

Music

Course Type: A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Course Entry Requirements: Standard (Five GCSE subjects at a minimum grade 4 or the equivalent Including Maths and English) with GCSE Music at minimum grade 5 and appropriate performance standard.

Why Study Music?

Studying music at A-level gives you the power to engage with music more deeply as a performer, composer and critical listener. There are many courses available at universities and conservatoires from which music graduates enter a hugely diverse range of professions both in and out of the world of music and the creative arts. Although A-level music involves a lot of creative work (approximately 60%), the theoretical study of music history and theory is sufficiently rigorous that it is accepted as a serious academic subject for entry to most university courses. Possible careers in music include performing, composing and arranging, education and music therapy, music administration and management, music production and the wider creative industries. You should study music if you have a love of the subject and a commitment towards improvement and success as a musician.

What Will I Study? Course Content*

A-Level music consists of one written paper and two non-examined assessment components:

Component 1: Appraising Music – 40%

This unit is assessed by a 2-hour written examination which will include listening questions and longer essay style questions. You will study a wide range of music, including Mozart Operas; Baroque Solo Concerto; 21st-Century Pop Music; Music and Media (films and computer games).

Component 2: Performance – 35%

This unit requires you to fully plan, prepare for and present a public performance of at least 10 minutes with a suggested minimum standard of grade 6. Your recital will be recorded in school and assessed by an external moderator.

Component 3: Composing – 25%

You will be required to compose two original pieces, of which at least one will be in response to a brief given by the examining body.

*Please note, there is the possibility of the course running as a Level 3 BTEC, depending on the needs of the students wishing to study music in the sixth form. If students wish to focus more specifically on performance then the BTEC route may be a better choice.