



Music

Exam Board: Edexcel

A Level

A Level Music

The new Edexcel A level qualification will inspire the next generation of students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills.

Students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

Essential Entry Requirements

Students should have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade C or above. It is advisable that students should have at least a grade B in English Language or a Humanity subject (Religious Studies, History or Geography) and a grade B in music. A performance standard of at least Grade 5 of is expected. We welcome students who are very self-motivated, have a passion for music. You must also be a committed student who is willing to put in the necessary hours of practice.



Course Specification

The A Level is 100% externally assessed, and consists of one written paper and two non-examined assessment components.



Component 1:

Performing (30% of the qualification)

This consists of a public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital.

Component 2:

Composing (30% of the qualification)

This consists of two compositions, one set to a brief set by the Board and the other either free composition or also to a brief which lasts for a minimum of 4minutes. The total time for compositions must exceed 6 minutes.

Component 3:

Listening Written examination of two hours (40% of the qualification)

This paper comprises two sections.

Section A:

Areas of study/set works and dictation

Area of Study Set Works

Vocal Music

J. S. Bach - Cantata, Ein feste Burg, BWV 80:
Movements 1, 2, 8

Mozart - The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflöte)

Vaughan Williams - On Wenlock Edge and 'Bredon Hill'

Instrumental Music

Vivaldi - Concerto in D minor, Op. 3 No. 11

Clara Wieck-Schumann - Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17
movement 1

Berlioz - Symphonie Fantastique Movement 1



New Directions

Cage - Three Dances for two prepared pianos: No. 1
 Kaija Saariaho - Petals for Violoncello and Live Electronics
 Stravinsky - The Rite of Spring

Music for Film

Danny Elfman - Batman Returns
 Rachel Portman - The Duchess
 Bernard Herrmann - Psycho

Popular Music and Jazz

Courtney Pine – Back in the Day
 Kate Bush - Hounds of love
 Beatles – Revolver

Fusions

Debussy - 'Estampes' Nos. 1 and 2
 Familia Valera Miranda - Caña Quema
 Anoushka Shankar - Breathing Under Water

Section B:

Extended response: Two essay questions based on the areas of study and music in a wider context.

The subject complements a wide range of subject combinations in the arts, sciences, mathematics and social sciences.



Career Opportunities

Students who wish to pursue a career within the music profession benefit from undertaking this course. All universities and conservatoires accept and welcome students with a qualification in this subject onto a variety of courses. It is widely studied at A level to support career choices such as law, medicine, journalism, economics, commerce and management.

