

GCSE Music



Career Options

Music Therapist
Music Teacher
Musician
Arts Administrator
Composer
Technician
Sound Engineer
Music Venue Manager

Subject Content

Component 1: Understanding Music

Section A: You will develop use of specialist Musical Language to demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of four areas of study:

- Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910
- Popular Music
- Traditional Music
- Western Classical Tradition since 1910

Section B: You will analyse the following study pieces for each Area of Study:

- Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A major iii
- Little Shop of Horrors
- Paul Simon's Graceland
- Kodaly's *Battle and Defeat of Napoleon* and *Intermezzo* from Hary Janos

Component 2: Performing Music

You will complete a solo performance and an ensemble performance totalling a minimum of 4 minutes at a standard of Grade 5 (minimum).

Component 3: Composing Music

You will compose two compositions:

- Composition to a brief
- Free composition

Assessment Information

Component 1: Understanding Music

Section A:

Use specialist Musical Language to answer listening exercises and written questions relating to unfamiliar excerpts of music.

Section B:

Use specialist Musical Language to answer written questions relating to the study pieces detailed in 'Content' section.

Component 1 is an exam paper worth 40% of your GCSE marks.

Component 2: Performing Music

This Non-exam assessment will be internally marked by your teacher and externally moderated by AQA.

Component 2 is worth 30% of your GCSE marks.

Component 3: Composing Music

This Non-exam assessment will be internally marked by your teacher and externally moderated by AQA.

Component 3 is worth 30% of your GCSE marks.

You must already be working towards Grade 3 on your instrument to choose this option.

Why Study...?

If you enjoy playing your instrument and listening to eclectic music then Music GCSE is a brilliant option for you. It is a demanding course which offers a huge amount of development of skills and knowledge as well as enjoyment and well-being for the right student. There are a whole host of career options for Musicians as well as the fact that it looks brilliant to have that something different and reputable on your CV whatever career you're going into – all employers love to see a candidate who excels at something!

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