



MUSIC

A-LEVEL

Examination Board: WJEC EDUQAS

Course content:

This is an enjoyable course in which you will develop a wide range of skills in performing, composing and analysing music. The course is designed to further build on the skills learned at GCSE. You will perform on your instrument, develop skills in composing for different genres, analyse a variety of music and develop knowledge of musical theory. At A level, students can choose to specialise in either Performance or Composition.

A Level Content	
Unit 1 Performing 35% if performance specialist 25% if composition specialist	If you specialise in performance you will prepare a 10-12 minute performance with at least 3 pieces covering at least 2 areas of study. If you specialise in composition you will prepare a 6-8 minute performance with at least 1 piece covering 1 area of study.
Unit 2 Composing 35% if composition specialist 25% if performance specialist	If you specialise in performance you will prepare two compositions where one is a classical brief and one is a free composition. If you specialise in composition you will prepare three compositions where one is a classical brief, one from another area of study and one free composition.
Unit 3 Appraising 40%	You will study three areas of study (see table below). You will explore these through a combination of set works and wider genre study. Students will learn how to analyse music through score reading and the development of aural skills

Skills acquired:

- Performance skills: Develop skills in performing to an audience and display technical ability on your instrument to a high level
- Composition skills: Develop skills writing music in different genres, knowledge of instrumental techniques and learn how to create music using software
- Musical Understanding: Develop listening skills, ability to use advanced musical vocabulary, further develop skills in reading musical notation, analysing scores in a variety of genres

Areas of Study that you will explore

	Area of Study	Set works, styles or composers
1	The Western Classical Tradition	Haydn - Symphony no. 104 Mendelssohn - Symphony no. 4
2 (choose one)	Rock and Pop since 1960	Pop, Rock, Soul, Funk, Folk
	Musical Theatre	Rodgers, Bernstein, Sondheim, Schönberg, Lloyd-Webber, Schwartz
	Jazz	Ragtime, Dixieland, Early Jazz, Big Band, Be-bop, Cool Jazz
3 (choose one)	Into the Twentieth Century	Poulenc - Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, Mvt II Debussy - Three Nocturnes, No. 1: Nuages
	Into the Twenty-first Century	Adès - Asyla, Mvt III Beamish - String Quartet No. 2, Mvts I & IV

Continued



MUSIC (*continued*)

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Methods of assessment:

- Unit 1 is marked by a visiting examiner who attends a formal recital
- Unit 2 is completed individually under controlled conditions, a CD and score will be submitted to the exam board
- Unit 3 will be assessed by a formal exam lasting 2 hours 15 minutes

Possible Careers:

Students who gain an A Level in Music go on to pursue a variety of careers in the Performing Arts. Music degrees at a university or conservatoire require you to have an A-level in Music, and it is also beneficial for musical theatre courses. Music shows that you are creative, committed and confident to any universities or employers.

Example careers: professional musician, conductor, music therapist, composer, music publisher, music teacher, musical theatre performer, music journalism.

Prior experience:

It is recommended that you will have studied Music GCSE (Level 6 or above). Exceptions can be made on the condition that you play a musical instrument to a good standard (grade 6 and above), have experience of performing, and can read music easily. A basic knowledge of music theory is also recommended.

Extra Benefits:

All students that take Music A-level will be entitled to receive a **free** weekly 30 minute lesson on their instrument within school which would normally cost roughly £525 per year.

Students will also be offered the opportunity to perform a solo in a school concert.

Student Comments:

"The composition and performance modules are challenging but rewarding; my AS Level Composition is probably one of the best songs I've ever written!" "The small class size makes it really easy to make quick progress and means one-to-one tuition is always available." "I thoroughly enjoyed enhancing all areas of my music ability such as composing and performing whilst encountering new areas of study, for instance, Bach chorales and listening and understanding questions. The course is definitely a great choice especially if you are considering it for higher education."