

## Subject: GCSE Music

### Exam Board: AQA

#### Component 1 - Understanding Music

Exam (in lesson) - 45 Minutes

##### Section A - Unfamiliar Listening

You will listen attentively to unfamiliar music from all four areas of study listed below, and accurately describe musical elements, musical contexts and use musical language (including staff notation):

- 1. Western Classical Tradition 1650- 1910
- 2. Popular Music
- 3. Traditional Music
- 4. Western Classical since 1910

Questions will relate to:

- Melody
- Harmony
- Tonality
- Structure
- Sonority (Timbre)
- Texture
- Tempo, Metre and Rhythm
- Dynamics and Articulation

##### Section B - Study Pieces

You will critically appraise the music from the study pieces below.

- Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622, 3rd movement, Rondo
- Little Shop of Horrors 1982 off-Broadway version – the following three tracks:
  - Prologue/Little Shop of Horrors (overture)
  - Mushnik and Son
  - Feed Me
- Paul Simon 'Graceland' album: the following three tracks
  - Graceland
  - Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes
  - You Can Call Me Al
- Zoltan Kodaly:
  - Battle and defeat of Napoleon
  - Intermezzo Hary Janos

Questions will relate to:

- how the composer's purpose and intention for the study pieces is reflected in their use of musical elements
- relevant musical vocabulary and terminology

##### **Useful revision resources**

GCSE Music Study Guide AQA by Andrew Coxon

GCSE Music Bible

AQA Past Papers and Mark Schemes

Google Classroom resources, videos from March 2020 onwards (code is [xtc4f6i](#))

Focus on Sound (Lessons/Tests/Dictionary) <https://fosuk.server1.apps.focusonsound.com/lessons/>

GCSE Bitesize AQA (Music Theory/Western Classical Tradition/Popular Music -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zfwv7nb>

##### **Revision Tips:**

For Section A, you need to understand and be able to apply all the tier 2-3 vocab to the questions. The final part to each question is usually worth 2-4 marks in Section A so you need to be able to define the elements of music which feature in each AoS.