



A Level Music

Summer Bridging Work

Welcome to A Level Music!

In this document you will find the bridging work tasks which are compulsory and will be collected in during our first lesson in September. There are also some additional resources at the end of this document; feel free to explore these at your leisure!

For reference, our full specification (Edexcel) can be found [HERE](#). The A Level course is broken into three elements: performing, composing and appraising.

1) Bridging work task for: Performing.

Over the summer please keep up your practise routines – 30 minutes a day is a good target. Please make a recording of yourself playing a piece, which will be submitted in the first lesson back. It can be audio or video, you can use a backing track if you wish. Choose something you can play/sing comfortably and expressively.

2) Bridging work task for: Composing

In composition we aim for idiomatic writing, meaning music that has been composed very effectively for the chosen instrument/voice.

Think about your own instrument/voice and write a list or mind map of features available to a composer, including (but not limited to):

- **Range** – what are highest/lowest notes available? Do different areas of your range have different tone qualities?
- **Techniques/Extended techniques** available (e.g. harmonics, pizzicato, mutes, pedals)
- **Restrictions** composers need to be aware of (e.g. singers/brass/wind need to breathe!)

3) Bridging work tasks for Appraising / listening and evaluating:

a) Listen to five episodes of 'The Listening Service' podcast (30m) before September. Make brief notes on each episode, including the following headings (add more if you wish!):

- Episode chosen
- Brief summary of topics discussed
- New things you learned
- Ideas that were particularly interesting, or you might like to explore further
- Did you enjoy it?

Notes will be submitted to your teacher via Firefly.

And

b) Complete a mini research project on a composer, piece of music or genre/style that interests you. This will be submitted to your teacher via Firefly. You can present this any way you wish; mind map, PowerPoint, essay, podcast, video, rap...see how much you can find out!

3) Music theory and score-reading

Please use the following links to learn/revise music theory basics, and score-reading basics.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zp9wk2p/revision/1> (please screenshot test result).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zfky3pQEeqg> (Please take notes on new information).

The **Resources** below are not part of your bridging work, but I hope the links will be helpful if there are areas you wish to explore further over the summer and throughout the course.

If your music theory needs some refreshing prior to taking A Level:

Websites/apps:

www.musictheory.net/lessons (free)

<https://www.mymusictheory.com/grade-1-course/123-1staffandnotes> (this link is the start of the free grade one course, and you can click through to others where it says 'browse by music grade')

<https://gb.abrsm.org/en/exam-support/apps-and-practice-tools/music-theory-trainer/> (£4.99)

Focus on Sound – ask music team for your login.

Books:

- 'Step up to GCSE Music' <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Step-Up-GCSE-Music-Requirements/dp/1785581759>
- New ABRSM 'Discovering Music Theory' workbooks:
<https://shop.abrsm.org/shop/ucat/101900>

Appraising: Listening and analysing in Music

Web:

[BBC Radio 3](#) has some fantastic programmes including '[The Listening Service](#)' and '[Composer of the Week](#)'.

BBC iplayer usually has a selection of music documentaries across different genres;
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07rfk2j>. The BBC Four ones are often particularly useful.

There are some fascinating [TED talks](#) related to music – a couple of highlights below.

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/victor-wooten-music-as-a-language>

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-playing-an-instrument-benefits-your-brain-anita-collins>

Focus on Sound contains GCSE and A Level content, too – ask the music team if you need login information.

These links discuss analysis and context information alongside a selection of pieces:

<https://www.icancompose.com/inspiration/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/all-resources/zdg3t39>

Books

[The Story of Music by Howard Goodall](#)

[How Music Works by John Powell](#)

[Music: A Very Short Introduction by Nicholas Cook](#)

You may also wish to do some research into Music post-18, further study and careers before embarking on 6th form study in the subject.

- Many students who take A Level music go on to study a music-related course at [university](#) or [conservatoire](#) – explore the UCAS pages for each.
- Use subject resources on Unifrog, where you will find information about [further study](#) and career pathways plus resources to watch, listen to and read.
(<https://www.unifrog.org/student/subjects/keywords/music>, or navigate to home – subjects library, then search for Music in the keyword box.