



GCSE MUSIC

Paper 1 Performance
Coursework
30%

You will prepare a performance portfolio which will last between four and six minutes. One of these pieces will be an ensemble. For the rest of the time limit you can choose whether to perform as a soloist or perform a different piece with a group. I will assess you on your accuracy, technical control, expression and interpretation. If you are multi-talented and can play a range of instruments- you will need to decide which instrument to be assessed on. There are plenty of choices when deciding how to perform you could..

- DJ/ Mc
- Improvise
- Sing
- Play an instrument
- Sequence
- Beatbox or Rap.

Paper 2 Performance
Coursework
30%

You will compose two compositions, one will be in response to a brief which is set by the exam board, the second is a free composition and you will write your own brief: e.g. Write a piece of music for a small group of performers that will accompany a dance scene in a new musical about teenagers. Write a rock song for your band to perform in the country youth battle of the bands. Compose a piece of music for a new children's film about a wizard.

Paper 3 Appraising
Written listening exam
40% weighting
75 minutes

- Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices
- Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble
- Area of study 3: Film Music
- Area of study 4: Popular Music

Set works:

- Badinerie by JS Bach.
- Africa by Toto.

Exam Board

Eduqas
GCSE Music



Useful Links/Resources

Knowledge organisers
<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rliid=1508&ga=2.77488405.1666707108.1675243456-549373826.1675243456>

AOS practice revision questions
<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rliid=1570>

Hints and tips guides for all three components
<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rliid=1496>

Eduqas resources search page
<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/SearchResources.aspx>

Useful Information

There are three areas which your composition is marked against. Each area is marked out of 12, to give you a total mark out of 36.

The first area is:

1. Creativity and development of musical ideas - have you got a nice sounding melody - have you changed the melody slightly so that you have a new version? Have you created a clear mood? Have you used contrast in your composition to change the mood?
2. Technical control of musical elements and resources - have you included different elements of music? Have you changed them in your composition? Have you used them sensibly and does it make musical sense?
3. Structure and coherence - is your composition organised and flows nicely? Does it make musical sense or it is different ideas which are strung together? Have you thought about the brief or completely forgotten about it and ignored it? Have you produced a piece which fits within a specific style and sounds musical?

The exam

You will be asked questions on musical elements, musical contexts and musical language

Melody- the tune
Harmony- the chords
Totality- the key
Form and structure- how the piece is organised
Dynamics- the volume
Sonority/Timbre- the sound quality
Texture- the layers of the music and how they refer to each other
Tempo- the speed of the music
Rhythms- the patterns of the note-values
Metre- the organisation of strong and weak beats

Context is the extra information that helps you to understand something more fully- it's the extra background information eg the time, the place, the situation.

In music we need to think about:
Who, why, what and when was the music written? What were the intentions of the composer? When and where was the music performed? What kind of audience is this piece aimed at? How was the music created, developed and performed in terms of the social, historical and cultural situation?

This is your knowledge and understanding of theory and terminology you need to know.

- Reading and writing music- treble and bass clef
- Chords- roman numerals e.g. I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi and vii
- Reading and writing- major and minor key signatures up to 4 sharps and flats
- Vocabulary- musical words that relate to the four areas of study.



GCSE MUSIC

Year 10

Term 1

Au1 – Guide to GarageBand – Blinding Lights

GarageBand is a versatile DAW and a great introduction to making music using technology. Build upon your experiences in y8 and y9 with GarageBand and take it to a whole new level by recreating Blinding Lights note-for-note.

Sequencing, music technology, melody, harmony, pulse/tempo, recording, chords, structure, audio, MIDI, iPad, DAW, mixer, delay, reverb, audio effects

Au2 – Guide to Ableton – Old Town Road

Ableton is a comprehensive and versatile DAW that is more difficult to grasp than GarageBand. Mastering and using this software for composition would allow greater control and many more options to help gain top band marks in all three sections of the composition success criteria. This guide is designed to give you a basic step-by-step guide to creating the Grammy award winning song Old Town Road. You will learn how to use Ableton by following this guide, as well as getting an insight into the process of hit-making at the highest level in contemporary popular music.

Sequencing, music technology, melody, harmony, pulse/tempo, recording, chords, structure, audio, MIDI, Ableton, DAW, samples, quantize, automation, time stretch, transpose, stem, track, mixer

Term 2

Sp1 – AOS 3 Film Music

At GCSE level, we are required to study film music through performing, composing and listening. This unit provides you with opportunities to use all your skills as a musician to dive deeper into the world of music for film. You will build upon your film music studies from y8 and apply your existing knowledge to analyse, recreate and compose music for film. This unit will also introduce you to the longer answer question from the GCSE exam and help develop your exam writing skills..

Notation, rhythm writing, pitch notation, Film Score, major, minor and modal, structure, samples, audio and video files. Composition skills, motif, leitmotif, Composition, performing and listening skills

Spring 2 – Guide to Composition

Composition is a huge element of GCSE music. You have spent the first term getting to grips with two out of three of the main pieces of software that you will have access to, and it is now time to start composing. The guide to composition will take you through all the necessary steps to approaching song writing. By the end of the unit, you will have a plan for your own composition that you will be able to submit for your coursework.

Ensemble skills, other instrumental skills, practice skills, elements of music, listening assessment preparation, composition, structure, melody, chords, modulation, structure, modes, tonality, style, genre

Term 3

Summer 1 – AOS 4 Set Work Africa

For this unit, you will study a song in detail. We will explore the song Africa through a combination of performance tasks and listening and appraising tasks. This unit will help you with a huge section of your exam, as well as developing your ensemble skills and listening. The set work for AOS 4 is linked to popular music.

Strophic, 32 bar song form, structures in popular music, standard chord progressions, driving rhythms, melismatic and syllabic writing, primary chords, secondary chords, lead and backing vocals

Summer 2 – AOS 1 Set Work Badinerie

AOS 1 requires you to focus on an understanding of musical forms and devices across a variety of genres and styles from the western Classical Tradition 1650 – 1910. For this unit you will learn the final movement of Badinerie by J.S Bach. We will explore this music through a combination of performance and appraising tasks, which will help you with section 1 of the exam.

Repetition, contrast, anacrusis, imitation, sequence, ostinato, regular phrasing, modulation, ornamentation, syncopation, conjunct and disjunct movement, cadences

Year 11

Term 1

| Lesson focus | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 | Week 6 | Week 7 |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|
| Thursday | Intro to brief (2 nd comp) | 2 nd comp plan | Start comp | Comp | Comp | Comp | Comp |
| Friday | AOS 3 | AOS 3 | AOS 3 Mock | AOS 4 | AOS 4 | AOS 4 Mock | |

| Lesson focus | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 | Week 6 | Week 7 |
|--------------|------------------|--------|------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|
| Thursday | Coursework check | Comp | Comp | Comp | Comp | Comp | Comp |
| Friday | AOS 1 | AOS 1 | AOS 1 Mock | AOS 2 | AOS 2 | AOS 2 Mock | |

Term 2

| Lesson focus | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 | Week 6 | Week 7 |
|--------------|--------------------|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Thursday | Welcome Back | Review all files CSS and Comp day plan | Group 1 comp day | Group 2 comp day | Group 3 comp day | Group 4 comp day | Review all files |
| Friday | AOS 3 revisit exam | AOS 3 revise | AOS 3 Mock | AOS 4 revisit | AOS 4 revise | AOS 4 Mock | Full Mock |

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|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Free Comp | Final composition hand - in |
| Brief Comp | Final composition hand - in |
| Solo Performance | Final recording hand - in |
| Ensemble Performance | Final recording hand - in |
| Mock test | Revision/recap |

Term 3

All coursework is submitted to the music department at the end of term 2 so it is ready to be submitted to the exam board for 5th May.

The exam date is 14th June so all lessons will be focused on revision up until completion.

