

GCSE Music

- Component 1 - 40% Listening and Appraising (exam)
- Component 2 – 30% Performing Music (coursework)
- Component 3 – 30% Composing Music (coursework)

But...it's all interlinked!

GCSE Music

Component 1 – Understanding Music

Exam is based on keywords relating to the elements of music (texture, structure, melody, dynamics, sonority/timbre, rhythm, harmony, tonality)

In every lesson we're exploring these words. Homework will be based on Focus on Sound listening which requires them to identify musical features within pieces of music. They need to learn keywords off by heart.

1.5 hour exam. First hour is all unfamiliar tracks with short, one or word answers eg Identify the texture of this track. The final 30 minutes is based on set works – Paul Simon's Graceland Album and Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, 3rd movement.

Component 2 - Performing

This component requires students to perform two pieces in year 11.

The pieces must have a combined length of 4 minutes, at least one minute of that must be an ensemble performance. An ensemble performance is classified as playing with one other live musician. The solo piece needs to be with a backing track or pianist.

They will be marked against the score OR an audio guide track.

Biggest challenge? Getting students to play music which isn't too hard. They get far more marks for accuracy (15 marks) and expression (15 marks) than level of demand (6). This must be recorded in Year 11.

Component 3

Students are required to compose two pieces. One piece will be a 'free composition' and one will be to a set brief, which the exam board send us in September of their Year 11.

Students will use Soundtrap, or Flat.io both programmes they can also be accessed at home, or use live instruments. The majority of our students do best when they use Soundtrap – unless they are very confident musicians.

We encourage students to use the musical elements we study in Component 1 when composing.

How can you help?

- Those students who attend extra-curricular music event do significantly better than those who just attend lessons.
- Singing is THE BEST. It's free and really helps them in the listening. Please help them believe that they can sing!
- Encourage your child to immerse themselves in the music they love, but also encourage them to listen to different styles of music – Classical FM and Radio 3 in the morning is great!
- Every student HAS to perform either an instrument or on voice. Start the conversation with them about what they're going to perform... encourage regular practice.

Year 10 Breakdown...

Flexibility of listening topics – lots of ‘dipping into’ rather than lessons on one style.

Year 10	
Term 1	Baroque Texture, Melody Composition techniques – harmony Pop Music, Blues
Term 2	Classical Melody Composition technique – tonality Reggae
Term 3	Romantic Music Composition technique – developing ideas Paul Simon – You Can Call Me Al
Term 4	Free composition start Paul Simon – Graceland Folk Rock from 1960s-1970s
Term 5	Free composition Paul Simon – Diamonds on the Soles of her Shoes Year 10 performance to assist with predictions. This is not a performance which goes towards a final grade.
Term 6	Year 10 exams – based on Graceland Album (3 songs studied) and unfamiliar listening Free composition focus

Year 11 Breakdown...

Flexibility of listening topics – lots of ‘dipping into’ rather than lessons on one style.

Year 11	
Term 1	Complete free composition and create score and programme note. Revise Graceland album Introduce Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto – Rondo End of term – introduced to AQA composition briefs. Tea-Time Concert – to be recorded for those who wish to submit performances early.
Term 2	Brief composition Mozart’s Rondo Contemporary Latin Music 20 th Century orchestral music (Copland, Kodaly, Britten, Minimalism)
Term 3	Brief composition -to be complete by end of this term Performances to be recorded (solo and ensemble) Mozart Rondo Revision of Graceland
Term 4	Mop up of performances (re-recording) All coursework complete by second week of this term Score and programme note of Brief composition Revision
Term 5	Revision
Term 6	

Questions?