

This new specification, valid from 2008, is still in draft form and is subject to change before September 2008

AS Music is made up of three units

Unit 1: Performing (30%)

This unit provides students with opportunities to perform as a soloist and/or in ensembles. Students are free to choose music in any style. Any instrument and/or voice are acceptable as part of a 5-6 minute assessed performance. Notated and/or improvised performances may be submitted.

Unit 2: Composing (30%)

This unit encourages students to develop their composition skills leading to the creation of a three-minute piece to a chosen brief. Students also write a CD sleeve note to describe aspects of their final composition and explain how other pieces of music have influenced it.

Unit 3: Developing Musical Ideas (40%)

This unit concerns listening to music and understanding how it works. Set works from the anthology provide the focus for the first two sections, through listening and studying scores. Students will familiarize themselves with each work as a whole, before learning how to identify important musical features and social and historical context. In the third section, students use a score to identify harmonic and tonal features, and then apply this knowledge for themselves in the completion of a short and simple passage for SATB.

The three units are underpinned by 'areas of study':

- AoS1: Instrumental Music
- AoS2: Vocal Music
- AoS3: Applied Music



At AS level, students will study AoS1 and AoS2. There will be a number of set works (from an anthology of pieces) that will be studied and these will change each year.



MUSIC

A2 Music

This also comprises three units:

Unit 4: Extended Performance

This unit provides students with opportunities to extend their performance skills as a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble. Students are free to choose music in any style. Any instrument(s) and/or voice(s) are acceptable as part of a 12-15 minute assessed performance of a balanced programme of music. Notated and/or improvised performances may be submitted.

Unit 5: Composition and Technical Study

This unit has two sections: Composition and Technical Study. The Composition section further develops students' composition skills, leading to the creation of a final three-minute piece to a chosen brief. The Technical Study section builds on the knowledge and awareness of harmony gained in Unit 3 Section C through the medium of pastiche studies. Students must complete two tasks in this unit choosing from *either* one composition and one technical study *or* two compositions *or* two technical studies.

Unit 6: Further Musical Understanding

This unit concerns listening to music, familiar and unfamiliar, and understanding how it works. Set works from the anthology - different selections from those in Unit 3 - provide the focus for much of the unit. It is recommended that students familiarize themselves with each work as a whole, before concentrating on important musical features, context, and/or elements of continuity and change. Students should also listen to a wide range of unfamiliar music related to the unit's two compulsory areas of study. They should learn how to compare and contrast pairs of excerpts, contextualise music, and identify harmonic and tonal features.



A LEVEL

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

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What is Music Technology?

This A-level is designed to open up a range of exciting and useful tasks encouraging pupils to explore their musicality and create original material using technology. The subject has an emphasis on practical tasks and is 70% coursework with an examination worth 30%.

The AS is based on two areas of study

- **AOS1: The Principles and Practice of Music Technology**
- **AOS2: Popular Music Styles since 1910**

AOS1 involves the development of practical skills in MIDI and audio sequencing (using Logic Pro on Apple Macs) and recording.

AOS2 involves study of jazz as well as pop and rock. There is no need to study every type of popular music in detail, but the aim is to learn something of the main musical and cultural characteristics of the major styles and trends of the past 100 years. These styles and trends range historically from ragtime and Dixieland Jazz through to recent developments in Club Music and Electronica.

Unit 1 "Music Technology Portfolio 1"

You will produce a portfolio of tasks in your AS year called 'Unit 1: Music Technology Portfolio'. This will comprise the following pieces of work:

Sequenced Realised Performance: The sequenced realised performance will be based on a recording of a piece of music specified by Edexcel. A skeleton score, but **not** the recording, will be provided by Edexcel.

Multi-track Recording: Students will record a piece of their own choice from Area of Study 2: Popular Music Styles since 1910, lasting between two and four minutes. Recordings must have between eight and twelve live tracks (no MIDI). Close-mic and direct-inject (DI) capture will be required (with at least **four** tracks captured using microphones).



A LEVEL