

# Music A Level



**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Entry requirements:** Minimum of Grade 6 in Music GCSE or Grade 5 on first study instrument. Grade 4 in English Language.

## Intent

### Structure

A Level Music is taught with three engaging components, assessed through practical performances, compositions and one externally examined paper. The key content of musical elements, contents and language are taught through the Areas of Study and set work, to show real examples of how these are used within different types of music. Students investigate, analyse and evaluate music and its features. Building on this and by using practical methods, they are encouraged to take a more holistic view of their knowledge, performance and compositional skills. The set works enables students to conduct in depth studies into different musical styles and genres, and place these within a wider context. Students will learn to perform, compose and appreciate different types of music, developing critical and creative thinking, cultural, aesthetic and emotional awareness, and the ability to make music individually and as part of a group.

## Implementation

### Content & Sequencing

#### Performance:

A public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital • Performance can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology • The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of 8 minutes.

#### Composing:

Total of two compositions, one to a brief set by Pearson and one either free composition or also to a brief • Total time across both submissions must be a minimum of 6 minutes.

Application of knowledge through the context of six areas of study, each with three set works • The areas of study are: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions • Application of knowledge to unfamiliar works.

#### Appraising:

The written paper comprises two sections: A and B. Section A: Areas of study and dictation (50 marks) • Three questions related to the set works (audio and skeleton score provided) • One short melody/rhythm completion exercise. Section B: Extended response • Two essay questions – essay one (20 marks) and essay two (30 marks) • Essay one asks students to draw links from their study of the set works to the music heard as an unfamiliar extract • Essay two gives a choice of three questions that ask students to evaluate the musical elements, context and language of one set work. Each option will be from a different area of study.

### Assessment Methods

#### Component 1: Performing

A public performance of one or more pieces, performed

as a recital. Non-examined assessment: externally assessed.

#### Component 2: Composing

Total of two compositions, one to a brief set by Pearson and one either free composition or also to a brief.

Non-examined assessment: externally assessed.

#### Component 3: Appraising

Written examination of 2 hours duration. One audio CD with the extracts to accompany questions on the paper is provided per student.

## Impact

### Onward Progression

A level Music is a highly regarded subject. Whilst the content of A Level Music enables students to develop their knowledge and skills of music, enabling them to progress into undergraduate music or music related degree courses, it can also be a useful subject alongside other creative courses or in demonstrating a broader range of skills next to Science, Maths or other non-creative subjects for a variety of courses at university. A degree in Music can lead to a range of exciting career options, including becoming a professional musician, a sound technician, a music therapist, a teacher, or a private tutor. Jobs that are less directly related to a Music degree, but where a Music degree could be very valuable include arts administration, and work in radio, theatre and events management.

## Further information contact

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