












Year 11 > 12 Bridging Work Summer Term 2024



Subject	Music
Course	A-Level
Awarding Body	AQA

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Course/specification overview

Performing 35%	Composition 25%	Listening & Understanding 40%
<p>Recital</p> <p>10 minutes minimum, done March-May in Year 13.</p> <p>Instrument/style of your choice. Minimum grade 5 difficulty.</p> <p>Audio recording sent to AQA: does not have to be recorded all at once.</p>	<p>One composition in your choice of style</p> <p>Bach chorale harmonisation: filling in alto, tenor and bass parts.</p> <p>You submit a score, a recording and a commentary for each</p>	<p>You study three areas of study. Western classical music is compulsory, and then there is a wide choice for the other two.</p> <p>Written/listening exam at the end of the course: a mixture of short-answer listening questions and an essay.</p> <p>AoS1 (Western classical) comprises Baroque solo concerto, Mozart operas, and Romantic solo piano music by Chopin, Brahms and Grieg.</p> <p>The other Areas of Study that you will study are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music for media (film and gaming)• Musical theatre



Our department expectations

- A high level of **musical literacy** (reading and writing musical notation) is required for this course. If you are not already a fluent reader of musical notation in treble and bass clefs, this is something that will require urgent attention before the start of the course.
- We expect our A level musicians to be aware that this is a demanding course which requires many different skills. You will need to be prepared to address the areas which you find difficult, and put particular effort into improving your knowledge and skills.
- Curiosity about music and its place in different times and places is essential. You will need to understand how different styles relate to the time and place in which they were created, and be open-minded to learning about unfamiliar styles.
- Wider reading and listening is a crucial part of the course.
- It is extremely unlikely that you will meet the required standard of performance without having individual lessons with a specialist instrumental/vocal teacher. You are expected to organise this (we can help you if required) and work constructively with your teacher to improve your performing skills. Without regular practice, you will not improve.
- We strongly encourage our A level musicians to play an active part in our extra-curricular music, demonstrate leadership skills, and act as role-models for younger musicians.



Review/revise

Basic music theory

Key signatures: <http://www.musictheory.net/lessons/24>

Working out key signatures: <http://www.musictheory.net/lessons/25>

Triad inversions: <http://www.musictheory.net/lessons/42>

Diatonic chords (chords within a key): <http://www.musictheory.net/lessons/43>

Identifying chords using Roman numerals: <http://www.musictheory.net/lessons/44>

Cadences: <http://www.musictheory.net/lessons/55>

Musical terms

Revise all the musical terms in this GCSE music glossary:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zEoeyZ6xTyrTTv2j2J5efjrQRoYgTTv2/view?usp=sharing>

Music history

Read through and listen to the material on the [Classic FM Periods & Genres](#) pages



Watch

- The [Building Blocks channel](#) on YouTube has some great videos to help you with any aspects of music theory that you need to work on.
- One essential skill for A level music is reading an orchestral score. [This video](#) shows you how to do it. It is also helpful to understand about [transposing instruments](#).
- Howard Goodall's Story of Music and Big Bangs series has three particular episodes that are very useful preparation for Area of Study 1: these are on [the Baroque period](#), and [opera](#).
- Get ahead with your understanding of the (complicated!) plot of *Le nozze di Figaro* with [this 5-minute video](#)
- Anything on the [LSO Youtube Playlist](#) is very helpful and will assist in brushing up your skills and knowledge



Listen to

- <http://strongsongspodcast.com/> is a brilliant breakdown with one iconic song covered in each episode. Listening to these will help you with your aural and analytical skills, strengthen your knowledge of musical terms and concepts, and perhaps introduce you to some great new music.
- [The Listening Service](#) on Radio 3 has 30-minute episodes on a range of fascinating musical topics; some are historical, some are about the way that we interact with music. All are compelling, entertaining, and will help with your musical knowledge.
- If you really want to expand your musical horizons, listen to [Late Junction](#) – it will take you to places that you never dreamed existed!



Read

Classical set works

- *The Friendly Guide to Music* by Darren Henley; includes a CD (ISBN: 978-0-340-94019-8, Hodder Arnold 2006)
- *The History of Western Music* by Donald Jay Grout; a classic text! (ISBN: 978-0393094169, Norton 1973)

Books for wider reading – all fascinating in their own right, but especially relevant for those thinking of applying for university music courses to show reading around the subject

- *The Rest is Noise: Listening to the 20th Century* by Alex Ross (ISBN 978-1841154763 Harper Perennial 2009). There is also an accompanying CD available.
- *Musicophilia: Tales of Music & the Brain* by Oliver Sacks (ISBN 978-0330418386, Picador 2008)
- *This is Your Brain on Music: Understanding a Human Obsession* by Daniel J. Levitin (ISBN 978-1843547167, Atlantic Books 2008)



Research

- Research the background to our AoS1 topics by watching the Howard Goodall videos listed on page 6.
- Please research the plot to Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* (*The Marriage of Figaro*), including who all the characters are, and how they relate to each other.



Complete

1. Basic music theory

Please complete [these exercises](#) to demonstrate that you have the required level of understanding of music theory.

2. Composition

Work through the first few exercises in [this composition package](#). Choose ONE rhythm/metre task, ONE melody task, and ONE texture task. The harmony task is optional.

3. Short history of music

Complete the exercises in [this document](#)



Appendices/resources

Composition & Harmony

These books will help you if you feel that theory, composition or harmony are an area of weakness:

- *Music Theory: The Essential Guide* by Julia Winterson with Paul Harris (ISBN 978-0571536320, Faber Music 2014)
- *AS Music Composition Workbook* by Alan Charlton (ISBN 978-1906178314, Rhinegold Education 2008)
- *A Level Music Harmony Workbook 1* by Hugh Benham (ISBN 978-1785586354, Rhinegold Education 2018)