



Sixth Form Subject Guide

MUSIC

★★★ CAREERS RELATED TO STUDYING THIS SUBJECT

Studying music most obviously leads to roles as a solo or ensemble performance, event management, production, and audio visual and recording. It encourages inquiry into creative practices and performance processes, developing listening, creative and analytical skills, as well as communication skills in ensemble and encouraging cultural understanding and international mindedness. In this way, music is a catalyst for expanding critical thinking and communication-critical skills to all employers.

★★★ A LEVEL COURSE CONTENT

Candidates develop skills through studying a combination of set works and music of free choice. The set works are from the Western classical tradition and include music from the baroque era onwards. Candidates also study a wide range of music, including folk, jazz, pop, and world music.

Candidates will develop the ability to listen to familiar and unprepared music and be able to identify significant features and discern the similarities and differences between two works or two performances of the same work. This is related to an understanding of musical devices, musicianship, and notation. Candidates will develop creative, technical, and interpretative skills, and be able to present contrasting pieces in both performing and composing.

★★★ A LEVEL METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

| Assessment Component | Weighting | |
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| | AS Level | A Level |
| Component 1: Listening Paper (2 hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Externally assessed. | 60% | 30% |
| Component 2: Practical Music <ul style="list-style-type: none">Performing (60%) selection of contrasting music of their choice in a programme of 6 to 10 minutes.Composing (40%) two contrasting compositions in any tradition (Western and/or non-Western) in a style or genre of their choice. Each composition should be 1–2 minutes long. The combined duration of both compositions should be 2–4 minutes.Internally assessed and moderated. | 40% | 20% |
| Components 3, 4 and 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Candidates must choose two from:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Extended Performance<ul style="list-style-type: none">Performance of 15–20 minutes (a short break is permitted for wind players) must take place on a single occasion;Research report of 1000–1500 words.Extended Composition<ul style="list-style-type: none">Single composition, which may comprise of parts, lasting 6–8 minutes.research report of 1000–1500 words.Investigating Music<ul style="list-style-type: none">Essay of 2500–3000 words.Reflective statement of up to 500 words.Externally assessed. | N/A | 25% / each |





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★★★ METHODS OF STUDY FOR A LEVEL

In Music you will learn about music from different times and places through listening, analysing, composing, and performing. You will experiment in your own creative and performing techniques and reflect upon your learning to drive your improvement. It is expected that in their own time, students also carry out independent listening, reading, note-taking, and other activities to further their musical knowledge.

To be successful you should be prepared to work hard, get involved with the subject, and take an interest in a wide variety of music.

★★★ ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR A LEVEL

For A Level, it is recommended they have achieved a B.

You should already be competent on a musical instrument for performance and take individual instrumental lessons throughout the course.