

MUSIC

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

This course is of particular interest to practical musicians who have enjoyed GCSE Music and who are seeking to develop their skills further. The course will introduce students to a range of composers and musical genres and will allow students to develop key study skills such as analysing and research as well as aural, theory and practical musicianship skills.

COURSE DETAILS

Qualification: A' level Music

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Entry Requirements: 5 GCSE grades 4-9, including both English Language and Maths. GCSE Music Grade 5 plus students should be studying for their Grade 5 theory exam

The course is suitable for those students who are considering applying for any arts related courses at university or college. Recent students have made successful applications to music colleges and musical technology courses as well as performing arts courses.

COURSE STRUCTURE & ASSESSMENT

There are three components to the course: you will have the opportunity to perform in a style of your choice and develop your composition skills, in addition to developing your analysis and score-reading skills by studying a range of set pieces.

Component 1: Performing (30% of the qualification) 60 Marks

In this unit you will be assessed on the following:

- A public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital
- This performance can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology
- The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of 8 minutes

Component 2: Composing (30% of the qualification) 60 Marks

In this unit you will be assessed on the following:

- Total of two compositions, one to a brief set by the exam board and the other a free composition
- One composition must be either a list of briefs related to the areas of study, or a free composition, carrying 40 marks for this component. This composition must be at least 4 minutes in duration
- One composition must be from a list of briefs assessing compositional techniques, carrying 20 marks for this composition

Component 3: Appraising (40% of the qualification) 100 marks

In this unit you will develop your knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language and apply this knowledge through the context of six areas of study, each with three set works. The areas of study are; Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions

The assessment comprises: One written paper of 2 hours.

- Section A: Areas of study and dictation (50 marks)
- Section B: Extended responses – two essay questions