

ADVANCED GCE MUSIC

EXAMINING BOARD: EDUQAS

Entry Requirements: GCSE Music Grade 4-9 or Grade 5 Instrumental Exam

KEY FEATURES OF THE COURSE:

Skills

- Students will develop key musical skills of performing, composing and appraising.

Flexibility

- This course offers a wide range of choice with regard to music studied and weighting of assessment areas, which allows us to tailor the course to suit all tastes and strengths.
- Students can perform within their comfort zone, as an individual or as an ensemble or a combination of both to really demonstrate their abilities.

Music Studied

- A choice of Orchestral, Vocal or Chamber music.
- A choice of Musical Theatre or Jazz, Rock and Pop.

MODULES/UNITS COVERED

Unit 1

This unit gives students the opportunity to perform as soloists and/or as part of an ensemble. Students, with the support of their teacher, can choose music in any style. One piece should be linked to a chosen area of study. Any instrument(s) and/or voice(s) are acceptable as part of a 6-8 minute assessed performance. Improvised performances are acceptable.

Unit 2

This unit encourages students to develop their composition skills leading to the creation of two pieces with a combined playing time of 5-7 minutes. One composition is in the Western Classical style and based on a set brief, the other is a free composition where students can be completely creative.

Unit 3

This unit focuses on listening to familiar and unfamiliar music and understanding how they work. You will have one main set work to study which is taken from the Western Classical era. You will then study a small number of set works from a choice of different areas of study, the choice of which is relatively flexible and will be tailored to the tastes of the students who choose the subject. You will study the context of the set works and their musical features as well as gaining a broader experience of different types and styles of music.

At this stage in the course the percentage of assessment weighting is determined by the student in consultation with the teacher to enable the student to build on their strengths. Appraising still forms the largest assessment area, however students can choose whether they would then like to specialise in performance or composing.

Unit 4

Depending on whether performance is a major or minor component for students, you will perform for a maximum of either 8 or 12 minutes. Performances can be solo, ensemble or a combination of both and can be on more than one instrument.

Unit 5

Depending on whether composition is a major or minor component for students, you will submit two or three compositions. Two will reflect the study of composers' techniques in the set works, but if a third composition is submitted, it is a free composition, allowing students to be totally creative.

Unit 6

This unit is an extension of unit 3 in year 12. A more in depth study of the major set work is required as well as the chosen areas of study from the previous year. In addition, all students will study music set works from the 20th or 21st centuries.

TYPE OF ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 - Performance recital: assessed by visiting examiner 25/35%

Unit 2 - Composition coursework: assessed externally 25/35%

Unit 3 - Listening exam: 2¼ hours, assessed externally 40%