

MUSIC - Option

Examination Board: OCR

The GCSE Music Course is suitable for all students with an enthusiasm for Music, although the ability to play a musical instrument is desirable. The course gives students an opportunity to explore their instrument, as well as a variety of styles of music that they may not necessarily come across in their regular music-making.

Course Content:

The course is based on **four Areas of Study** which build on topics and knowledge covered in Years 7 – 9.

1. **MY MUSIC (AoS1)**

Students study their own instrument or voice, focussing on a piece of music written for your instrument.

Students must complete performance, appraising and composition tasks based on your studies, which is all part of controlled coursework.

2. **SHARED MUSIC (AoS2)**

Students explore the relationships and roles of voices in instruments in a variety of ensemble music. The following textures are studied:

- Voice and accompaniment (Romantic song (lieder) and pop ballads)
- Music contrasting one solo instrument with orchestra/band (Classical concerto/jazz)
- Ensembles (Indian classical music, Gamelan, Baroque and Classical chamber music)
- Large vocal ensembles (the great choral classics, African *a capella* singing)

3. **DANCE MUSIC (AoS3)**

Students Study different types of dance music from across the ages:

- Paired dance (Waltz, Tango and Salsa)
- Group/folk/synchronised dance (Line Dance (American, Irish Jig and Reel) and Bhangra)
- Improvised dance (Disco and Club Dance)

4. **DESCRIPTIVE MUSIC (AoS4)**

Students study descriptive music from the Romantic period to the present day:

- Programme Music (Symphonic music from 1820 onwards)
- Film Music

Coursework and Examinations:

Unit B351: Integrated Tasks (30%)

A performance, a composition and a commentary, all related to Area of Study 1 (the composition and commentary are all part of controlled coursework, i.e. undertaken under timed conditions)

Unit B352: Practical Portfolio (30%)

A portfolio containing a group performance relating to Area of Study 2, a composition relating to Area of Study 2, 3 or 4 and a log and commentary (composition and log are part of controlled coursework)

Unit B353: Creative Task (15%)

A timed task drawing on understanding gained from an area of study, in which candidates develop a short piece and communicate it, based on a stimulus.

Unit B354: Listening Test (25%)

A written paper, with CD, assessing knowledge and understanding of Areas of Study 2, 3 and 4.

For further information please contact Miss H Doan