

Subject: Music

Examination Board: Edexcel

Syllabus: Applied Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Music (8MU01)
Applied Advanced GCE in Music (9MU01)

AS Modules

Unit 1: Performing Music (6MU01)

In this unit students have to give a 5 – 6 minute performance, consisting of one or more pieces of their choice. Any instrument (or voice) can be used, and students may perform as a soloist and/or with a small ensemble. The performance can take place at any time before the end of the course and is internally assessed. It is then sent for external moderation.

Percentage of overall assessment in AS qualification: 30%

Percentage of overall assessment in GCE qualification: 15%

Unit 2: Composing (6MU02)

In this unit students have to create a three-minute piece, based on a brief that they will be able to choose from those set by Edexcel at the start of the course. Students have a total of 15 hours supervised time in which to complete the composition. The work will then be recorded, and the score and recording sent for external assessment. Students also have to write a CD sleeve note to describe the structure and other important features of the composition, and to explain how it has been influenced by music they have listened to.

Percentage of overall assessment in AS qualification: 30%

Percentage of overall assessment in GCE qualification: 15%

Unit 3: Developing Musical Understanding (6MU03)

In this unit students will have to sit a two-hour exam paper in three sections, the first two of which are based on set works they will have studied:

- In Section A students will listen to excerpts from two set works and then have to identify specific features of the music (a skeleton score of the excerpts will be provided with the exam paper).
- In Section B students will have to answer extended writing questions about two other set works, without the aid of a recording or score.
- In Section C students will have to identify features of the harmony in a printed score of unfamiliar music and then complete a short passage of four-part harmony. Students are allowed access to an electric keyboard with headphones (but not a computer) while completing this task.

Percentage of overall assessment in AS qualification: 40%

Percentage of overall assessment in GCE qualification: 20%

A2 Modules

Unit 4: Extended Performance (6MU04)

In this unit students are given the opportunity to extend their performance skills as soloists and/or part of an ensemble. They can choose music in any style and any instrument and/or voice(s) are acceptable as part of a 12 – 15 minute assessed performance of a balanced programme of music. The performance can take place at any time before the end of the course and is internally assessed. It is then sent for external moderation.

Percentage of overall GCE assessment: 15%

Unit 5: Composition and Technical Study (6MU05)

This unit has two sections: composition and technical study. The composition section further develops students' composition skills, leading to the creation of a final three-minute piece in response to a chosen brief. The technical study section builds on the knowledge and awareness of harmony gained in Unit 3 section C through the medium of pastiche studies. Students have to complete two tasks in this unit choosing from **either** one composition and one technical study *or* two compositions *or* two technical studies.

Percentage of overall GCE assessment: 15%

Unit 6: Further Musical Understanding (6MU06)

This unit focuses on listening to music, familiar and unfamiliar, and understanding how it works. Set works from the anthology provide the focus for much of the unit and students are recommended to familiarise themselves with each work as a whole before concentrating on important musical features, context and/or elements of continuity and change. Between works students will also listen to a wide range of unfamiliar music which relates to the two compulsory areas of study. They will also learn how to compare and contrast pairs of excerpts, contextualise music and identify harmonic and tonal features. Students have to sit a two-hour exam paper based on their learning for this unit and the set works studied.

Percentage of overall GCE assessment: 20%