

A Level Music

A Level Music continues to develop the GCSE assessment areas of performing, composing and listening. It also includes more detailed study of prescribed musical works and develops more specific skills in aural awareness and harmony. The OCR A Level Music specification offers the option to customise the weighting of the exam according to the strengths of the candidate. Candidates can either choose to follow an A Level with greater weight given to Composition, or one with greater weight given to Performance. There is an end of course Listening and Appraising exam, lasting 2 hours and 30 minutes, for which candidates have to prepare four Areas of Study, two of which are compulsory.

Learners take components 01, 03 & 05 **OR** 02, 04 & 05.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<p>Recital minimum of 6 minutes and two contrasting pieces. Choice of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● solo piece(s) on one or more instruments or voice ● ensemble performance (including accompanying) ● realisation using music technology 	<p>Performing A (01) Recital (75 marks) Non-exam assessment, externally assessed via audio-visual recording.</p>	<p>25% of total A Level</p>
<p>Recital - minimum of 10 minutes and three contrasting pieces. Choice of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● solo piece(s) on one or more instruments or voice ● ensemble performance (including accompanying) ● realisation using music technology 	<p>Performing B (02) Recital (105 marks) Non-exam assessment, externally assessed via audio-visual recording.</p>	<p>35% of total A Level</p>
<p>Compositions with a combined duration of at least 8 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● one to a brief set by OCR ● one to a brief written by the learner ● three short technical exercises 	<p>Composing A (03) Compositions accompanied by a score, lead sheet or written description. (105 marks) Non-exam assessment - externally assessed via audio recordings.</p>	<p>35% of total A Level</p>
<p>Compositions with a combined duration of at least 4 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● one to a brief set by OCR ● one to a brief written by the learner 	<p>Composing B (04) Compositions accompanied by a score, lead sheet or written description. (75 marks) Non-exam assessment - externally assessed via audio recordings.</p>	<p>25% of total A Level</p>

<p>Listening and appraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● analysing and evaluating music ● familiar and unfamiliar pieces ● prescribed works ● questions based on aural extracts 	<p>Listening and appraising (05) Written exam including aural extracts. (120 marks)</p> <p>2 hour and 30 minutes written exam</p>	<p>40% of total A Level</p>
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For the Listening & Appraising exam candidates will study **four** areas from a choice of six Areas Of Study. Areas Of Study 1 & 2 are compulsory, and candidates will choose **two** more from Areas Of Study 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Areas Of Study 1 and 2 require the study of a prescribed work as well as a related repertoire.

Areas of Study 3, 4, 5 & 6 do not require the study of a prescribed work, but students will follow a list of suggested works that fall within the remit of the topic.

Area Of study 1 (compulsory) – Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven

Area Of Study 2 (compulsory) – Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band

Area Of Study 3 – Developments in Instrumental Jazz 1910 to the present

Area Of Study 4 – Religious Music Of The baroque Period

Area Of Study 5 – Programme Music 1820 – 1910

Area Of Study 6 – Innovations in Music 1900 to the present day

The Listening & Appraising component is assessed via an end-of course written exam (including aural extracts).

Prior knowledge, learning or progression

No prior knowledge or learning of the subject is required. The GCSE (9-1) in Music is not a prerequisite to take the OCR AS or A Level in Music. A background in Music - for example, learning to play an instrument - would be beneficial. The AS Level in Music itself is not a prerequisite to take the full A Level in Music, but the two qualifications are **co-teachable**.