

A Level Music

at The Warriner School



Music A Level

Awarding body: Eduqas

Entry requirements:

GCSE Music Grade 6 (B) or above, English Grade 6 (B) or above, minimum of Grade 5 standard on instrument or voice with a view to being a minimum of Grade 6 by the end of the course.

Assessment structure: The WJEC Eduqas A Level Music 100% Externally assessed; it consists of one 2hr 15 minute appraising exam and two non-examined externally assessed components.

Component 1:

Performing:

Option A: Total duration of performances: 10-12 minutes Option A: 35% of qualification

Option B: Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes Option B: 25% of qualification

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner

Option A: Performing (35%) 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 one other, different area of study.

Option B: Performing (25%) 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.

Component 2:

Composing:

Option A: Total duration of compositions: 4-6 minutes Option A: 25% of qualification

Option B: Total duration of compositions: 8-10 minutes Option B: 35% of qualification

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by WJEC

Option A: Composing (25%) Two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs, released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken. The second composition is a free composition.

Option B: Composing (35%) Three compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs, released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken. The second composition must reflect the musical characteristics of one different area of study (i.e. not the Western Classical Tradition) while the third composition is a free composition.

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Component 3:

Appraising:

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes

40% of qualification

Three areas of study:

Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900) which includes two set works. Choose one set work 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

A choice of one area of study from:

Area of study B: Rock and Pop

Area of study C: Musical Theatre

Area of study D: Jazz

A choice of one area of study from:

Area of study E: Into the Twentieth Century including 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 including two set works:

Asyla, Movement 3, Ecstasio: Thomas Adès

String Quartet No. 2 (Opus California) Movements 1 (Boardwalk) and 4 (Natural Bridges): Sally Beamish

Questions:

Set work analysis with a score

Extended responses on wider context

Unprepared extracts of music with and without a score

Comparison questions

This component includes a listening examination.

Additional requirements: It is expected that students studying Music to A level will have ongoing instrumental or vocal lessons. It is also expected that students take part in music-making activities at school and are part of the wider, musical school community.

Career Pathways: Solo performing artist, ensemble performing artist, music producer, song-writer, film composer, record producer, sound producer, backing singer, school music teacher, instrumental teacher, music therapist, musical director, conductor, programme director, radio DJ, session musician, booking agent, music journalist.

Higher Education Pathways: Conservatoire/University