MUSIC

Examination Board Specification: Eduqas GCE A Level in Music

Why Study Music? This course should be of interest to any student interested in developing their own musical skills, sensitivity and critical awareness, both through academic study and performance. It is expected that students will participate fully in the extra-curricular life of the school. Students are able to choose to focus on either Performing (Option A) or Composing (Option B) when taking the Eduqas course.

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<tr><th colspan="4">Advanced Level</th></tr>
<tr><td>Component 1</td><td>Performing Music</td><td>Externally Assessed Performance</td><td>25/35%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Option A: Performing (35%)
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.

Option B: Performing (25%)
A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both.

The final performance is given in front of a visiting examiner. The expected standard of performance is around ABRSM Grade 6. Students may enter the WHSB Sixth Form Cohort with a lower grade (see Entrance Requirements) but would be expected to reach Grade 6 standard by March of their examination year. Performances of a higher difficulty level will be awarded additional marks, while those of a lower difficulty will have marks deducted.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Component 2</td><td>Composing</td><td>Externally Assessed Coursework</td><td>25/35%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Option A: Composing (25%)
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 Eduqas. The second composition is a free composition.

Option B: Composing (35%)
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 Eduqas. The second composition must reflect the musical characteristics of one different area of study (i.e. not the Western Classical Tradition) while the third composition is a free composition.

In Year 1 students will be expected to complete a variety of short compositional exercises, developing their technique and musical vocabulary in order to prepare them for the 40 mark, 4 minute composition. In Year 2 students will be expected to complete their compositions by March of their Upper Sixth year.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Component 3</td><td>Appraising</td><td>135 minute Examination</td><td>40%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">This examination will allow students to apply their knowledge and understanding of music through the context of three areas of study. Area of Study A and E must studied. The class will choose between Areas of Study B-D:
<table>
<tr><th>Area of Study</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>A, The Western Classical Tradition</td><td>An examination into the development of the symphony from 1750 – 1800, paying particularly close attention to composers such as Haydn, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Mahler</td></tr>
<tr><td>B, Rock & Pop</td><td>A study into the developing styles of popular music, looking at pop, rock, soul, funk and folk</td></tr>
<tr><td>C, Musical Theatre</td><td>This area of study focuses on the work of six musical theatre composers: Richard Rodgers, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Claude-Michel Schönberg, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Stephen Schwartz</td></tr>
<tr><td>D, Jazz</td><td>This area of study focuses on prominent genres from the world of Jazz between 1920 and 1960</td></tr>
<tr><td>E, Into the Twentieth Century</td><td>This area of study focuses on the distinct musical styles of the early twentieth century, which was a time of change and experimentation in music, examining composers such as Schoenberg, Stravinsky and Debussy.</td></tr>
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The examination itself comprises of two sections. The first section is made of listening questions based on Areas of Study B-E. Students will answer questions on extracts of familiar works studied in class, as well as extracts of unfamiliar music. The second half of the paper is focussed on AOS A and will feature a score analysis task and an essay-writing task. Dictation skills will also be tested in the latter half of the paper.</td></tr>
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Entrance Requirements: Students will need a minimum grade 7 in GCSE Music. They must be at Grade 4 standard on at least one instrument, and it is highly recommended that they should have passed Grade 5 theory.