### **Fusions** ● Debussy, Estampes: Nos. 1 and 2

- Familia Valera Miranda, Caña Quema:
- Anoushka Shankar, Breathing under water:

##### **New Directions**

- Cage, Three Dances for two prepared pianos: No. 1
- Kaija Saariaho, Petals for Violoncello and Live Electronics
- Stravinsky, The Rite of Spring:

Students are also expected to have explore wider listening of pieces which are related to the six areas

##### **Composition (30% ) course work**

One free composition which must relate to one of the areas of study

One Brief composition which assesses technique – either Bach Chorale, 2-part counterpoint, Arranging or Remix

##### **Performance (30%)**

Once recital (performed in front of an audience) lasting a minimum of 8 minutes



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### Recommended Reading / Revision

There are some very good overview resources on the Edexcel website

### Transition Work for A level Music

Obviously keep practicing/ involving yourself in performing wherever possible

### Composition:

Write a theme and variation with a difference!

- 1) Choose a well-known melody – this could be a Christmas carol or a nursery rhyme.
- 2) Explore 3 different ways of varying this however;
  - a) One must explore the manipulation of texture.
  - b) One must explore harmony
  - c) One must include a fusion of some sort

You can also manipulate within these movements in any way that you want.

Tips

- Try to avoid being formulaic, Don't just explore one texture. Try and see how you can incorporate different textures within the same movement
- Think carefully about your use of harmony – explore alternative chords within the diatonic series; consider using extended chords; consider inversions.

You are going to have to extend the structure within each 'movement' Do not presume that you will be able to manipulate this enough by sticking to the original length so be creative.

### Appraisal

Choose a piece of music which relates to either (do not choose one from the set work list)  
Film music, Instrumental music

It can be by any composer. For each create a spider diagram/mind map which explores the following elements of music:

Instrumentation

Texture

Tonality

Tempo

Dynamics

Consider changes in all these areas and consider the impact that this has on the piece

Suggestion - Listen to some BBC proms performances (BBC Radio 3)