



Music Department A Level Music Summer Preparation

Introduction

The music department is delighted that you will be joining us to embark on A Level music in September.

Music A Level is a broad, creative, intellectually stimulating and enjoyable two-year journey. To place yourself positively for September, we have prepared some pre-A Level work that you should do over the summer. This is a mixture of all three components: Performing, Composing and Appraising music.

We currently follow the Eduqas board. If you would like to view the specification, this can be viewed here: [Eduqas A-Level Music Specification](#) Please note the set works for Area of Study A & E have changed, see **Component 3** for details.

Below shows the breakdown of the different components, and their weightings in relation to the overall A Level marks.

Component 1 Performance	Option A: 10-12 mins total duration 35%	Option B: 6-8 mins total duration 25%
Component 2 Composition	Option A: 4-6 mins total duration 25%	Option B: 8-10 mins total duration 35%
Component 3 Appraising	Written Exam 2hrs 15mins (approx.) 40%	

Component 1: Performing

Task: Practise a piece on your chosen instrument, ready for a performance workshop in September. This must be of at least grade 5 level and last approximately 3 minutes.

Tips for Practise

- Listen to a range of good quality performances of your piece on Spotify. Make notes on your score where you notice particular attention is given to articulation, dynamics and expression.
- Play the scale and arpeggio of the key the piece is in.
- Identify sections that need refining:
 - focus just on these areas, playing into them from the previous bar
 - slow down the tempo
 - play it in a different rhythm, for example if it's in crotchets, play quavers or a dotted rhythm
- Record yourself and listen back to your performance making notes where you think need more work.
- Try not to just play through from beginning to end, this will not make it better unless you refine areas that need improving, it may just make your mistakes better!

Component 2: Composition

Task: Produce a mini-portfolio which will include three very short compositions. Each composition will focus on a particular musical element.

Each composition will have a focus, within which you should try to show off your knowledge and be as creative as you can.

We are not looking for a finished composition, but potential musical ideas.

Composition	Focus
1	Melody: Create and develop a musically stimulating melody. Listen to a range of music and focus on the structure of the melody. Think about how a melodic phrase is structured and try not to make it too complicated. The best melodies are simple and often follow the structure AABA.
2	Harmony: Experiment using some more exciting harmonies such as extended chords (chords that extend past the 7 th note) and dissonance (adding notes to the chord that aren't in the key).
3	Sonority: Write a piece for an unfamiliar instrument. Research the range of the instrument, which clef it uses and techniques suited to the instrument. Listen to music written specifically for this instrument and write sympathetically considering it's capabilities and qualities.

Component 3: Appraising

Task: Develop your wider-listening skills. You should create a Spotify playlist for the following sections below. Ensure you include the set works, from area of study A and E. These will be studied in depth.

Area of Study A: Western Classical Tradition

The development of the symphony (1750-1900)

The following **set works** you will study in-depth, please familiarise yourself with these:

Haydn, Symphony no.100, (Military)

Schubert, Symphony no. 5.

Listen to works from the following composers to widen your listening to support this area of study.

- Bach (CPE)
- Haydn
- Mozart
- Beethoven
- Schubert
- Mendelssohn
- Berlioz
- Schumann
- Liszt
- Bruckner
- Smetana
- Brahms
- Johann Strauss
- Richard Strauss
- Mahler
- Tchaikovsky
- Dvorak

Area of Study C: Musical Theatre

Listen to works from the following composers to widen your listening to support this area of study.

- Richard Rogers
- Leonard Bernstein
- Stephen Sondheim
- Andrew Lloyd Webber
- Claude-Michel Schonberg
- Stephen Schwartz

Area of Study E: Into the Twentieth Century

The following **set works** you will study in-depth

Poulenc, Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, movement I

Debussy, Three Nocturnes, Number 2, Fetes.

Listen to works from the following composers to widen your listening to support this area of study.

- Stravinsky
- Schoenberg
- Debussy
- Ravel
- Berg
- Webern
- Prokofiev
- Poulenc

Good Luck, look forward to seeing you in September!