

GCSE Music Exam

We will listen to a wide variety of music from the areas of study below. Pupils will discuss the use of instrumentation, melody, rhythm, structure, dynamics, harmony, texture and historical and social context.

1 hour and 15-minute examination;

- 8 listening questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study
- Identify musical elements and contexts
- Musical dictation
- Compare and contrast music

All questions will be on the set works that we have studied:

Area of Study 1	Area of Study 2	Area of Study 3	Area of Study 4
Musical Forms and Devices	Music for Ensemble	Film Music	Popular Music
Set piece: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik by Mozart Western Classical Music	Chamber Music Musical Theatre Jazz Blues	Use of timbre, tone colour and dynamics to reflect what is on the screen	Set piece: Since You've Been Gone by Rainbow Pop and Rock Bhangra Fusion

Key terms for revision are included below. Remember:

D R T S M I T H
Y H E T E N O A
N Y X R L S N R
A T T U O T A M
M H U C D R L O
I M R T Y U I N
C E U M T Y
S R E N T A T I O N

Melody	
	Octave
Anacrusis	Tone/ Major 2nd
Conjunct (stepwise)	Major 3rd
Disjunct (angular)	Perfect 4th
Arpeggio/broken chord	Perfect 5th
Scalic (ascending/descending)	Major 6th
	Major 7th
	Semitone
	Microtone
Low pitch	
High pitch	Chromatic movement
Range	Pentatonic
Sequence	Blue notes
Imitation	
Repetition	Trill/ornamentation/decoration
Contrast	
Leitmotif	Counter melody
Motif	Answering phrase
	Thematic
	Fanfare

Meter	
	(2/4, 3/4, 4/4)
Regular	Duple/triple/quadruple
Irregular	
Accent	Compound time (6/8)
	Simple time

Tempo	
	Adagio/Lento
	Accelerando
Allegro/Vivace	Ritardando/Rallentando
Allegretto	Rubato
Moderato/Andante	Pause

Dynamics	
	Fortissimo
	Crescendo
Pianissimo	Diminuendo
Piano	Sforzando
Mezzo piano	
Mezzo forte	
Forte	

Form & Structure	
	Call and response
	Ostinato
	Bridge
	Break
Binary	Loop
Ternary	Improvisation
Rondo	Verse
Minuet and Trio	Chorus
Theme and variations	Middle 8
Strophic	Fill
32 bar song form/AABA	Introduction
12 bar Blues	Outro
	Coda
	Riff
Repetition	Phrasing (regular and irregular)
Contrast	

Harmony	
	Imperfect cadence
	Plagal cadence
Primary chords	Interrupted cadence
Secondary chords	
Inversion	Chord progression/chord sequence
Diatonic	Harmonic rhythm
Tonic	Drone
Subdominant	Pedal
Dominant (7th)	Dissonance
	Power chords
Perfect cadence	

Rhythm	
	Swing rhythms
	On the beat
Semibreve	Off-beat
Minim	Triplet
Crotchet	Chaal
Quaver	Associated rests
Semiquaver	Driving rhythms
Dotted	Dance rhythms
Syncopation	Rock rhythms

Texture	
	Counter melody
	Descant
Monophonic	Round
Homophonic	Canon
Polyphonic	Drone
2, 3 or 4 part textures	Alberti bass
Unison	Stab chords
Chordal	Walking bass
Imitation	
Layered	
Melody and accompaniment	

Styles			
	Romantic	Film Music	Pop
	Chamber music	Rock	Bhangra
Western Classical Tradition	Jazz	Soul	Fusion
Baroque	Blues	Hip-hop	Minimalism
Classical	Musical Theatre/Musical	Reggae	
		Ballad	