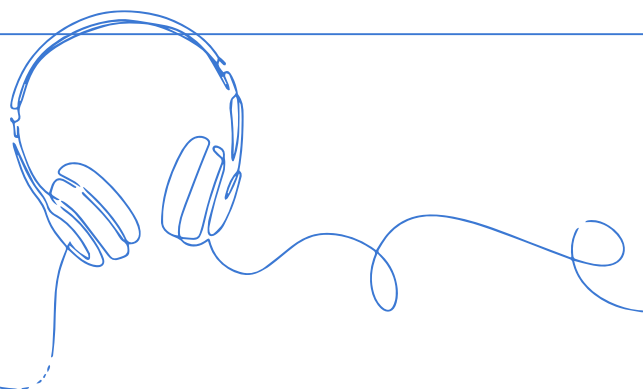


Music



About the course

The Music A-level qualification consists of three units: Appraising Music, Performance and Composition.

1. Appraising music

There is one compulsory area of study and a few optional areas of study from which we choose two.

Area of Study 1: Western classical tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory)

There are three strands of music represented which cover three key genres:

Baroque: the solo concerto

Classical: the operas of Mozart

Romantic: the piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg.

Optional Areas of Study: These include pop music and music for theatre.

The pop music area of study may include the study of artists such as Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, Muse, Beyoncé, Daft Punk and Labrinth.

The music for theatre area of study may include the study of composers such as Kurt Weill, Richard Rodgers, Stephen Sondheim, Claude-Michel Schönberg and Jason Robert Brown.

2. Performance

Students perform music using one or both of the following ways:

- instrumental/vocal: as a soloist, and/or as part of an ensemble
- production: via music technology.
- The level of performance at A-level should be at least grade 5 with the highest marks available to candidates performing at grade 8 level

3. Composition

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

Assessment

1. Appraising music

Exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music.

Section A: Listening (56 marks)

Section B: Analysis (34 marks)

Section C: Essay (30 marks)

This component is 40% of A-level marks.

2. Performance

Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist, or vocalist and/or music production (via technology). A minimum of ten minutes of performance in total is required.

This component is 35% of A-level marks.

3. Composition

Composition 1: Composition to a brief (25 marks)

Composition 2: Free composition (25 marks)

A minimum of four and a half minutes of music in total is required.

This component is 25% of A-level marks.

Careers

This A Level in Music can lead to further study in Music or Performing Arts in Higher Education at degree or HND level. A-level Music, along with a high standard on at least one musical instrument (with practical and theory exam grades to prove it), will be highly desirable for students wishing to study music at degree level. In addition to your main instrument, Grade 5 piano is often considered useful. Music is often chosen as a complementary or contrasting course to broaden your studies or may lead on to a career in the music industry, business, education, event management, leisure and tourism and broadcasting.

Entry Requirements

It is useful to have taken Music at GCSE level, but this is not essential as long as you have a level of understanding equivalent to a good pass at GCSE, can already play a musical instrument to at least grade 4 standard and are able to read music.

Find Out More

Contact Kieran Baldwin, Head of Music

kieran.baldwin@whitleybayhighschool.org

