

MUSIC at AS/A2 LEVEL

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

WHY MUSIC?

The study of Music at AS/A2 provides a worthwhile, satisfying and complete course of study which offers opportunities to enhance existing performance skills and to broaden knowledge, interest and enjoyment through research into a variety of music techniques in different historical contexts.

The course develops imagination, fosters creativity and promotes personal and social development.

As well as informing and enriching the student's appreciation and enjoyment of music, its academic rigour sets out approaches and lays down standards for critical judgement which are transferable to learning in other subjects.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Prior Music GCSE qualification is an advantage but is not compulsory, as experienced performers (Grades 4-8) may already have the necessary skills to undertake a significant part of the areas of study, particularly at AS level.

Candidates are, however, expected and required to take an active part in at least 2 musical activities, usually (but not necessarily) of a School-based nature, and to attend in-house and external concerts as directed.

SUBJECT SPECIFICATION

The AS/A2 examinations are intended to build on the existing GCSE with tests in:

Listening

Composing

Performing

3 units are taken for AS followed by a further 3 units at A2, which build on knowledge, skills and understanding acquired through work at AS level.

Listening skills are assessed through the medium of a written exam on 'set works' and related historical studies, viz.,

AS

Orchestral works by Haydn, Weber and Beethoven, plus 3 instrumental jazz numbers from the period 1920 - 1960.

A2

Historical and Analytical study focuses on Tonality and Words and Music. Candidates also study at least 1 prescribed topic from a choice of 5.

Composing:

AS

Students produce coursework which includes a folio of exercises using established techniques and one original instrumental composition for a minimum of four instruments.

A2

Students are required to focus on 1 prescribed technique completing a folio of 8 - 10 exercises. They are required to compose a vocal setting of a given text.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER CHOICES

Advanced GCE specification is designed to develop skills to a level appropriate for entrance to courses of study in Music in Higher Education - and to provide access to a range of music-related employment (an area of consistent growth).

Qualifications are beneficial to many careers:

Teacher	Performer
Commercial Composer	Recording Producer
Music Publisher/Journalist	Musical Director/Concert Arranger
Instrument Dealer/Maker	Sound Technician
Roadie	

There is some overlap with Adv GNVQ Media Studies, Performing Arts, Music Theatre and the new Diplomas in Music Practice.

Students from the Department have gone on to study Music at Bristol, Durham, Hertfordshire Royal Holloway, Leeds and Southampton.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Students or parents requiring any further details are most welcome to contact Mrs S Morris, Director of Music.