

## **A Level Music – Eduqas Exam Board**

The three components of Performing, Composing and Appraising have different weightings from GCSE Music in the syllabus we follow. The Eduqas Exam Board allows candidates to specialize in Performing or Composing as follows:

- Performing 35% or 25%
- Composing 25% or 35%
- Appraising 40%

The music studied throughout the course relates to six different areas of study as follows:

Area of Study A : The Western Classical Tradition (Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras)

Area of Study B: Rock and Pop

Area of Study C: Musical Theatre

Area of Study D: Jazz

Area of Study E: Into the Twentieth Century

Area of Study F: Into the Twenty-first Century

### **PERFORMING**

Option A: recital of 10-12 minutes (35%)

Or

Option B: recital of 6-8 minutes (25%)

The recital is given before a visiting external examiner in the Spring term of the A Level year. The number of pieces will vary between candidates, but is usually 3 - 4, and these can be any combination of solo and ensemble.

To access marks in the top marking band, the required level of difficulty of pieces is Grade 6 or above in the current graded music examinations.

Each piece is marked out of 36, under 3 separate, equally weighted, headings of

- Accuracy
- Technical Control
- Expression and Interpretation

The pieces chosen for the recital also need to reflect different Areas of Study (2 for Option A, 1 for Option B).

## **COMPOSING**

Option A: portfolio of 2 pieces lasting between 4-6 minutes (25%)

or

Option B: portfolio of 3 pieces lasting between 8-10 minutes (35%)

For both Options A and B, candidates' composition 1 will be based on Area of Study A (The Western Classical Tradition), and will respond to a brief published by the exam board in September of the A Level year. Composition 2 can be a free composition, based on a brief set by the candidate. For Option B, composition 3 needs to reflect a different Area of Study from composition 1 (i.e. area B to F)

Each composition is marked out of 36, under 3 separate, equally weighted, headings of

- Creating Musical Ideas
- Developing Musical Ideas
- Technical and Expressive Control of Musical Elements

The compositions are marked externally, and for this purpose candidates need to provide a recording, a score and a composition log.

## **APPRAISING**

The Appraising component of the course is assessed through a 2 hour 15 minute exam in June of the A Level year. It involves unprepared extracts and extracts from set works and features a variety of questions from score-reading and aural perception tasks, through stylistic and analytical knowledge questions, to a historical context essay.

The musical material studied is taken from 3 of the Areas of Study as follows:

Section 1: Area of Study A (The Western Classical Tradition). This compulsory AoS focuses on the development of the orchestra and the symphony 1750 – 1900, and featuring Haydn's London Symphony and Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony as set works for close analytical scrutiny.

Section 2: Area of Study B, C or D (Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz).

Section 3: Area of Study E or F: (Into the Twentieth Century or Into the Twenty-first Century)