



GCSE MUSIC

This is a stimulating course for anyone who wishes to develop their skills as a musician and is particularly suited to those people wishing to pursue a career path in the music industry or as a performer.

Although students will need to learn a wide range of music vocabulary and terminology from the three components of GCSE Music, the emphasis will be on working creatively through the main aspects of the course.

Skills such as self-motivation, listening and appraising, performing and composing will be tested in all aspects of the course. Independent study and development of performance and composition skills are key to this course.

It is **not** a requirement that students already play an instrument. Students with an interest in developing as a performer regardless of their starting point can succeed highly in this subject.

Eduqas Music – Assessment at a glance		
Component 1	Percentage	Assessed
Performing (practical)	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical: total duration of performances: 4-6 minutes • A minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance of at least one minute duration • 30% – non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated.
Component 2	Percentage	Assessed
Composing (practical)	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical: total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes • Two compositions – one in response to a brief and one free composition • 30 % – non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated.
Component 3	Percentage	Assessed
Appraising (written exam)	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes • Eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study. • 40% – assessed via a listening examination by Eduqas.

Component 3: Areas of Study

- Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices
- Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble
- Area of study 3: Film Music
- Area of study 4: Popular Music.

Students study the above areas throughout the two years in depth, engaging in performance, composition and listening tasks to further their knowledge and understanding in preparation for the exam. As part of this, students also study 2 set works which are linked to Areas of study 1 and 4. Students study these pieces in a similar way to an English text, learning about the key themes, devices and context of the piece.



Career Opportunities

There are many possible career routes within music specifically, along with the subject providing an excellent skills set for careers elsewhere. Musicians are seen to be dedicated, passionate, excellent at communication, independent, able to manage deadlines effectively and good team players – purely through the study of the subject.

Work in the music industry:

Sound engineer, Music producer, Composer for stage or screen, Broadcaster, Television, Radio

Work in performance:

Theatre, Session musician, Orchestral musician, Singer, Composer, Conductor, Opera and ballet

Work in education:

Classroom music teacher, Instrumental teacher, Vocal coach, Lecturer in music, Music education advisor

Work in arts:

Administration, Music therapy, Community arts