

MUSIC

A LEVEL COURSE DESCRIPTION

This specification provides learners with the opportunity to study music in an integrated way where the skills of performing, composing and appraising reinforce knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language. In addition to the appraising examination, all learners will be assessed in both performing and composing.

The specification allows learners to specialise in either performing or composing.

Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of music through three areas of study.

- The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony)
- Rock and Pop / Musical Theatre
- Into the Twentieth Century

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students should have at least grade 6 at GCSE in Music. Being Grade 4 standard or higher in an instrument or voice is highly advantageous, as is the ability to read staff notation.

Students are expected to perform on their own and in a group in any style, on any instrument or voice, including band and orchestral instruments. They should be keen to explore how great pieces of music were put together, and apply some of these techniques when composing their own music. They should be keen to listen to a variety of music, analysing what they hear in order to make connections between different pieces and describe how styles have evolved.



Progression

A-Level in Music is the perfect preparation for studying Music at University, which could lead to any of the following careers:

Performing Musician/Orchestra Member, Conductor, Session Musician, Composer, Teaching, Radio Presenter/DJ, Sound Engineering, Arts Programming, Concert Promotion/Administration, Music Therapy.

You might also work towards the following ways to develop your career in the music industry:
Music Studio Apprenticeship, Music Therapy, Radio Station Internship, Music Magazine/Website Work Experience,



SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

For this specification learners must choose either Option A in both Components 1 and 2 or Option B in both Components 1 and 2. All learners must study Component 3.

COMPONENT 1: PERFORMING

Option A: Total duration of performances: 10-12 minutes | 35% of qualification

A performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces. At least one of these pieces must be as a soloist. The other pieces may be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study. At least one other piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one other, different area of study.

Option B: Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes | 25% of qualification

A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study.

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner.



COMPONENT 2: COMPOSING

Option A: Total duration of compositions: 4-6 minutes | 25% of qualification

Two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs, released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken. The second composition is a free composition.

Option B: Total duration of compositions: 8-10 minutes | 35% of qualification

Three compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs, released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken. The second composition must reflect the musical characteristics of one different area of study while the third composition is a free composition.

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by WJEC

COMPONENT 3: APPRAISING

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes
40% of qualification

Three areas of study:

The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900) which includes two set works.

Choose one set work for detailed analysis and the other for general study.

- Symphony No. 104 in D major, 'London': Haydn
- Symphony No. 4 in A major, 'Italian': Mendelssohn

A choice of one area of study from:

- Rock and Pop
- Musical Theatre

The third area of study is Into the Twentieth Century including two set works:

- Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, Movement II: Poulenc
- Three Nocturnes, Number 1, Nuages: Debussy

Questions:

1. Set work analysis with a score
2. Extended responses on wider context
3. Unprepared extracts of music with and without a score
4. Comparison questions

This component includes a listening examination.

DEPARTMENTAL ENRICHMENT AND STUDENT SUPPORT

St Angela's Sixth Form Choir, St Angela's Main School Choir, St Angela's Gospel Choir, St Angela's Orchestra, Music Theory Classes. Teaching and learning materials available on Google Classroom

Routes for Success - Arts

The Routes to Success Programme is designed for ALL students in Year 12 at St Angela's Ursuline 6th Form. The ARTS programme aims to offer students opportunities to work with both industry and universities, opportunities will include links with; Pitch It, The British Museum, The National Gallery,

Central St Martin's, Central School of Speech and Drama, London College of Contemporary Fashion, The Royal Academy of Music, Trinity Laban and London Contemporary Dance. Summer school opportunities will include links with; Liverpool Hope, Holts and Ravensbourne.

Please note- All Year 12 students will select one main 'Route for Success' from these in order to experience a specialist enrichment and learning support programme. It will, of course, be possible to select a subject/subjects from another route on your timetable. We base our Routes to Success Programme on the university curriculum structure and university links are not exclusive to one route, so can be accessed by all students.

