



MUSIC (AQA)

Level of Study: A-Level

Description of Course

Music is available as a 3 Unit Award (A-Level).

The course is designed to develop all aspects of musicianship: performance, analysis, critical listening, and composition.

Skills Required

A commitment to hard work and a busy rehearsal schedule; the ability to work independently (instrumental practice and research); the potential to reach grade 7+ by the end of the course. Involvement in Extra-Curricular ensembles and concerts is mandatory.

Entry Qualifications

Grade 6 or above in Music GCSE; good instrumental skills (grade 5/6); musical literacy (grade 5 theory equivalent).

Method of Assessment

Written examination; Controlled Assessment; Internal & External assessment/moderation.

Component 1: Appraising Music - This component is 40% of A-Level marks (120 marks in total).

What's assessed

- Listening
- Analysis
- Contextual understanding

How it's assessed

- Exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music.

Questions

- Section A: Listening (56 marks)
- Section B: Analysis (34 marks)
- Section C: Essay (30 marks)

There are seven areas of study, as follows:

- 1.** Western classical tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory)
- 2.** Pop music
- 3.** Music for media
- 4.** Music for theatre
- 5.** Jazz
- 6.** Contemporary traditional music
- 7.** Art music since 1910.

Students **must** study Area of study 1: Western classical tradition 1650–1910 and a choice of **two** from Areas of study 2–7 (as decided by the centre).



Component 2: Performance - This component is 35% of A-Level marks (50 marks in total).

What's assessed

- Music performance

How it's assessed

- Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist, or vocalist and/or music production (via technology).

A minimum of ten minutes of performance in total is required (no more than twelve minutes).

This component will be externally marked by AQA examiners. Work must be completed between 1 March and 31 May and sent by post/uploaded to AQA.

Component 3: Composition - This component is worth 25% of A-Level marks (50 marks in total).

What's assessed

- Composition

How is it assessed

- Composition 1: Composition to a brief (25 marks)
- Composition 2: Free composition (25 marks)

A minimum of four and a half minutes of music in total is required (no more than six minutes).

This component will be externally marked by AQA examiners. Work must be completed by mid May and sent by post/uploaded to AQA.

Contact Name Miss G Sheppard gs@lpqs.bromley.sch.uk

Educational Progression and Career Opportunities

Music has been described as *an intelligent response to feeling*. The study of music at A-Level requires self-discipline and motivation, a high level of instrumental/vocal skill, creativity, analytical and abstract thinking, imagination, the ability to work extremely well individually or collectively, and networking. A good education in music therefore opens up many different pathways – at degree level and beyond.

"Music is the one incorporeal entrance into the higher world of knowledge which comprehends mankind but which mankind cannot comprehend." Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)