

MUSIC A-LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: Eduqas

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A-Level music has three engaging components assessed through: a performance recital; a composition portfolio; and one externally examined paper.

- **Provides a real music focus** - The key content is taught through the study of a number of areas of study and selection of set works to allow students to conduct in-depth studies into different musical styles and genres, and place these within a wider context.
- **Holistic understanding of music** - Students investigate, analyse and evaluate music and its features. They are encouraged to take a holistic view of their knowledge, combining analysis, performance and compositional skills.
- **Diverse musical heritage** - Students will learn to perform, compose and appreciate different types of music, developing critical and creative thinking, cultural, aesthetic and emotional awareness and they will be provided with the opportunities and skills to make music individually and as part of a group.
- **Continuous progression** - The content builds on the understanding developed at KS4 and avoids unnecessary repetition whilst also ensuring that learners new to the subject are appropriately supported.
- **Instrumental/vocal support** - The school will provide subsidy on instrumental or vocal tuition to help support the performance requirements of the A-Level.
- **Progression to Higher Education** - Music is a highly academic subject that is valued by all higher education establishments. The content allows students to develop their knowledge and skills of music, enabling them to progress into undergraduate music or music related degree courses.

COURSE CONTENT:

Students can choose to specialise in either Performance or Composition, meaning that their choice of Performance or Composition is assessed heavier than the other (35% - 25%).

- **Performance: 25-35% of the Qualification**
 - Students perform a recital comprising of a minimum of 2-3 pieces linked to Areas of Study.
 - 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 6-10 minutes, depending on performance weighting.
 - A visiting examiner will attend and assess the recitals from 1 March in the year of certification.
- **Composition: 25-35% of the Qualification**

Students complete either two or three compositions, depending on weighting preference.

 - One composition must be written in the style of the Western Classical Tradition, in response to a set brief (released in September of the year of certification).
 - (If choosing the heavier weighting) one composition must reflect the musical characteristics of one different area of study.
 - The other composition is a free composition.
 - All compositions must total a minimum of 4 or 8 minutes, depending on weighting preference.

- **Written examination: 40% of the Qualification**

A two-hour and fifteen minute examination that focuses on the application of knowledge through the context of three areas of study:

1. The Western Classical Tradition;
2. Rock and Pop or Musical Theatre or Jazz
3. Into the Twentieth Century or Into the Twenty-First Century

The exam paper will include:

- Set work analysis with a score
- Extended responses on wider context
- Unprepared extracts of music with and without a score
- Comparison questions

There is a total of 100 marks awarded for the written examination.

ASSESSMENT:

- Externally assessed performance - 25% or 35%
- Externally assessed composition - 25% or 35%
- 2hr 15 written examination - 40%

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 in GCSE Music and it is recommended that students are Grade 5 standard or above in performance and music theory.

