

Why study Music?

Music is a subject that includes a wide variety of transferable skills. It develops **self-confidence** through performance as well as **creativity**, both skills highly valued in the Business world. It also demonstrates a disciplined perseverance through the long-term study of an instrument.

Through the study of Music you will learn to:

- Develop your creativity
- Develop critical listening skills
- Think logically and solve problems through analysis
- Gain experience in software technology and recording skills
- Develop self-confidence through individual and group performance
- Communicate and work as part of a team

Careers

You could go on to take a higher qualification in Music such as a degree in Music, Music Performance, Performing Arts or Music Technology or use it as strong subject for a high grade to get into a different course at University. Studying Music for A level is particularly important in the following career paths:

- Performance or Composing in the Music Industry
- Production and Management in the Music Industry
- Film, video, television and radio
- Software and computer games
- Music and the visual and performing arts (including dance)
- Education, Community Arts, Music Therapist

All industries value the skills of creativity, self-confidence through performance and logical analysis that you get from studying Music

What is A level Music?

The A level is split into 2 years.

In y13 it is known as AS Music and y14 A2 Music.

Both have the following exams to do and coursework to submit.

AS MUSIC is divided into 3 units

1. Composing (controlled assessment) **32.5% The Creative coursework unit**

To compose 1 composition lasting max. 2 mins 30 secs similar to GCSE Music.

2. Performing 32.5% The practical unit

To perform in front of an external examiner, 2 pieces at the level equivalent to gd.5 (higher graded pieces will gain extra marks) with a short discussion (worth 5%)

3. 2 Papers:

- Aural Perception Listening Paper(external assessment) 17.5%

1 listening paper based on the study of 12 set works, both orchestral and songs from a wide variety of styles including modern Musicals.

- **Written Paper (external assessment) 17.5%**

1 written paper based on the same 12 set works involving answering questions from the score provided and writing a short essay of 1 and a half pages similar to section C of the GCSE paper.

A2 MUSIC follows the same structure completed in Y14 with a different set of 12 setworks including Jazz Music instead of Musicals.

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Top reasons to choose Music A level:

1. If you enjoy playing, composing or listening to music
2. Small classes means you get a lot of individual support
3. Very few people fail, most get A*-C grades
4. If you enjoyed GCSE Music it will be a similar experience.

All A levels will feel hard after GCSE so my top advice is:

1. Choose subjects you enjoy as you are more likely to work at them
2. Choose subjects that you feel comfortable doing because you will appreciate a natural ability when the going gets tough
3. Choose subjects you will be more likely to get a good grade in so you are more likely to get into University if that is your pathway.
4. Have a subject like Music that is different so your concentration in school is broken up into a variety of working styles.

Remember:

- employers will value a variety of skills that you have and also, you will not know how good you are in the subject until you are challenged so many students start into A Levels and only then realise that a subject they thought they were good at turns out to be a major problem and some you thought you weren't good at turn out to be your best subjects!