

Music A Level



Features of the Course:

- Develop performing skills: students are provided with a weekly 30 minute lesson in their first instrument to support with this
- Develop as effective independent learners and musicians who perform, compose and analyse music with intelligence and reflection
- Develop composing skills to demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices and conventions
- Broaden musical experiences and interests through listening to a wide variety of music and attending live performances

A Level Components:

Component 1 – Performing

An assessed performance in front of a visiting examiner. Candidates have a choice

Either Option A (35%) – Total duration of 10-12 minutes

A least 3 pieces, one of which must be a solo

Pieces must reflect characteristics of two different Areas of Study

Or Option B (25%) – Total duration of 6-8 minutes

At least 2 pieces, one of which must reflect characteristics of an Area of Study

Component 2 – Composing

A coursework portfolio, externally assessed. Candidates have a choice of:

Either Option A (25%) – 2 compositions, total duration of 4-6 minutes

One must be to an exam board brief and reflect characteristics of Area of Study A

The other is a “free” composition to a student-set brief

Or Option B (35%) – 3 compositions, total duration of 8-10 minutes

One must be to an exam board brief and reflect characteristics of Area of Study A

The second must reflect characteristics of a different Area of Study

The third is a “free” composition to a student-set brief

Component 3 – Appraising

Written examination lasting 2 hours 15 minutes (40%)

Students answer questions on three areas of study, including four set works

- Area of Study A (Western Classical Tradition – the Symphony 1750-1900)
- A choice of AoSB (Rock and Pop), AoSC (Musical Theatre) or AoSD (Jazz)
- A choice of AoSE (Into the 20th Century) or AoSF (Into the 21st Century)

Methods of Assessment:

Performance: exam assessment – visiting examiner

Composition: non-exam assessment – externally assessed

Listening and Appraising : 2¼ hour written exam, including listening extracts