



Kimberley
School

Sixth Form

Arts

AS/A Level
2017-2019

Music

What is Music AS/A Level?

AS/A2 Music allows candidates to:

- ❖ recognise the interdependence of musical skills, knowledge and understanding and the links between the activities of performing/realising, composing and appraising.

Who is it for?

This new specification is for candidates who wish to:

- ❖ draw on their experiences at GCSE as well as offering a meaningful foundation for the study of Music beyond GCE level.

What will I study?

AS

Component 1. Written Examination: Influences on Music.

Candidates should acquire, explore and apply musical language and context by the consideration of several Areas of Study from:

AoS1 The Western Classical Tradition (compulsory) and one other area set by AQA and the others range from a selection of two from various Popular Musical styles.

Component 2. Composing: Creating Musical Ideas (Externally Assessed).

Candidates compose 2 compositions totalling a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 minutes. Composition 1 is to a set brief and composition 2 is a free composition.

Component 3. Performing: Interpreting Musical Ideas (Internally Assessed).

Candidates offer two performances chosen from the following:

(a) a solo performance on an instrument, (b) a solo performance on voice, (d) an ensemble performance, The total performance duration should be between 10-12 minutes.

A Level

Component 1: Appraising Music

Candidates answer 3 sets of questions linked to AoS 1 – Western Classical Music and two sets of questions linked to AOs from a choice of six options.

AoS1 The Western Classical Tradition (compulsory) and one other different area set by AQA.

Component 2: Composing:

Candidates respond to one brief from a choice of three:

Composition is out of 50 marks and constitutes 25% of the total marks of the qualification.

Candidates compose 2 compositions – composition 1 to a set brief and composition – a free composition.

Component 3: Performing: A Musical Performance (Externally Assessed).

Candidates can perform through a combination of solo or ensemble performances.

Performances will last between 10-12 minutes.

Performance is out of 50 and constitutes 35% of the total marks for the qualification.

The course is made up of:

AS

Unit 1:

Written Examination: Influences on Music

1¾ hours 120 marks

40% of the total A Level marks

Candidates are given structured questions using a CD of musical excerpts.

Candidates then answer two essay questions, one question from a choice of two based on the set work from the compulsory AoS and one question from a choice of two based on a second AoS.

Unit 2:

Composing: Creating Musical Ideas (Externally Assessed)

Coursework 50 marks 25% of the total A Level Marks

Candidates respond to a set brief (25 marks) and a free composition (25 marks).

Compositions will last for a total of between 4 – 6 minutes.

Unit 3:

Performing: Interpreting Musical Ideas (Internally Assessed)

10 –12 minutes 50 marks.35% of the total A-level marks

Candidates offer a combination of performances from solo to ensemble as an instrumentalist or vocalist.

A Level

Unit 4:

Written Examination: Music in Context

2 hours and 30 minutes - 120 marks 40% of the total A-level marks

Candidates are given structured questions using a CD of excerpts. Candidates then answer three essay questions, one question from the set works from the compulsory AoS and two question from a choice of six based on a new AoS.

Unit 5:

Composing: Developing Musical Ideas (Externally Assessed)
Coursework 50 marks 25% of the total A-level marks
Candidates compose two compositions.

Unit 6:

Performing: Musical Performance (Externally Assessed)
10- 12 minutes 50 marks 35% of the total A-level marks
Candidates will offer two (or more) contrasting pieces to form a short programme,
as a soloist or ensemble or a combination of these.

How will I be assessed?.

The Assessment Objectives are the same for AS & A level.

AO1 Interpret musical ideas with technical and expressive control and a sense of style and awareness of occasion and/or ensemble
(performing/realising)

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AO2 Create and develop musical ideas with technical control and expressive understanding making creative use of musical devices, conventions and resources
(composing/arranging).

&

AO3 Demonstrate understanding of, and comment perceptively on, the structural, expressive and contextual aspects of music
(appraising).

See Mr Warrender for further details.