

Examination Board

AQA GCSE MUSIC 8271

Entry Requirements

Grade 3 standard or higher in Music exams.

What will I be studying?

Component 1- Understanding Music

Understanding Music

Areas of study provide an appropriate focus for students to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical context and musical language.

There are four areas of study:

1. Western classical tradition 1650-1910
2. Popular music
3. Traditional music
4. Western classical tradition since 1910

Component 2- Performing Music

Performance

Students must be able to perform live music using one or both of the following ways:

Instrumental (including DJ)/vocal

Production via technology

One performance **must** be a solo and **one** piece **must** be as part of an ensemble lasting a combined minimum of **four** minutes. The performance as part of an ensemble must last for a minimum of **one** minute.

Component 3 – Composing Music

Students **must** learn how to develop musical ideas, including extending and manipulating musical ideas, and compose music that is musically convincing through **two** compositions. One must be in response to an externally set brief (Composition 1) and the other a free composition (Composition 2)

The combined duration of the compositions **must** be a minimum of **three** minutes.

Compositions can be composed in any style or genre to best reflect the skills, strengths and interests of the individual students.

Students must write a programme note of approximately 150 words for each composition which clearly informs the assessor of the compositional intention, including the intended audience/occasion.

How will I be studying?

Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. Students will study a wide range of musical genres, with more opportunities for practical learning. This GCSE brings theory, listening and composition to life in a new and engaging way, and links to the world around us. All students have different learning styles and musical taste, which is why this GCSE values all music styles, skills and instruments. This broadens the students mind and fosters a love of all music with a qualification that students of all abilities and backgrounds will enjoy.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Understanding Music – Assessed through an external marked exam in two sections. Section A Listening, Section B Contextual understanding, lasting one hour and thirty minutes each.

- 40% of GCSE • 96 marks

Component 2: – Performing music - internally marked by teachers and externally moderated by AQA

- 30% of GCSE, 72 marks

Component 3 – Composing music – composing to a brief given by the exam board and a free composition

- 30% of GCSE, 72 marks. 36 marks for each composition - internally marked by teachers and externally moderated by AQA

Where Next?

This course provides the skills and experience to better prepare students for the demands of A level music if they choose to progress with their study.