



MUSIC

Music A-level (Edexcel) is about building skills in performance, composition, harmony, aural perception and analysis. It covers a wide range of disciplines and is a varied and interesting course.

The syllabus is divided into three units over two years. The course caters for a wide spread of musical tastes; the repertoire covers many centuries, genres and traditions, and the choice of composition briefs encompass a variety of musical styles.

The course

Component 1: Performing music

- This unit gives the students opportunities to extend their performance skills as soloists and/or as part of an ensemble
- Any instrument and style of music is accepted
- Each student must produce a balanced programme of music of a minimum of eight minutes, with the final recording having to be completed by early March of the exam year
- The standard level for entry for A-level performance is ABRSM Grade 6

Component 2: Composing

- Students further develop their composition skills and produce a total of two compositions – one to a brief and one either free composition or also to a brief
- The total time across both submissions must be a minimum of six minutes

Component 3: Appraising

- This unit gives the students opportunities to apply their knowledge of musical elements, contexts and language to six areas of study, each with two or three set works
- These are: vocal music, instrumental music, music for film, popular music and jazz, fusions, new directions
- Students will also apply their knowledge to unfamiliar works within these areas of study
- Assessment of this unit is through a two hour examination paper, part listening and part-written

Music A-level and beyond

A-level Music can be taken in combination with a wide range of other A-level subjects. It is a prerequisite for degrees in Music offered at both universities and conservatoires. It is popular with non-music courses at universities as it demonstrates proficiency in such a wide range of skills – analysis, essay writing, performing and composing.