

Subject:	Music
Level:	GCSE
Awarding Body:	AQA
Specification Code:	8271
Awarding Body website:	www.aqa.org.uk
ASSESSMENT:	
Controlled Assessment %:	60%
When will it be taken?	Internally Assessed and Externally Moderated: Component 2: Performing Music - February of Year 11. Component 3: Composing Music - April of Year 11.
Examination %:	40%
When will it be sat?	May/June at end of Year 11.
TIERS:	
Higher Tier Grades:	N/A
Foundation Tier Grades:	N/A
No Tier Grades:	9 - 1
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To opt for GCSE Music, you must sing or play an instrument and have weekly lessons with a teacher in or outside of school. Playing an instrument/singing is vital to passing Component 2: Performing Music, which is worth 30% of the course.

Description

This exciting course is a must for anyone who has a love of music and especially those students who currently play a musical instrument.

The GCSE course encourages students to:

- a) Actively engage in the process of music study in order to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.
- b) Develop their own musical interests and skills including the ability to make music individually and in groups.
- c) Evaluate their own and others' music.
- d) Understand and appreciate a range of different kinds of music.

What will I learn?

Component 1: Understanding Music

Component 1 focuses on listening and contextual understanding. Four areas of study provide an appropriate focus for students to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical context and musical language. They are:

1. Western classical tradition 1650 – 1910
2. Popular Music
3. Traditional Music
4. Western classical tradition since 1910

Students must be able to listen attentively to unfamiliar music from all four areas of study to identify and accurately describe musical elements and use musical language (including staff notation).

For the musical context part of component 1, students must also be able to critically appraise the music from the specified study pieces for 2 areas of study (one of which must be area of study 1).

Component 2: Performing Music

Students offer one individual performance and one ensemble or group performance on an instrument or using their voice. In Year 10, students are encouraged to work towards their solo performance on their main instrument, having regular assessment opportunities throughout the year to help improve it in readiness for Year 11. Part way through Year 10, students begin to prepare for their ensemble performances. The total performance time must last between 4 and 7 minutes in duration.

Component 3: Composing Music

Students are equipped with the essential skills of composition. Then each student must compose 2 compositions as follows:

Composition 1: composing to a brief (36 marks)
Composition 2: free composition (36 marks)

The combined composition time must last for duration of between 3 and 4.5 minutes.

How will I be assessed?

Examination (%): 40 Component 1: 1.5 Hour Written Exam
Coursework (%): 30 Component 2: Performing Music
30 Component 3: Composing Music

Component 1 is a written 1.5 hour exam which includes listening exercises using excerpts of music. It is externally assessed by AQA. There are 2 sections:

Section A – Listening (worth 68 marks)

Section B – Contextual Understanding (worth 28 marks)

There are 96 marks in total which represents 40% of the overall GCSE qualification.

Component 2 involves candidates performing and recording 2 performances, one solo and the other as an ensemble. This can be done as many times as is necessary. A recording of the performances together with a score are first internally assessed and then externally moderated by AQA.

There are 72 marks in total, which represents 30% of the overall GCSE qualification.

Component 3 requires pupils to compose 2 compositions. They are recorded and accompanied by a detailed score. These are internally assessed and then externally moderated by AQA.

There are 72 marks in total, which represents 30% of the overall GCSE qualification.

Future Opportunities

Successful students, who want to further their interest or gain employment in Music, can go on to study a Music or Performing Arts based course in the Sixth Form.

Further information

Students who are most successful in this subject:

- a) Enjoy performing on their musical instrument individually and with others.
- b) Are prepared to work hard outside lesson time.
- c) Are creative and embrace new technology.
- d) Ensure that coursework is completed on time and to the required standard.

The school helps students to success by:

- a) Providing extensive support via 'period 6' sessions.
- b) Providing computer facilities and 'Sibelius' software for the completion of coursework.

Parents can help their son/daughter to be successful by:

- a) Encouraging them to make best use of the extra tuition and help provided outside lesson time.
- b) Taking an interest in their coursework and helping them to meet deadlines.