

# GCSE Music

**Board and Specification:** AQA

## **Areas of Study:**

- **Music for Film**
  - Western
  - Classic monster / horror – science fiction / fantasy
  - Thriller / Spy

No specific films are required, just a general knowledge of dramatic effects.
- **Music for Dance**
  - dances of 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Century in Baroque suite
  - ballroom dances used by composers (waltz, polka)
  - dances of the Americas (tango, samba, salsa)
  - club dance scene (sampling, sequencing, remix, DJ. etc.)
- **Music for Special Events**
  - concerts, services, birthday, funeral, sport events, celebrations, festivals, commemorations
- **Orchestral Landmarks**
  - Classical orchestra of Haydn / Mozart
  - expansion of orchestra in 19<sup>th</sup> C. (Beethoven onwards)
  - Romantic orchestra from 1830-1900 (Brahms / Wagner)
  - Orchestra in the 20<sup>th</sup> C. (Stravinsky / Debussy etc.)
- **Popular Song since 1960**
  - solo, theatre, soul, gospel, folk, rock, fusion, world music

**FOUR SECTIONS – Each equally weighted as 25%**

## **The Examination**

1. **Composing:** One composition produced by the end of the course (May of 5<sup>th</sup> form year)
  - it comes under ‘Music for a Special Occasion’
  - the portfolio will include a recording, score and a brief for each piece.
2. **Performing:**
  - one solo performance (can be accompanied but not doubled) – one piece only
  - one ensemble performance (can be a different instrument if you wish) – one piece

Very important to play within your ability – high marks are available for easy music played well.  
Performances may be recorded at any time before the deadline and you can record them as many times as you want and pick the best one.
3. **Integrated Assignment:**
  - in February of 5<sup>th</sup> form choose one from a list of four briefs, all based on one of the Areas of Study (but not ‘Music for a Special Event’). A score and recording is again required. The ‘realisation’ of the piece is very important.
  - a very short written paper (½ hour) – evaluation of the composition
4. **Listening and Appraising:**
  - 1¼ exam in Summer Term of 5<sup>th</sup> form
  - questions played from a CD from all of five Areas of Study

Identify instruments, recognise types and dates of music, notate rhythms and pitches, spot technical features in the work, make comparisons, identify cadences, etc.