

Welcome to Year 13 Music



The AS and A Level courses are separate qualifications.

The A Level Music Course (H543)

This is a two year course and the assessment takes place at the end of the second year.

There are three components and there is opportunity to choose whether 60% of your coursework is weighted towards composition or performance.

Performing A (25%)

Between 6 and 9 minutes of music, consisting of two contrasting pieces.

Performing B (35%)

Between 10 and 15 minutes of music consisting of two contrasting pieces and at least one more piece, which is to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of repertoire idiomatic to your instrument or voice.

For both Performance A and B, you may choose from the following:

Solo piece(s) on one or more than one instrument or voice; ensemble performance; accompanying another performer; realisation using music technology.

Performances may include improvisation, where appropriate.

You must submit a video of your performance recital, which should be recorded in March, April or May of the exam year.

Assessment is based upon knowledge and fluency, technical control and realisation of performance markings and/or conventions.

Composing A (35%)

Two compositions are required. The first is a choice from briefs set by the exam board, which are related to the Areas of Study. You choose one task to complete. These briefs will be made available in September of the academic year in which the course is to be completed.

The second composition is to your own brief and will be started and possibly completed in Year 12.

Also, a set of three technical exercises. These may be linked to one of the Areas of Study. Each exercise should last no more than 40 seconds.

The total duration for the compositions must be a minimum of 8 minutes.

An audio performance of your compositions, with a score, lead sheet or written description of your pieces. These must be submitted before May 15 of the exam year.

Composing B (25%)

Two compositions are required. The first is a choice from briefs set by the exam board, which are related to the Areas of Study. You choose one task to complete. These briefs will be made available in September of the academic year in which the course is to be completed.

The second composition is to your own brief and will be started and possibly completed in Year 12.

The total duration for the compositions must be a minimum of 4 minutes.

An audio performance of your compositions, with a score, lead sheet or written description of your pieces. These must be submitted before May 15 of the exam year.

Listening and Appraising

A written exam in May or June. The examination will include: questions on recordings of extracts from unfamiliar music; questions on prescribed music (including recorded extracts); essay questions.

Areas of Study

Area of Study 1: Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.

Area of Study 2: Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band.

Area of Study 3: Developments in Instrumental Jazz, 1910 to the present day.

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.

Assessment

EITHER:

Performing A (6-9 minutes) 25% AND

Composing A (8 minutes) 35% AND

Listening and Appraising Exam (2^{1/2} hours) 40%

OR

Performing B (15 minutes) 35% AND

Composing B (4 minutes) 25% AND

Listening and Appraising Exam (2^{1/2} hours) 40%

The AS Music Course (H143)

This is a one year course.

There are three components:

Performing

A minimum of 6 minutes and maximum of 9 minutes of music consisting of two contrasting pieces from the following:

Solo piece(s) on one or more than one instrument or voice; ensemble performance; accompanying another performer; realisation using music technology.

Performances may include improvisation, where appropriate.

You must submit a video of your performance recital, which should be recorded in March, April or May of the exam year.

Assessment is based upon knowledge and fluency, technical control and realisation of performance markings and/or conventions.

Composing

Two compositions are required. The first is a choice from briefs set by the exam board, which are related to the Areas of Study. You choose one task to complete. The briefs will be made available in September of the academic year in which the course is to be completed.

The second composition is to your own brief.

An audio performance of your compositions, with a score, lead sheet or written description of your pieces. These must be submitted before May 15 of the exam year.

Listening and Appraising

A written exam in May or June. The examination will include: questions on recordings of extracts from unfamiliar music; questions on prescribed music (including recorded extracts); essay questions.

Areas of Study

Area of Study 1: Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.

Area of Study 2: Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band.

Area of Study 3: Developments in Instrumental Jazz, 1910 to the present day.

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.

Assessment

Performing A (6-9 minutes) 30% AND

Composing A (4^{1/2} minutes) 30% AND

Listening and Appraising Exam (2 hours) 40%