



MUSIC

Course: WJEC Eduqas Music A-Level

INTRODUCTION

This course requires you to

- perform pieces at a Grade 6 or equivalent level;
- be working at a Grade 5 Theory or equivalent level;
- compose music in a style of your choice; and
- listen and analyse music in a variety of styles.

The course usually has 3-5 students in it, so you must be prepared to work at an independently on both the written and practical elements of the course. Attendance will have a big factor in your success in the course.



TASK 1: ELEMENTS OF MUSIC IN CONTEXT

In music we use DR. T. SMITH as an acronym to remember the elements of music:

- D**ynamics
- R**hythm
- T**empo
- S**tructure
- M**elody
- I**nstrumentation (aka. Timbre/Sonority)
- T**exture
- H**armony

Create a mind map of key words used for each element and how they are used in music.

TASK 2: LISTENING TO DIFFERENT GENRES OF MUSIC

Choose one of the styles of music from the Areas of Study in A-Level Music. Listen to some of the music from this style and make note of how the elements of music are being used in the pieces.

You may also want to make a list of famous musicians and songs that come from your style of music.

COURSE BREAKDOWN & AREAS OF STUDY

Appraising (40%)

There is a 2 hours 15 minutes (approx.) written exam with options on what can be studied within the course:

Area of Study required by all students

Area of Study A: Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900)

Two set works: Choose one for detailed analysis and the other for general study.

- Symphony No. 104 in D major, 'London': Haydn
- Symphony No. 4 in A major, 'Italian': Mendelssohn

Choose ONE of the following Areas of Study:

Area of Study B: Rock and Pop

Area of Study C: Musical Theatre

Area of Study D: Jazz

Choose ONE of the following Areas of Study:

Area of Study E: Into the Twentieth Century

Two set works:

- Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, Movement II: Poulenc
- Three Nocturnes, Number 1, Nuages: Debussy

Area of Study F: Into the Twenty-First Century

Two set works:

- Asyla, Movement 3, Ecstasio: Thomas Adès
- String Quartet No. 2 (Opus California) Movements 1 (Boardwalk) and 4 (Natural Bridges): Sally Beamish

Composing and Performing (60%)

There are two options for how you wish to submit this section of coursework:

Option A

Performance (35%) - Total duration of performances: 10-12 minutes

A performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces.

- At least one of these pieces must be as a soloist.
- The other pieces may be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both.
- One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study.
- At least one other piece must reflect the musical characteristics of a different area of study.

Composition (25%) - Total duration of compositions: 4-6 minutes

Two compositions:

- The first must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC.
- The second composition is a free composition.

Option B

Performance (25%) - Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes

- A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces, either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study.

Composition (35%) - Total duration of compositions: 8-10 minutes

Three compositions:

- The first composition must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC.
- The second composition must reflect the musical characteristics of one different area of study
- The third composition is a free composition.

WHAT TO WATCH

Video playlist on music theory basics: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMvVESrbjBWplAcg3pG0TesncGT7qvO06>

Series of videos on the Rise of the Symphony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eV8zqn3h1z8>

Video Essay on the Rise of the Symphony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLlz6m-9uHo>

Video Essay on Impressionism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKwRQh94toA>

London Symphony Orchestra Performances: <https://www.youtube.com/user/Lso/playlists>

ONLINE SESSIONS & ARTICLES

Sessions on a range of symphonies and pieces: [Unwrap Educational Resources - Auckland Philharmonic](#)

Elements of Music and Theory: [Music theory - GCSE Music - BBC Bitesize](#)

Listening to orchestral instruments: [Dallas Symphony Orchestra - Community Education](#)

Identifying types of Cadences: [BBC Bitesize - Cadences](#)

Types of Harmony: [Harmonic Examples - A-Level](#)

QUERIES

If you have any queries, please email the Head of Music on music@sacredh,lbhf.sch.uk

WHAT TO READ

