Subject: GCE Music Technology

Exam Board: Edexcel

Component 3	Component 4
Listening Exam - AS Past Paper (8MT0 03)	Practical Exam - AS Past Paper (8MT0 04)
1 hour 15 mins	*1 hour 45 mins (plus 15 minutes setting up time)*

Component 3

Sequencing and DAW
- Uses of sequencing in tracks.
- Humanising techniques (e.g. iterative quantize)
- Appropriate quantize values / quantize techniques.

Recording and Capture
- Sources of unwanted noise
- Identify characteristics of a recording / link to era
- Identify specific recording techniques
- Understand the development of recording technology and the production practices of different eras, including how production techniques have changed over time.
  - Direct to tape mono recording (1930-1963)
  - Early multitrack recording (1964-1969)
  - Large-scale analogue multitrack (1969-1995)
  - Digital recording and sequencing (1980-present day)
  - Digital audio workstation and emerging technologies (1996-present day)

Effects and Processing
- Identify effects on individual instruments
- Describe parameters of an effect by ear
- Advanced production techniques e.g. side chain compression, filter sweep.
- Analyse production techniques on a section of music.

Synthesis
- Oscillator settings (e.g. wave shape)
- Filter settings (e.g. filter type)
- Envelope settings
- Other settings (e.g. arpeggiator, portamento)

Audio Editing/Sampling
- Sampling techniques.
- Sample rate and bit depth and how they affect sound quality.
- Describe considerations when selecting samples.

Technical Numeracy
- Make frequency calculations.
- Annotate and interpret technical graphs.

Question 5 - Comparison Question
- Evaluate the production techniques heard in two songs/two versions of a song.
  - Capture
  - Instruments and Style
  - Dynamics
  - Effects Processing
  - Reflection

Component 4

Sequencing and DAW
- Quantize values.
- Adjusting rhythm and pitch.
- Manipulating pitch bend data.
- Velocity editing.
- Rhythmic dictation.
- Add a sound using a software instrument (e.g. piano)

Recording and Capture
- Microphone selection (type, frequency response, polar pattern)
- Microphone placement
- Instrument-specific recording techniques
- DI boxes, audio interface controls, audio cables and their uses.

Effects and Processing
- Identify and describe audio effects.
- Identify effects parameters and how they work.

Audio Editing/Sampling
- Correct out of time sections of an audio track.
- Repair notes/phrases from material elsewhere.
- Compile a part from multiple audio files, by ear.
- Fade in/out, crossfade.
- What is a sample/sampler?
- Assigning audio clips on a sampler.

Technical Numeracy
- Analyse MIDI file and record technical details.
- Convert numbers from decimal to binary.
- Annotate and interpret technical graphs.
- Annotate and interpret plug-in settings.

Question 5 - Mixing
- Produce a final mix, including:
  - Compress, noise gate, side chain compression/gate
  - EQ whole track, EQ specific phrase, filter sweep
  - Automated pan, automatic double tracking
  - Identify an effect and recreate it
  - Balance the levels of the mix
  - Produce a final stereo mix (bounce the track)

Question 6
- Evaluate a recording setup, signal chain, mixing settings, synthesiser sound or effects parameters for a particular task.

Useful revision resources:

A Level Music Technology revision guide https://www.amazon.co.uk/Edexcel-Level-Music-Technology-Revision/dp/1785586343/ref=sr_1_1?crid=38QJ01HIE0JPV&dchild=1&keywords=a+level+music+technology+revision+guide&qid=1615995196&sprefix=a+level+music+technolo%2Caps%2C175&sr=8-1

Quizlet Sets for Tier 3 Vocabulary (available on Google Classroom)

Component 3
Music Technology revision- Component 3
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAKLguSjD-U

Component 4
Revision Videos - Practical Skills
- Mixing (Q5) practice tasks and support videos (Google Classroom)
- Audio Editing practice tasks and support videos (Google Classroom)
- Sequencing practice tasks and support videos (Google Classroom)
- Specimen Paper Walkthrough (Google Classroom)
- Component 4 Revision - **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDtV3Pk0sTA**

Revision Tips

Component 3	**Component 4**
- Take the time to check your equipment fully before the exam starts. Make sure you have your headphones on the right way around! - Remember the 'CIDER' acronym to help you with Question 5. - Answer 'explain' questions using the DEE format (describe, explain, example). You can only get so many marks for 'describing' only.	- Take the time to read the instructions during the setup process. Make a note of the tempo and the first track you need to import. Add a stereo master fader at this point too. - Take a highlighter into the exam and highlight key words, bar numbers etc.