



Music

Examination Board: EdExcel

Examination Code: 1MU01

Outline of the Course

Topics Studied in Year 10:

Unit 1 performance: Develop skills on one or more instruments for solo and ensemble performances

Unit 2 composition: How to compose in different genres and for different instruments.

Complete a piece of coursework.

Unit 3 Listening and Appraising: Analyse 6 set works and complete listening tasks associated with them.

AOS1 – Instrumental Music (Bach and Beethoven)

AOS2 – Vocal Music (Purcell and Queen)

AOS3 – Music for Stage and Screen (Defying Gravity and Star Wars Film Music)

Topics Studied in Year 11

Unit 1 performance: Record solo and ensemble performances (minimum 4 minutes)

Unit 2 composition: Complete 2nd composition to a set brief given by the exam board on 1st September.

Unit 3 Listening and Appraising: Analyse 2 set works and complete listening tasks associated with them.

AOS4 – Fusions (African, Celtic Music and Samba)

Begin to look at Wider listening questions and exam revision

What will you learn?

Performance skills: You will learn how to perform with confidence, accuracy and fluency in a chosen style on your preferred instrument. By the end of the GCSE course, you need to be of Grade 4/5 ABRSM/Trinity standard to be able to achieve full marks.

Composition: You will be taught how to compose in the style of a Theme and Variations and a free choice compilation from a chosen brief. All work will be completed on a computer programme called Sibelius. Each piece will take 2 terms to complete.

Developing Musical Understanding: You will study 8 pieces of Music across 4 Areas of Study:

AOS1 – Instrumental Music (Bach and Beethoven)

AOS2 – Vocal Music (Purcell and Queen)

AOS3 – Music for Stage and Screen (Defying Gravity and Star Wars Film Music)

AOS4 – Fusions (African, Celtic Music and Samba)

How will I be assessed?

Performance work is assessed every half term and you will work with your instrument teacher each week to support the work in class and to work towards the GCSE assessment criteria. Students should attend an extra-curricular club to support the performance work and improve confidence when performing.

Composition work takes place for two or three of the five lessons each fortnight and you are taught the basics of melody writing, writing for instruments, looking at stylistic features as well as using structure and tonality / harmony to write complex pieces of music. You will have access to a computer and software on which to notate the work.

Developing an understanding of Music History and the set works are taught in short modules and then assessed through a listening and written test. Musical scores are annotated with key features and terms so you are able to identify the features when listening. A longer essay is also completed as part of the listening and written paper. Throughout the course the lessons will be a mixture of discussion, written work and group work.

Mark Breakdown

Unit 1 – Solo performance 15%
Ensemble performance 15%
(4 minutes in total)
Unit 2 – Composition – two pieces 9 (3 to 4 minutes) 15%
Unit 3 – Developing Musical Understanding
Written and listening examination 40%

Website links

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html>

Key Dates

Solo performance - November of Year 11
Ensemble performance – March of Year 11
Coursework deadline - March Year 11
Written paper - June Year 11

Further Information

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**What can I do
after I have
completed the
course?**

Music is accepted for entry to Sixth Form and at A Level to higher education. It provides practical skills in performing and working as a team as well as developing aural skills and the ability to write, discuss and evaluate pieces of Music. Students often combine Music with the other arts subjects as well as Science and Maths related subjects. Students have often studied Music with Science and Maths for A Level to provide variety and depth to their studies. Research has proved that studying Music is greatly valued by Universities such as Cambridge as it is a skill based subject that requires the application of knowledge gained.