

GCSE Option: Music

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Course Structure & Overview

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Syllabus: Music - 1MU0

Unit 1: Performing (1MU0/01) 30% - Internally marked, externally moderated coursework

Unit 2: Composing (1MU0/02) 30% - Internally marked, externally moderated coursework

Unit 3: Appraising (1MU0/03) 40% - Written Exam – 1hr 45 min

Music is an exciting, creative and interesting subject to study. It provides you with a wide range of transferable skills making you attractive to employers in many different fields. This course is designed to develop all aspects of your musical understanding, both practical and theoretical. You will perform, compose and listen to a wide range of musical styles as well as learning how to analyse and make comparisons between pieces of music.

Course Content

The GCSE is made up of three sections:

Unit 1: Performing – 30% of GCSE

You will have to perform at least two pieces of music adding up to a total of at least 4 minutes. You will play an instrument or sing both a solo performance and an ensemble (group) performance. The skills will be practised and developed in Year 10, with the final performances taking place in Year 11.

Unit 2: Composing – 30% of GCSE

You will write two pieces of music. One of the compositions will be written to a brief set by the exam board whilst the other will be written entirely in a style of your own choosing. The two compositions must add up to a total of at least 3 minutes.

Unit 3: Appraising – 40% of GCSE

You will study specific pieces of music or 'Set Works' from four areas of study: Instrumental Music 1700 – 1820, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions. You will sit an exam in which your knowledge and understanding of these pieces and areas of study will be tested. You will also listen to music you have not heard before, making comparisons between that and the Set Works.

Skills Developed

Music involves:

- Being creative and developing your own compositional style.
- Practising and performing on your chosen instrument(s).
- Studying the fine details of how music is written.
- Developing the skills to analyse and make comparisons between pieces of music.

Progression Routes

There are a number of routes available for Music students including A-Level Music, A-Level Music Technology, BTEC Music, BTEC Performing Arts and many more. If post-16 is not for you, employers will value the GCSE qualification as it encourages a wide range of transferable skills.

Future Careers

Future careers include: musician, sound producer, recording engineer, music therapist, teacher, armed forces musician, editor, music technician and arts administrator.