

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject - A Level Music

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course? AQA

Why should I study this course? - Studying Music can give you a great mix of social, technical and business skill, which can all help in acquiring the skills that define employability, such as organisation, interaction with the public, team work, self-management, excellent communication and discipline.

Who is suitable to study this course? - Committed, serious musicians who are ready for a challenge.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course? GCSE in Music

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course? A GCSE in music at grade 5 or above is desired, or the Btec equivalent. A passion for singing or playing an instrument is essential. Minimum standard required is ABRSM/Rockschool grade v, and above, although the exams do not have to be taken. An understanding of theory to grade V is also preferred where a student has not followed the GCSE course.

How is the Course Delivered? - The course is delivered by two members of staff over 5 hours per week, in addition, students receive an individual 30 minute vocal/instrumental lesson of their choice. The lessons are very practical, listening and analysing, performing and composing. Students need excellent time management skills as they will be expected to practice a great deal in their own time.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Music theory Musical elements and compositional skills	Art Music Post 1910/listening practice
Autumn 2	General listening (classical, pop, musical theatre, folk etc.)	Art Music Post 1910/listening practice
Spring 1	Performance skills/musical analysis/aural skills	The Marriage of Figaro/Composition

Spring 2	Performance skills/musical analysis/aural skills	The Marriage of Figaro/Composition Coursework Deadline: performance and composition
Summer 1	Baroque Solo Concerto/Composition	Listening practice and set works revision
Summer 2	Baroque Solo Concerto/Composition	Listening Exam

How is the Course Assessed?

Course breakdown.

Listening and Appraising Exam: 40% of overall grade

<p>Section A – Listening (56 marks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Testing knowledge of elements, aural skills, etc. · All unfamiliar music
<p>Section B – Analysis (34 marks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Western Classical Tradition only · Testing analysis skills – short answers and extended analytical writing based on the set works
<p>Section C – Essay (30 marks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 1 essay question from a list of 6 options · Based on other areas of study (excluding classical) – pop, theatre, film etc.

Performance: 35% of overall grade

This coursework will be recorded at school before Easter of year 13 and sent off to the examiner to be marked.

Composition: 25% of overall grade

Two compositions will be completed in controlled conditions in class then sent to the examiners to be moderated.

Course breakdown

Examined content.

Appraising - 40%

Section A Listening - testing

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study? -

- Music: A Very Short Introduction, Nicholas Cook
- Listening:
 - BBC Radio 3
 - Classic FM

Please see below for a breakdown of each component of the course:

Appraising	40% 120 Marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listening and written paper• You are in control of your own listening• Certain areas of study to focus on e.g. 'Western Classical Tradition', 'Music for Theatre', 'Pop Music'• 'Western Classical Tradition' is compulsory• 2 ½ hour exam	Section A – Listening (56 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testing knowledge of elements, aural skills, etc.• All unfamiliar music
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			<p>Section B – Analysis (34 marks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Classical Tradition only • Testing analysis skills – short answers and extended analytical writing based on the set works
			<p>Section C – Essay (30 marks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 essay question from a list of 6 options • Based on other areas of study (excluding classical) – pop, theatre, film etc.
Performing	35% 50 Marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 10 minutes • Combination of performing styles/instruments • Very flexible – to suit your repertoire/skills • Solos/ensembles/combination 	Performances must be recorded between 1st March and 15th (ish) May in the second year of the course.

Composing	25% 50 Marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No controlled time • No maximum time limit • Minimum of 4 ½ minutes of music (combined) • 0 marks for under the minimum time • Programme notes (150 words) for each comp 	Composition 1 (25 marks): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition to a brief (picture, poem, 3 motifs, etc.)
			Composition 2 (25 marks): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free composition