

MUSIC

Exam Board – Edexcel

Component 1: Performing

Externally assessed

30% of the qualification - 60 marks

Requirements:

- A public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital or extended performance in the Spring Chamber Concert or an alternative occasion suited to the particular instrument or voice.
- Performance can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or using music technology.
- The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of 8 minutes.
- Performances must be recorded after 1 March in year 13 and all recordings and scores submitted to arrive by 15 May in year 13.

Component 2: Composing

Externally assessed

30% of the qualification - 60 marks

Requirements:

- Total of two compositions, one to a brief set by the Exam Board and one other composition in a free style or to a brief.
- One composition must be from either a list of briefs related to the areas of study (see under unit 3), or a free composition worth 40 marks. This composition must be at least 4 minutes in duration.
- One composition must be from a list of briefs assessing compositional technique (either on Harmonising a melody using 4 part chords, writing in 2 part Baroque style, arranging a popular melody using chords and bass or remixing a track)
- These carry 20 marks for this unit. This composition must be at least 1 minute in duration, unless the brief specifies a longer minimum duration.
- Total time across both submissions must be a minimum of 6 minutes.

Component 3: Appraising

Written examination: 2 hours - 40% of the qualification - 100 marks

Overview:

- Knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language.
- Application of knowledge through the context of six areas of study, each with three setworks.
- Vocal Music (A Cantata by Bach, and 'On Wenlock Edge' by Vaughan Williams)

- Instrumental Music (Clara Schumann piano quintet 1st Movement, Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique 1st Mvt)
- Music for Film (Bernard Hermann Psycho soundtrack, The Duchess, Batman Begins)
- Popular Music and Jazz (tracks from The Beatles 'Revolver' album, Courtney Pine's 'Back in the Day' and Kate Bush 'Hounds Of Love' album)
- Fusions (Music by Debussy and Anushka Shankar's 'Breathing under water')
- New Directions (20th century pieces by John Cage, Stravinsky's 'Rite of spring' and an experimental cello piece called 'Petals')
- Application of knowledge to unfamiliar works.

Assessment overview:

- One written paper of 2 hours, with a total of 100 marks.
- One audio CD with the extracts to accompany questions on the paper will be provided per student.
- This paper comprises two sections: A and B.
- Section A: Areas of study and dictation (50 marks)
- Three questions related to the set works (audio and skeleton score provided).
- One short melody/rhythm completion exercise.
- Section B: Extended response
- Two essay questions – essay one (20 marks) and essay two (30 marks)
- Essay one asks students to draw links from their study of the set works to the music heard as an unfamiliar extract.
- Essay two gives a choice of three questions that ask students to evaluate the musical elements, context and language of one set work. Each option will be from a different area of study.