



# Music

## Course Information

A level Music is a linear qualification from 2016. Linear means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessments at the end of the course. The A level music course builds on the knowledge and skills gained from GCSE Music as well as musical experience gained outside the classroom. It consists of three components that can be co-taught, therefore it can be studied by AS and A level students in the same year group and some AS students would have the option to progress onto the full A level. There are three components that must be completed for the full A level qualification.



## Course Content

During the course students extend their knowledge and understanding of music, create and develop their own musical ideas and demonstrate technical, interpretative and communication skills through performing music. The areas of study provide an appropriate focus for students to appraise and develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.



There are seven areas of study, as follows:

1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory)
2. Pop music
3. Music for media
4. Music for theatre
5. Jazz
6. Contemporary traditional music
7. Art music since 1910.

The three components are assessed according to four assessment objectives(AO) set out by Ofqual.

### Component 1: Appraising music (Assessment objectives AO3 and AO4)

Externally marked exam in three sections lasting two hours and thirty minutes. Marked out of 120 and constitutes **40% of total qualification marks**.

#### Section A: Listening (Assessment objectives AO3 and AO4)

Analyse and evaluate music heard in an exam to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of musical elements and musical language.

#### Section B: Analysis (assessment objectives AO3 and AO4)

Answer two sets of linked questions, including short answers and extended writing, on two extracts of the **set works** from the two selected strands in Area of study

#### Section C: Essay (Assessment objective AO4)

One essay question on one area of study from a choice of Areas of study 2–7. They will be assessed on their critical understanding across genres, styles and traditions studied and their ability to show sophisticated connections between the music and its context.

### Component 2: Performance (Assessment objective AO1)

Externally marked by AQA out of 50 and constitutes **35% of the total marks for the qualification**.

Each student must select a piece or pieces to meet the specified duration of 10 minutes. They can perform through one of the following, or through a combination of:

- instrumental/vocal solo or in an ensemble
- production via technology.

### Component 3: Composition (Assessment objective AO2)

Externally marked by AQA out of 50 and constitutes **25% of the total marks for the qualification**. Each student must compose two pieces. One composition must be in response to an externally set brief and the other composition is freely composed by the student.

Composition 1: Composition to a brief

Composition 2: Free composition



## Entry Requirements

Candidates will require at least a B grade at GCSE or have acquired the skills and knowledge associated with a GCSE Music course equivalent. It is essential that the candidates are experienced in performing on at least one instrument at an advanced level.

## Future Opportunities

A music A level is a good foundation for studying Music in higher education or for pursuing other careers in the music industry. It will develop a wide range of transferable skills such as critical thinking, research, communication, team-work, self-confidence, analytical, technological and evaluation skills. It is also considered as a good complementary/ contrasting subject to other A levels particularly if you are considering applying for a university place.