



## 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,
- Vaughan Williams, On Wenlock Edge: Nos. 1, 3 and 5

##### **Instrumental Music**

- Clara Wieck-Schumann, Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1
- Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique: Movement I

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

- Danny Elfman, Batman Returns:
- 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
- Anoushka Shankar, Breathing under water:

##### **New Directions**

- 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:** *This is an optional task if you have completed Music GCSE. This is a **compulsory** task for students who have completed a BTEC.*

*Suggest that you download musescore 4 onto your computer (it's free)*

Complete both of the following tasks:

Write a 24 bar melody and chord sequence in a major key.

Write a 24 melody and chord sequence in a minor key

These must be contrasting and be written for a melody instrument or voice and accompanying instrument (e.g, piano/guitar/ensemble).

Try and think of an interesting accompaniment style.

Ensure that your melody is effective by using repetition, sequence or imitation (or a combination of these three.)

### Music theory

*An opportunity for you to brush up on some basic theory knowledge which will help when we are analysing the set works.*

Please access the booklet and work through the activities. You may need to print this booklet in order to complete this task.

Link for Theory booklet:

### Appraisal

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

Film music, Popular Song and Jazz

It can be by any composer. For your chosen piece 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)



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