

A Level Music

Exam Board: Eduqas

The A Level music course builds on students' understanding of the key areas explored in GCSE music: listening and appraising, composition and performance.

Component 1: Performance (assessed in school, either 25% or 35% of overall grade)

Students will prepare for a public performance of two/three pieces, lasting for a duration of 10-12 minutes. This will be performed as a recital to an examiner from the exam board. The required standard of performance is grade 6 minimum by the end of Y13..

Component 2: Composition (completed in school and externally assessed, either 25% or 35% of overall grade)

Students will learn how to create and develop musical ideas with technical control and expressive understanding. Students will create two compositions; one will be in response to an externally set brief, in the Western Classical style, and the other a free composition, in the student's chosen style.

Component 3: Appraising (examination and externally assessed, 40% of overall grade)

Students will develop an understanding of the organisation of sounds (form, harmony, instrumentation and timbre, melody, rhythm and metre, texture and tonality), the context of music (composer, performer, audience, occasion, time and place) and musical styles and genres. The unit includes in-depth study of the symphony, from early classical to late romantic, popular music, and music of the early 20th Century. The exam will assess students through a mixture of listening, analysis and essay questions.

Course requirements:

- 5+ in GCSE music or equivalent
- Theory knowledge at grade 5 standard (ideally)
- Ability to read music (ideally)
- Performance level of grade 5 (or equivalent) and above at the start of year 12
- A love for performing, creating and listening to music