

A Level Music



Exam Board: Educas

The purpose of A-Level Music is to help you develop your understanding and skills as a musician. They draw together a wide variety of practical and academic aptitudes in order to extend and enhance your experience and appreciation of music.

The course embraces the three main disciplines of music: listening, composing and performing, placing these in the context of detailed study of selected musical works.

We work with students to develop performance practice and repertoire, providing a variety of opportunities for performing to an audience so that students can develop their confidence.

The listening element of the course extends the listening skills developed by students at GCSE as well as widening students' knowledge of music history. Students also develop their knowledge of music history by studying a series of Set Works drawn from a variety of genres and musical eras. Music is a well respected course with universities due to the diverse skills, strong academic element and the organisational skills required.

- **Course overview:**
- **Engage actively in the process of music study**
- **Develop performing skills to demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation, and expression**
- **Develop composing skills to demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices and conventions**
- **Recognise the interdependence of musical knowledge, understanding and skills, and make links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising underpinned by attentive listening.**
- **Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity**
- **Develop and extend the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians.**
- **Develop knowledge and understanding of a variety of instruments and styles, and of relevant approaches to both performing and composing**
- **Develop awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music**
- **Appraise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop understanding of musical contexts and a coherent awareness of musical chronology**
- **Develop as effective, independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds**
- **Reflect critically and make personal judgements on their own and others' music**
- **Engage with, and extend appreciation of, the diverse heritage of music to promote personal, social, intellectual, and cultural development.**



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Assessment:

Component 1: Performing

Option A 35%

Option B 25%

A performance consisting of a minimum of 3 pieces, solo and ensemble. One piece to reflect the characteristics of Western Classical music and another one from a different area of study.

Component 2: Composition Option A 25%

Option B 35%

To compose two to three compositions depending on which option is chosen. One to be associated with the Western Classical tradition.

Component 3: Listening and Appraising 40% Written examination

2 hrs 15mins

Area of Study A: Western Classical Music

Area of Study C: Musical Theatre Area of Study E: Into the Twentieth Century

Entry requirements:

9-7 GCSE Music or similar musical knowledge or experience. AS Standard of performing set at ABRSM Grade 6; A-Level is set to Grade 7.

Other Course Information

There are no course costs if students complete the course.

Who is the course for?

- Students who are already competent performers and want to develop their understanding of music and musical skills further.
- Students who are considering studying music further (whether at music college or university), and are possibly considering a career in music.
- Students who have an interest in and aptitude for the subject but who are not planning to study music beyond A-level and will use the grade as UCAS entry points for other courses

Career pathways

Whilst Music can be a useful subject for Arts and Media courses at university, the most obvious degree pathway is going on to a degree in Music, which can lead to a range of exciting career options, including becoming a professional musician, a sound technician, a music therapist, a teacher, or a private tutor.

"A Level Music has helped me develop my skills in solo and ensemble performance, composition and musical analysis; improving my practical and theoretical musical skills. The lessons are fun, engaging and inspirational!"

