

GCSE Music

Overview

Throughout the GCSE Music course, learners will develop their understanding of how music is created through composition, performance, and listening.

What will I study?

There are three key areas of study in this course - performing, composing, and appraising, which combine an array of solo and ensemble tasks. These practical elements are underpinned by study of different genres and styles of music - from jazz to rock, folk to film scores.

Learners are able to explore all instruments and musical styles throughout the course, enabling them to take creative control of their learning.

Assessment

There are three formal assessments, spread across the duration of the course. Two are performance based, and one is a written examination.

Units	Content	Weight
Unit 1: Performing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A minimum of two performance pieces, one of which must be with an ensemble.• Programme note for one of the pieces performed.	35%
Unit 2: Composing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One composition in response to a brief from the exam board.• One free composition, for which pupils set their own brief.• Evaluation of composition in response to exam board brief.	35%
Unit 3: Appraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour written examination.• Listening exam, with 2 questions on each topic: Musical Forms and Devices; Music for Ensemble; Film Music; Popular Music.	30%

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