

AS and A2 Music

AS Music

Board and Syllabus: Edexcel

Three units will be taken in the Lower 6th from September 2003. Units 1 and 2 account for 30% of the total AS mark, while the third is weighted at 40%.

Objectives of the Course

To maximise performing and composing skills by in-depth study of harmony and compositional techniques employed by a wide range of historical and stylistic study.

Course Content

Unit 1 Performing

A solo performance recorded and marked by an external examiner

Part 1 Solo recital (5-6 minutes).

Part 2 Log book of performances, one of which has to be the pupils own composition

Unit 2 Developing Musical Ideas

Part 1 One composition lasting at least 3 minutes, based on a given choice of topics

Part 2 An assessment of two exercises in compositional techniques (Bach Chorales and Renaissance counterpoint)

Unit 3 Listening and Understanding

Part 1 A 45 minute listening test answering questions from a CD. Comparison of two performances of the same piece

Part 2 A 1½ hour written paper based on extracts from the chosen Areas of Study from the *New Anthology of Music*.

A2 Music

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Units 4, 5 and 6 are weighted 30%, 30% and 40% respectively

Unit 4 Performing and composing

Assessed by teacher and moderated by Edexcel

Part 1 Log book of performances, the best four are chosen for assessment (at least one solo and one ensemble item). One recorded solo piece of performing is required.

Part 2 A timed test in compositional techniques, marked by an Edexcel examiner. This must be work in greater depth chosen for the AS course.

Unit 5 Specialist options

Choose on of the following two options (marked by an Edexcel examiner):

Either - write two compositions which last a total of no more than 6 minutes.

Or - You will have to perform a 20-minute recital of music, which will be recorded for assessment purposes.

Unit 6 Analysing music

Two separate assessments, both marked by an Edexcel examiner:

Part 1 A listening paper, consisting of three questions on music on a CD that can be played as many times as required in a 45 minute test; the music will be selected from a wide variety of styles.

Part 2 A two-hour written paper based on questions about two areas of study prepared from the *New Anthology of Music*.

The course is taught by the Director and Assistant Director of Music in a fully equipped Music School with all facilities for performing, composing and listening, with the benefit of a Music Technology Studio.