

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 skills, 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? 5 passes where a pass is defined as GCSE 9-4, Merit or better at a BTEC Level 2.

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 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 practise 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	Jazz / Composition
Spring 2	Performance skills/musical analysis/aural skills	Jazz / 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

Section C – Essay (30 marks)

- 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 	<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.

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/combo 	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