

# A Level Bridging Work

## Music

### Activity 1

In September you need to be able to read both treble and bass clef with fluency. Here are some resources which you may find helpful. You need to print off manuscript paper and write down the notes - it's the best way to learn.

Youtube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le10tF\\_3YWg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le10tF_3YWg) Learning to read treble clef

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMk-q5LCiAs> Learning to read bass clef

Online lessons and tests

<https://www.musictheory.net/lessons/10> Online lesson.

<https://www.musictheory.net/exercises/note> (This is a brilliant test, you can spend hours on this!)

### Activity 2

Learning your key signatures. Understanding how key signatures work is going to be essential for both analysis and composition. Therefore, you need to be familiar with the Circle of Fifths by September. This video will teach you how to work out the circle of fifths. We would recommend that you practise writing out the circle of 5ths. Whilst the video is brilliant, you won't just watch it once and immediately get it! It will take practice. You might find it helpful to attempt some of the scales on a keyboard, or instrument of your choice. You will find this challenging but it's worth the effort!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHv5WN4SiU> Music Theory – Understand the Circle of Fifths

Lessons on key signatures can be found here (password and username will be your initial followed by your surname e.g. bsimpson)

<https://fosuk.server1.apps.focusonsound.com/lessons/aqa-gcse/#aqa--key-signatures-lesson-1>

<https://fosuk.server1.apps.focusonsound.com/lessons/aqa-gcse/#aqa--key-signatures-lesson-2>

<https://fosuk.server1.apps.focusonsound.com/lessons/aqa-gcse/#aqa--key-signatures-lesson-3>

<https://fosuk.server1.apps.focusonsound.com/lessons/aqa-gcse/#aqa--key-signatures-lesson-4>

<https://fosuk.server1.apps.focusonsound.com/lessons/aqa-gcse/#aqa--key-signatures-lesson-5>

### Activity 3

Broadening your understanding of the development of Music, and becoming interested in all styles of Music, is an essential aspect of Music A-Level.

You are going to watch a documentary series called **The Story of Music** by musician and composer, **Howard Goodall**. For each episode you will need to create a mindmap on A4 paper. Focus on keywords and key composers. You will be asked to share this with the class, and join a discussion about points which particularly interested you in September. Which pieces did you like? Any programme or style of music which particularly interested you? Any composer you enjoyed listening to? There's a lot to take in so we'd recommend watching one episode a day, don't binge watch the entire thing!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVgPm-Kji5g> - Episode 1 - The Age of Invention: Renaissance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMxsE8wawVA&t=275s> - Episode 2 - The Age of Invention: Baroque

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xntvurc7jmU> Episode 3 – The Age of Elegance: Classical Music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZP8fZgO2aw&list=PLVgLFSXRa9sjSoZDSubcEhncdVEQIk4B-&index=5&t=0s> Episode 4 - The Age of Tragedy - Romantic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxzvVGIVZqE&t=3s> Episode 5 – The Age of Rebellion – 20<sup>th</sup> Century

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWwNZjvafo8> Episode 6 – The Popular Age

If you enjoyed these you might enjoy a documentary by Charles Hazelwood, 'How Pop Songs Work' which can be found in four parts in YouTube.

### Activity 4

35% of the A-Level is based on performance. Please prepare a piece which you will perform to the rest of the class and your teacher. If possible, please use a backing track, or bring in a piano part so we can accompany you. Obviously, if you are a pianist then you will not have any accompaniment!

Make sure you play with accuracy in both pitch and rhythm, and with expression. We would advise you to listen to recordings other musicians have made so that you get a sense of what you might be trying to achieve. The piece must be at least two minutes in length. Be prepared to talk us through the challenges of the piece, which bars have you had to focus on in order to refine the piece? How have you practised those tricky bars? Are there any technical exercises which have helped? **Finally, don't perform an incredibly hard piece, perform a piece which reflects your current 'best' ability.** We'd rather hear an easier piece played well than a hard piece played badly.