

Music

EDEXCEL GCSE

Why study Music?

Music is all around us. It influences our moods and emotions, and stimulates and excites us in many ways. Following this GCSE Music course will develop your understanding of how music is created through four Areas of Study which provide focus and detail of a broad spectrum of styles from classical through to pop and world music.



What will I learn?

During the course you will learn how to perform, compose and analyse music, saying when it was written and identifying techniques that the composer has used.

The course consists of three units:

- **Component 1 – Performing:** Students perform a solo and an ensemble piece which together must last for at least four minutes' combined duration. The performances can be recorded several times and the best ones selected for submission.
- **Component 2 – Composing:** Students compose two compositions, one to a brief set by Edexcel and one free composition with a combined duration of three minutes.
- **Component 3 – Appraising:** Students study eight set works from four different areas of study:

Instrumental Music 1700–1820

Bach: 3rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major
Beethoven: 1st Movement from Piano Sonata no. 8 in C minor 'Pathétique'

Vocal Music

H Purcell: Music for a While
Queen: Killer Queen (from the album 'Sheer Heart Attack')

Music for Stage and Screen

Stephen Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of Wicked)
John Williams: Main title/rebel blockade runner (from the soundtrack to Star Wars)

Fusions

Afro Celt Sound System: Release (from the album 'Volume 2: Release')
Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album 'Esperanza')

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE course is assessed over three units:

Component 1

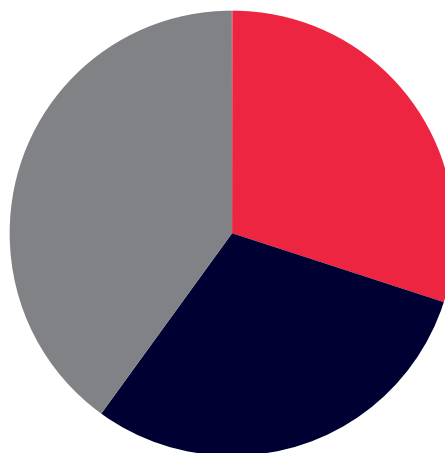
Performing: this is a non-examined assessment which is internally marked and externally moderated and forms 30% of the qualification

Component 2

Composing: this is a non-examined assessment which is internally marked and externally moderated and forms 30% of the qualification

Component 3

Appraising: this is a written examination lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes and forms 40% of the qualification.



30% - Performance Coursework
30% - Composition Coursework
40% - Examination

What can I do after I've completed the course?

GCSE Music is an interesting course in its own right and may lead to further study at A Level and beyond.