

Exam Board & Course Title: Eduqas GCSE Music

Course Title: GCSE Music

Qualification: GCSE
Qan Code: 601-8131-X

Level of course:

Music is a subject that everyone is prepared well for through our broad KS3 curriculum. Just like in KS3, the GCSE in music involves performing, composing and listening to music. The course includes a wide range of musical genres and styles including pop music, film music, musical theatre and music from around the world – ***there is something for everyone!***

Performance – this is done on your favourite/best instrument OR using music technology (on the computer).

Composition – we use music technology to create compositions, making you good at creating new music AND preparing you for work in the music industry (music producers, sound engineers, etc)

Appraising – analysis of a range of music types, learned through practical activities.

Assessment Methods:

- 2 performances (any instrument at all, includes rapping, DJing, Beatboxing and cultural instruments)
- 2 compositions (one free choice, one set to a brief)
- 1 appraisal exam

Course content:

- **Component 1: Performing**
Students who study GCSE music will receive free private instrumental/vocal tuition to help prepare them for this 30% of the course. It is expected that students perform as an ensemble demonstrating impressive and controlled skill, and a second performance which can be a solo or another ensemble. In total, performances will last a minimum of 4 minutes and be recorded, internally assessed then externally moderated.
- **Component 2: Composing**
Two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by Eduqas. Students will choose one brief from a choice of four, each one linked to a different area of study. The second composition is a free composition for which learners set their own brief. Music technology is used for this component which opens up a new world for students to prepare for careers in production and sound engineering as well as developing knowledge in traditional music theory by using traditional notation.
- **Component 3: Appraising - Written examination:** 1 hour 15 minutes *40% of qualification*
This component is assessed via a listening examination. Eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study.
Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices including one set work piece of music.
Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble
Area of study 3: Film Music
Area of study 4: Popular Music including one set work piece of music.

Skills you need:

- You will need to be able to sing or play an instrument, and you will be helped along the way with this by being provided with a private instrumental or singing lesson once a week.
- A passion for music and enjoyment in listening to a range of musical types.

Skills you will acquire:

- A deeper musical understanding of performance, composition, & appraising.
- The ability to link musicality to scientific and mathematical theories.
- An opportunity to play with others and improve your creativity when performing with your peers and other musicians.
- Access to learning about many different styles of music and being introduced to styles you may not be already familiar with.
- Knowledge of the music industry and how to make a career using skills acquired in music.

Progression routes and linked careers:

There are many employment opportunities in music with 130,000 people nationally working full-time directly in music including: Performance and Composition, Sound Engineering, Music Teaching, Music Therapy, Music Industry (promotions & management) as well as Arts Administration, Television & Radio Industry, Instrument Manufacture & technology, Music Publishing, Copying, Copyrights and Music Law.

The North West and particularly Manchester is renowned for being progressive in the performing arts with the Royal Northern College of Music in the city centre and the BBC and Media City expanding rapidly in Salford Quays.

Due to its academic and creative demands, music GCSE is a popular choice for studious and imaginative thinkers; even if they do not wish to go into music as a career, many people with ambitions to become doctors, lawyers, engineers and more will choose music to supplement and diversify their studies.

Other information:

Universities see music as a serious and challenging GCSE as well as A – Level Music. Having GCSE Music enables you to show that you have self-discipline and the ability to be creative which is something employers and colleges see as a positive attribute. It should be pointed out, that whilst GCSE music is open and accessible for all, this is a challenging course and requires a thorough approach to academic study, as well as a passion for making music practically.

You must be able to attend instrumental lessons and be willing to practice your instrument/voice in-between lessons to progress.

Any questions see: Mr Chapman (Head of Music)
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