A-LEVEL MUSIC

WHY STUDY MUSIC AT A-LEVEL?

Music is thrilling, busy, thoughtful, demanding and a world apart from the daily routine of school life. It is both scholarly and practical; it is highly regarded by universities who recognise the dedication that is required of musicians as well as the cultural breadth that a musical education has given them.

This OCR A-Level in Music will provide a contemporary, accessible and creative education in Music with an integrated approach to the three main elements – performing, composing and appraising.

Learners are encouraged to be creative and to broaden their musical horizons and understanding with Areas of Study that inspire and challenge.

OCR's A-Level in Music has been designed to appeal to, and cater for, a wide range of interests, instruments, personalities and directions.

TOPICS STUDIED

Students study at least four out of the following six areas of study:

1. Instrumental music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven (Compulsory)
2. Popular song: blues, jazz, swing and big band (Compulsory)
3. Developments in instrumental jazz, 1910 to the present day (Optional)
4. Religious music of the baroque period (Optional)
5. Programme music, 1820—1910 (Optional)
6. Innovations in music, 1900 to the present day. (Optional)

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

PERFORMING A
- Recital
- 75 Marks
- Non exam assessment
- Externally assessed via audio-visual recording

PERFORMING B
- Recital
- 105 Marks
- Non exam assessment
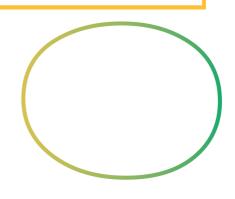- Externally assessed via audio-visual recording

COMPOSING A
- Compositions accompanied by a score, lead sheet or written description
- 105 Marks
- Non-exam assessment – externally assessed via audio recordings

COMPOSING B:
- Compositions accompanied by a score, lead sheet or written description
- 75 Marks
- Non-exam assessment – externally assessed via audio recordings

LISTENING AND APPRAISING:
- Written exam including aural extracts
- 120 Marks
- 2 hour and 30 minutes written exam

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE Music (where studied) and/or suitable proficiency in an instrument
to Grade 6

CAREER PATHWAY

A-Level Music could lead to a Music degree at university or a vocational course such as a BTEC or even to Music College!

The varied nature of the course enables students to develop highly desirable skills in areas such as self-management, creativity, data analysis, performance, teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, all of which makes them an attractive prospect for potential employers. Other popular destinations for Music graduates include broadcasting, being a sound technician, community musician, music therapist, teacher, or private tutor, or a range of careers in the music industry, working in a concert hall or music venue, publishing, law, politics and the Civil Service.

Rather than limiting your career prospects, a music qualification opens doors to a wide range of careers!

IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

A-Level Music builds upon and extends the skills and knowledge gained at GCSE level and gives students the opportunity to focus either more on their performing or on their composing by choosing the weighting they give to each one. It is a very academic course requiring high levels of independent working, and requires the ability to complete in-depth analysis of musical works (many from the Western Classical Tradition) and scores so the ability to fluently read music notation is important Look at the areas of study below- you will spend a lot of time studying them so make sure there is something you will find interesting or builds upon your existing knowledge and interests.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact Ian Hackett, Subject Lead Music at
Light Hall School, ihackett@lighthall.co.uk

READING LIST

- There is no specific "reading list" as such but becoming familiar with the repertoire (composers/artists as well as the wider styles) and genres/styles would be hugely beneficial.