

WELCOME TO GCSE MUSIC



During the GCSE Music course you will need to be able to read basic notation and rhythms as well as having a really good understanding of the musical elements.

Over the next few weeks these are a few key skills that you could brush up on.

I have included the course booklet which has a brief description of the course and all the terminology you need to know by the end of the 2 years.

Below are links to various websites which can help you improve your music reading skills and help prepare you for the course.

MUSICFIRST Website <https://sarchs.musicfirst.co.uk/app/>

I have set up a pre- GCSE class and added lessons.

Your login is your school computer login eg, 17BloggsJo

Password: music (all lowercase)

Click on the blue Focus on sound icon when logged in and then go to the 'My Class' tab at the top.

Quizlet <https://quizlet.com/class/14652126/> Pre-GCSE class 2020

If you don't already have a quizlet login – create one.

Search for Pre-GCSE class 2020 – this is our class set of revision cards.

All the elements of music have a set as well as a notation set.

Music Theory <https://www.musictheory.net/exercises>

This website is a great resource for testing your musical notation and other theory skills.

BBC Bitesize KS4 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zbmct39>

Lots of great information on this site.

Below is the Eduqas student summary of the specification but if you or your parents/carers would like to read the full specification you can read it here: [Eduqas GCSE music full specification](#)

Component 1: Performing – Worth 30% of your GCSE (Marked by your teacher, moderated by Eduqas)

You must perform **at least 2 pieces**: One piece must be an **ensemble**, the other(s) can be ensembles or solos. You can sing or play any instrument. You can have an accompanist or use a backing track, or perform unaccompanied. Backing tracks and accompaniments must not contain the part you are playing/singing.

An ensemble in this course is described as a group of 2-8 live performers. You must not be performing the tune all the way through while the other performers accompany you. You must also be the only person performing your part.

Each piece must be recorded in the same school year you take the exam, and your **teacher must be present**.

Performing more difficult pieces – harder than Grade 3 standard – can boost your marks. You can perform easier pieces – below Grade 3 standard, but your marks will be scaled down a bit. Playing an easier piece well could result in a better mark than playing a harder piece badly!

You will need to hand in a **score** or a **lead sheet** of each piece so your teacher can assess how accurately you perform. You cannot hand in an audio/video guide track instead.

If your performances last less than **4 minutes** in total, you will lose marks.

Component 2: Composing – Worth 30% of your GCSE (Marked by your teacher, moderated by Eduqas)

You must **compose two original pieces** of music. Each is equally weighted. **One is a free composition**, which you can complete at any time in the course. The other must be written in response to a **brief** released by Eduqas on the 1st September in the same school year as you take the exam. They can both be in a similar style as long as the actual musical content is different.

You will have to hand in an **audio file** of each piece – either a live recording (of you or someone else performing your piece) or an output from software. You will also need either a **score** or a **lead sheet** with a detailed description of each piece.

You have to complete a **composing log** as well which is **signed** by you and your teacher to authenticate your work. This explains how you completed your work, if you used any ideas which were not your own (like drum loops) and if anyone else helped you.

Component 3: Appraising – Worth 40% of your GCSE (A listening exam.)

In your exam there will be **8 questions**. Each will have an **extract of music** which is played out loud for you to answer the questions on what you hear. Question 1 and question 7 will always be on the **set works**.

The questions will focus on three things:

Elements of Music – melody, harmony, tonality, form and structure, dynamics, sonority, texture, tempo, rhythm, metre.

The context – the time, place or purpose of the music

Musical Language – the list of musical terms in **Appendix C** of the specification, notes in the **treble and bass clef** and any specific **vocabulary** which goes with the set works.