

IB Music HL and SL

Music is a performing art and the IB course encourages performance and composition at both Higher and Standard level. In fact, 50% of the final mark at both HL and SL is for performance and / or composition. The course is designed for the music student with a background in performance or composition and is an ideal stepping stone to music at university and conservatoire level. Alongside the practical element all the courses include a common section on musical perception and analysis.

Content

Prescribed work 10%

This is a detailed study of two substantial pieces of work prescribed each year by the IB.

Musical genres and styles 20%

A wide range of music from around the world is studied to compare structure and elements in different historical and cultural contexts.

Musical Investigation 20%

This leads to a written media script (radio, TV, CD, website) of 2000 words investigating the relationship between two distinct musical cultures.

Performance and Composition 25% each

At higher level, students complete both of the following.

- A Solo performance - one or more solo recitals lasting approx. 20 minutes.
- Composition - three contrasting pieces lasting 5-15 minutes, including written statement and score.

At Standard Level, students choose one of the following.

- A solo performance - one or more solo recitals lasting approx. 15 minutes.
- A group performance - two public performances lasting 15-30 minutes as part of an ensemble.
- Composition - two contrasting pieces lasting 5-15 minutes, including written statement and score.

Assessment

At both levels, the study of the prescribed work and the musical genres and styles leads to a listening paper of 2½ hours, for which a CD is provided. This paper makes up 30% of the final mark. The musical investigation making up a further 20% is also marked externally. The performance and composition, which are internally marked and externally moderated, makes up the remaining marks.



Listening paper



Musical investigation



Performance and composition



A Level Music

Exam Board: Edexcel

This is a stimulating and enriching course which develops pupils' performance skills, compositional skills and analytical skills. Students will experience all three musical disciplines of performing, composing and listening and understanding. The A2 course in particular is an excellent preparation for higher education courses in music and an equally valuable non-specialist choice and a second or third area of study.

The course is taught in a fully equipped Music School with excellent facilities for performing, composing and listening. We also have the benefit of a Music Technology Suite with 15 iMacs running Sibelius and Logic software.

A Level Course Content

Unit 1 Performing Music (30%)

A solo or ensemble performance recorded and marked by an external examiner. Any instrument or voice and any style of music is acceptable for an 8 minute programme.



Unit 2 Composing (30%)

- Part 1. One composition lasting at least 4 minutes, based on a given choice of topics.
- Part 2. One brief assessing technique. Minimum of 1 minute long.



Unit 3 Appraising (40%)

6 Areas of Study with 3 set works in each. Assessed in a final 2 hour exam.



- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Directions

