

A LEVEL MUSIC

Examining Board: AQA

Link Tutor: Miss Gammon

Course Content

Performing = 35%

Students perform a recital, playing one or a number of pieces totalling a **minimum of 10 minutes**. These can be solo or ensemble pieces.

Composition = 25%

Students must create 2 compositions:

Composition 1 = to a brief set my AQA

Composition 2 = free composition

The compositions need a combined time of **over 4 and a half minutes**

Written exam = 40%

The exam is 2 hours and 30 minutes long and is split into 3 sections:

Section A: Listening

Section B: Analysis

Section C: Essay

To prepare for the exam you will learn about **three areas of study**. Western Classical Tradition from 1650-1910 is compulsory. However, there is then a choice of two other areas of study from the list below:

1. Pop music
Stevie Wonder • Joni Mitchell • Muse • Beyoncé • Daft Punk • Labrinth
2. Music for media
Bernard Herrmann • Hans Zimmer • Michael Giacchino • Thomas Newman • Nobuo Uematsu
3. Music for theatre
Kurt Weill • Richard Rodgers • Stephen Sondheim • Claude-Michel Schönberg • Jason Robert Brown
4. Jazz
Louis Armstrong • Duke Ellington • Charlie Parker • Miles Davis • Pat Metheny • Gwilym Simcock
5. Contemporary tradition music
Astor Piazzolla • Toumani Diabaté • Anoushka Shankar • Mariza • Bellowhead
6. Art music since 1910
Dmitri Shostakovich • Olivier Messiaen • Steve Reich • James MacMillan

To fully access the course it is **vital that students can read music notation** as they will need to analyse scores during the exam.

A LEVEL MUSIC (cont'd)

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Lesson style:

Lessons are predominantly practical in nature, with students exploring concepts through practical music making. Compositional techniques, analytical and listening skills will also be developed.

Time Allocation:

2 years of study. All assignments will be assessed in the May/June of the final year.

Private Study:

Private study will consist of:

1. Students creating ideas for their compositions
2. Private practice to prepare for their performance recital
3. Listening to and analysing a wide range of music genres to prepare for the listening exam.

Advisable for following careers:

Film or TV composer, performer, songwriter, music education, music therapy, radio, events management. However, the skills acquired through the study of music make students employable in a much wider variety of career paths including law, medicine etc..

Good Combination with: Theatre studies, Film studies, Languages, History, Geography

