



Upton Court
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Music Department

Starting your
GCSE

Performance

Composition

Appraising





Preparing for your Music GCSE Exam board: Edexcel

As a department, we provide students with opportunities to develop their practical skills of performing and composing as well as introducing them to a wide range of music in order to develop their skills of appraising music. The transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 is exciting and challenging, allowing students to specialise in their chosen instruments and genres as well as encouraging them to develop their skills outside of their previous experience.

Achieving your Potential

Preparing for exams can seem daunting but the department provides detailed revision resources and individualized support to aid learning. Here are some of the ways in which you can make the most of support:

- Download and keep a library of performance resources e.g. sheet music, tabs, lyrics, chord sheets
 - Participate in extra-curricular ensembles and concerts
- Download a free copy of the computer programme MuseScore 2, which will be used during composition lessons
 - Buy a copy of the book *Music Theory in Practice* by Eric Taylor
- Log on regularly to Doodle in order to look at resources set by your teacher, complete homework and check your progress
 - Download any tailored revision materials created by the department
- Use in-class and homework opportunities to create revision resources such as cue cards using the website Quizlet
- Listen to a wide range of music and go to watch live music as part of extra-curricular trips or in your own time.

Extending Learning

Of course, the study of music at GCSE is not just about passing exams. The Music Department seeks to provide opportunities for students to enrich learning at KS4 and KS5. Some of these include:

- Trips to watch performances of set musical works as well as other musical performances
- Extra-curricular activities such as vocal club, World Drum Club, Music Collective and the school musical production
- Termly music concerts including performances from ensembles as well as solo performers
- Workshops from visiting musicians
- The unique opportunity to promote the subject in fun ways as an Ambassador.

Strategies for Learning

Consolidating Learning



Research shows that reviewing information soon after it has been learnt allows students to remember much more. Returning to the learning from a lesson later in the same day will allow you to be much more successful.

Organising Learning



You will complete a significant amount of classwork, homework, independent work and other activities in preparation for your GCSE exams. Successful students find ways to organise their time and learning effectively so that it is of use to them.

COPE Strategies:

- Create flash cards after each theory or appraising lesson covering key content using Quizlet
- Keep all listening worksheets up to date and download and print all revision slides provided by the teacher
- Review these worksheets and revision slides for half-termly tests.

COPE Strategies:

- Create a rehearsal timetable.
- Complete exam questions in timed conditions
- Use banks of practice questions to create a booklet of essay writing plans.

Preparing Revision Materials

Successful students prepare for revision and revise earlier topics throughout the year – this means creating revision materials throughout the year in preparation for the exam period. They will also revise constantly so they do not become rusty on earlier topics. They use in class assessments and Pre-Public exams to perfect their revision strategies.



Exam Practice

Ultimately, your success will be measured in your practical coursework and in the public exams at the end of Year 11. Successful students practise their performances regularly, acting upon feedback, compose chords and melodies in preparation for controlled assessment, practise many past papers, find effective ways to monitor and improve their exam technique, and are very familiar with the mark scheme and how it will be applied.



Structure of coursework and examination

Component 1 – Performing: 30% of total GCSE
(60 marks)

- One solo performance of at least one minute in length
- One ensemble performance of at least one minute in length
- Any instrument and genre
- Internally marked and then externally moderated.

Component 2 – Composing: 30% of total GCSE
(60 marks)

- One composition to a brief set by the exam board of at least one minute in duration
- One free composition of at least one minute in duration
- Compositions based on the four areas of study covered in component 3
- Compositions will be written using Cubase (popular music styles) and MuseScore (classical music styles)
- Internally marked and then externally moderated.

Component 3 – Appraising: 40% of total GCSE (80 marks)

1 hour and 45 minutes exam

Content overview

- Musical elements, musical contexts and musical language
- Areas of study: Instrumental Music 1700 – 1820, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions.
 - Section A: Areas of study, dictation and unfamiliar pieces (68 marks)**
 - Six questions related to six of the eight set works
 - One short melody/rhythm completion exercise
 - One question on an unfamiliar piece (score provided) with questions on its musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.
 - Section B: Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece (12 marks)**
- One question that asks students to compare and/or evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music

For both sections of the examination, a CD with the music extracts will be played to all students at the same time and will repeat the extracts a set number of times.

Useful Websites



The Edexcel website provides useful information on the specification, practice papers and mark schemes for GCSE Music.

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



The **Doddle** website is monitored by teachers. It contains a range of resources and quizzes to support students' learning and teachers use this to set work for classes and individual students to help them improve. In addition, teachers can use Doddle to record students' progress and targets. This information can be accessed online at any time by students and parents.

<http://www.doddlelearn.co.uk/>



Quizlet is an online learning resource that allows students to create flashcards for any topic. These flash cards can be printed or used online for revision games.

<https://quizlet.com/>



MuseScore is a free and easy to download score writing composition programme that is used in lessons to prepare students for, and create, their controlled composition course-work.

<https://musescore.org/>



Music Tech Teacher has a great many quiz games, particularly linked to the theory of music.

http://www.musictechteacher.com/music_quizzes/music_quizzes.htm

Recommended reading and listening for the summer holidays

- *The AB Guide to Music Theory, Part 1* by Eric Taylor
- *Music Theory in Practice* by Eric Taylor

Area of study	Suggested wider listening
Instrumental Music 1700–1820	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G F Handel: Concerto Grosso op 6 no. 5, second movement • A Vivaldi: 'Winter' from the Four Seasons concerti • W A Mozart: Piano Sonata in C major K.545, first movement • F J Haydn: Piano sonata in C major 'English Sonata' Hob 50, third movement
Vocal Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G F Handel: 'The Trumpet Shall Sound' (bass), 'Rejoice Greatly' (soprano) and 'Every Valley' (tenor) from Messiah • J S Bach: 'Weichet nur, betrübte Schatten' and 'Sehet in Zufriedenheit' from wedding Cantata • Beach Boys: 'God only Knows' from Pet Sounds • Alicia Keys: 'If I ain't got you' and 'Dragon Days' from The Diary of Alicia Keys
Music for Stage and Screen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Minchin: 'Naughty' from Matilda • Marc Shaiman: 'Mama, I'm a Big Girl Now' from Hairspray • Deborah Lurie: 'The Pier', 'Walk on the Beach' and 'Dear John Letter', from Dear John • Howard Shore: 'The Prophecy', 'Concerning Hobbits', 'The Bridge of Khazad-dum' and 'The Breaking of the Fellowship' from The Lord of the Rings the Fellowship of the Ring
Fusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capercaillie: Beautiful Wasteland • Demet Akalin: 'Pirlanta' and 'Ders Olsun' from Pirlanta • Buena Vista Social Club: Buena Vista Social Club • Dizzy Gillespie y Machito: Afro-Cuban Jazz Moods