

A Level Music Technology

Exam Board: Edexcel

A level music technology gives students an understanding of use and application of production techniques through the following components:

Component 1: Recording

The purpose of this component is to assess students' skills in capturing, editing and mixing sounds to produce an audio recording with increased sensitivity and control. Students will develop the skills to capture and manipulate sounds in corrective and creative ways in order to communicate effectively with listeners.

Component 2: Technology-based composition

The purpose of this component is to assess students' skills in creating, editing and structuring sounds with increased sensitivity and control to develop a technology-based composition. Students will develop the skills to create and manipulate sounds in imaginative and creative ways in order to communicate effectively with listeners.

Component 3: Listening and analysing

The purpose of this component is for students to develop listening and analysing skills through the study of a range of music production techniques used in unfamiliar commercial recordings. The production stages of capture and creating sounds, editing and arranging sounds and mixing will be covered in the examination. Content is grouped according to 3 areas of study.

Component 4: Producing and analysing

This component assesses students' knowledge of the techniques and principles of music technology through a series of written and practical tasks, in the context of audio and MIDI materials provided by Pearson. The production stages of sound creation, audio editing and mixing will be covered. The content is grouped into 2 areas of study.

Course Requirements and FAQs:

Do I need to have studied GCSE music/BTech music?

No, you do not. You need to have a strong interest in how music is made and how it sounds.

Do I need to play/be able to play an instrument?

No. The composition component of the course emphasises students' ability to use software to manipulate sounds. It is helpful if you can play something, but not essential.

Do I have to perform as part of the course?

No. There is no performance aspect at all.

Do I have to have instrumental lessons to be able to do the course?

No. Again, it is useful if you do, but not essential.

What can help me prepare for the course?

You can access some music technology software for free (Bandlab/Soundation/Waveform Free/Cakewalk/Reaper). There are a myriad of youtube videos and tutorials available about synthesis, recording, mixing, sampling, audio editing. Have a go at creating something yourself.