

# Music A Level

## Summer Preparation Booklet



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to Music A Level at Faringdon Community College. Music A Level is an exciting but challenging qualification, and you will be studying the Eduqas specification. To help you prepare for the course you will need to complete this home learning over the summer holidays, ready to begin the course in September.

**There are five main areas of preparation:**

- 1. Listening and Appraising**
- 2. Performance preparation**
- 3. Key terminology revision**
- 4. Watch a concert**
- 5. Music theory**

Good luck with these tasks and I look forward to teaching you in September.

### **Music A Level Overview:**

Just like GCSE Music, there are three main components of the course: performance, composition and listening and appraising.

**Performance:** you will be completing **option A**, meaning that performance is **worth 35%** of your overall grade.

#### **Component 1: Performing**

**Option A: Total duration of performances: 10-12 minutes**

**Option A: 35% of qualification**

**Option B: Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes**

**Option B: 25% of qualification**

**Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner**

#### **Option A: Performing (35%)**

A performance consisting of **a minimum of three** pieces. At least **one** of these pieces must be as a **soloist**. The other pieces may be **either** as a soloist **or** as part of an ensemble **or** a combination of both. **One** piece must reflect the musical characteristics of **one** area of study. **At least one** other piece must reflect the musical characteristics of **one other, different** area of study.

**Composition:** you will be completing **Option A**, meaning that composition is **worth 25%** of your overall grade.

## Component 2: Composing

**Option A: Total duration of compositions: 4-6 minutes**

**Option A: 25% of qualification**

**Option B: Total duration of compositions: 8-10 minutes**

**Option B: 35% of qualification**

**Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by WJEC**

### **Option A: Composing (25%)**

**Two** compositions, **one** of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will have a choice of **four** set briefs, released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken.

The **second** composition is a free composition.

**Listening and Appraising:** You will study three areas of study over two years in preparation for an exam in year 13 which is **2 hours and 15 minutes** in length. This is **worth 40%** of your grade.

The areas of study include:

1. The Western Classical Tradition (the development of the symphony (1750-1900))
2. Musical Theatre
3. Into The 20<sup>th</sup> Century (1895-1935)

A successful Sixth Form student studying Music should:

- Be involved in the different activities during lessons: questioning, discussions, active listening, videos, note-taking.
- Have a willingness to participate in discussions and listen to others
- Be punctual to lessons
- If you miss a lesson, find out what work you have missed and complete it so you are not behind.
- Meet homework and coursework deadlines
- Bring your text book and scores with you to lessons (spares will be in MU3).
- Be inquisitive about music – read around the subject, watch documentaries, listen to a wide range of music.
- Show effort and initiative – ask for additional resources.
- Continue having instrumental lessons and work closely with your teacher to prepare pieces for your performance recital – you should practise for at least 30 minutes per day.
- Match each 1 hour lesson with 1 hour independent study, this could include: homework, reading ahead, consolidating your learning, making revision resources, instrumental practice, working on your compositions.
- Be involved in extracurricular music activities at school.
- Be a visible leader in the music department.







## Task 4: Music Theory

There is quite a lot of music theory to cover in preparation for both Component 2 (Composing) and Component 3 (Written exam - Appraising). I need to be certain that you all are familiar with the following by September:

- Reading treble and bass clef fluently and alto clef
- Recognising major and minor key signatures up to four sharps and flats
- Recognising intervals up to an octave and describe them in terms of major 3rd , perfect 5th etc.
- Identifying cadences in notation.

The following resources will support you with music theory:

- Website: <https://www.musictheory.net/lessons>
- Book: The AB Guide to Music Theory
- Workbooks: ABRSM Discovering Music Theory

## Task 5: Key Terminology Revision

Word	Definition
<b>Musical elements</b>	
<b>Organisation of pitch (melody and harmony)</b>	
Arpeggio	
Cadence	
Bass line	
Chord	
Conjunct	
Disjunct	
Dissonance	
Chord sequence	
Drone	
Fanfare	
Ground bass	
Harmony	
Interval	
Leap	
Melody	
Melodic device	



Word	Definition
Monotone	
Ornamentation	
Ostinato	
Pedal (or pedal point)	
Riff	
Roman numerals	
Scale	
Sequence	
Stepwise	
Theme	

<b>Tonality</b>	
Atonal	
Chromatic	
Dominant (key)	
Key	
Major	
Minor	
Modal	
Modulation	

Pentatonic	
Relative minor/major	

### **Form, structure**

Binary	
Introduction	
Phrase	
Rondo	
Sonata form	
Ternary	
Strophic	

### **Sonority**

Articulation	
Timbre	

### **Texture**

Accompaniment	
Continuo (or basso continuo)	
Heterophony	
Homophony/ homophonic	
Monophony/ monophonic	
Polyphony/polyphonic	

Two-part	
Imitation	

### **Tempo, rhythm and duration**

Beat	
Dotted rhythm	
Duration	
Shuffle	
Swing	
Swung rhythm	
Syncopation	
Triplets	

### **Performance matters**

Solo	
Tone (quality)	
Forces	
Ensemble	
Double / doubling	
Double stopping	

Word	Definition
Glissando	
Hammer on	
Harmonics	
Improvisation	
Melisma / melismatic	
Pull off	
Range	
Tessitura	
Wah Wah	
Phrasing	
Pizzicato	
Professional reference recording	
Realisation	
Sequenced compositions	
Skeleton score	
Tablature	
Tremolo	
Lyrics	
'Words' 'text' or 'poem'	
Word painting	

Word Definition

### Historical periods, styles and genres

Baroque	
Cantata	
Classical (with lower-case c)	
(solo) concerto	
Concerto grosso	
Fusion	
Genre	
Gigue	
Jazz	
March	
Musical theatre	
Oral tradition	
Prelude	
Rock	
Samba	
Sonata	
Suite	

## Terms for music technology

Chorus effect	
Flanger	
Multi-track recording	
Over-dubbing	
Pitch shift	
Re-take	
(studio) effects	
Track	