



Overview:

The study of Music at A Level follows the EDUQAS specification – a broad, coherent course that engages learners and allows them to pursue their own musical interests. At A Level, students experience all three main musical disciplines of performing, composing, and appraising. Grade 5 or equivalent on main instrument/voice is a requirement of the course.

A Level

Learners have the option to specialise in performing or composing, which equates to either 35% or 25% of the qualification

Component 1: Performing Music 25/35% of the total A Level

Students are required to give a performance consisting of a minimum of two/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. The total duration of all the pieces must be between 10 and 12 minutes.

Component 2: Composing Music 25/35% of the total A Level

Students are required to prepare a portfolio of two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical language, techniques, and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition in response to a brief set by EDUQAS. The second composition is a free composition for which learners set their own brief.

Component 3: Appraising 40% of the total A Level – 2 hour 15 minute examination

This examination will assess knowledge and understanding of music through three areas of study. Area of study A is compulsory and students then choose two further contrasting areas of study: one from either area of study B or area of study C or area of study D, and one from either area of study E or area of study F.

Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900).

Choose one from:

Area of study B: Rock and Pop /Area of study C: Musical Theatre /Area of study D: Jazz.

Choose one from:

Area of study E: Into The Twentieth Century / Area of study F: Into The Twenty-first Century.

Expectations:

In order to prepare for classroom learning and the wider practical nature of music, students will be expected to listen to a wide range of music, not only music from the set works; regularly practice and take part in ensemble playing in school and in their own time; and undertake independent background research on composers and specific areas of music. Students will be expected to use independent study time to practice and compose.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Independent Learning Opportunities:

The Music Department is a very busy, exciting place to study and students will be expected to take part in regular extra-curricular school activities; show Student Leadership in arranging recitals and performances with other students; show a high level of independence. Students will participate in arranged visits to Concert Halls, Theatres and local music events.

Career Pathways:

Studying Music at A Level can lead to a career as: Professional Musician, Education, Creating and Marketing Music, Music Technology.

Good combinations of other subjects to study with Music are: Sciences, Geography, Drama and Theatre Studies, Art, English, Languages.

Student Testimonials:

"Music A Level at Prince William School allows you to expand on every aspect of your intellect, from creative to the logical, demanding expression and understanding across the board. The course is a fantastic framework in which to learn the complexities of how incredibly varied art form works."