

## Subject: GCSE Music

### Exam Board: AQA

### Component 1 - Understanding Music

Exam May 2024

#### **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
- Paul Simon 'Graceland' album: the following three tracks
  - Graceland
  - Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes
  - You Can Call Me Al

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.