

MUSIC

Examination Board Specification:

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Music (9MU0)

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.

Advanced Level

Component 1	Performing Music	Externally Assessed Performance	30%
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This unit gives students the opportunity to perform as soloists and/or as part of an ensemble. Students can choose one or more pieces in any style. Any instrument(s) and/or voice(s) are acceptable as part of an assessed performance at a minimum length of 8 minutes. Notated and/or improvised performances may be submitted.

The expected standard of performance is around ABRSM Grade 7. Students may enter the WHSB Sixth Form Cohort with a lower grade (see Entrance Requirements) but would be expected to reach Grade 7 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.

The performance itself must be recorded as a recital in front of an audience (two or more people) between March and May of Year 2, but may be re-recorded in that time. Students will be expected to complete at least one trial performance recording in Year 1. The piece/s used in this performance may be used again in their final performance.

Component 2	Composing	Externally Assessed Coursework	30%
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Students must complete a total of two compositions, one to a brief set by the exam board and one either free composition or also to a brief. One of the compositions (either a brief or free composition) must be at least 4 minutes in duration, and will be worth 40 marks out of the 60 available. The other composition will be from a list of briefs assessing compositional techniques, likely a Bach Chorale, carrying 20 marks for the component. This composition must be at least 1 minute in duration. The total time of both compositions combined must be at least 6 minutes.

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. They will also begin learning the harmonic and textural rules associated with Bach Chorales, and should be able to write a single phrase in the Baroque style by the end of the year.

In Year 2, students will begin composing the 40 mark, 4 minute composition, either choosing a brief from the exam board or creating a new free composition. Material created from the compositional exercises in Year 1 may be used in this composition. Students will also begin to expand their knowledge of Bach Chorales, preparing for the brief released by the exam board in April of their final year. Students will be expected to use Sibelius software.

Unit 3	Appraising	120 minute Examination	40%
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This examination will allow students to apply their knowledge and understanding of music through the context of 6 areas of study, each with 3 set works:

Area of Study	Set Works	Area of Study	Set Works
Vocal Music	Bach, <i>Cantata, Ein Feste Burg</i> Mozart, <i>The Magic Flute</i> Williams, <i>On Wenlock Edge</i>	Popular Music and Jazz	Beatles, <i>Revolver</i> Courtney Pine, <i>Back in the Day</i> Kate Bush, <i>Hounds of Love</i>
Instrumental Music	Vivaldi, <i>Concerto in D minor</i> Wieck-Schumann, <i>Piano Trio in G minor</i> Berlioz, <i>Symphonie Fantastique</i>	Fusions	Debussy, <i>Estampes</i> Familia Valera Miranda, <i>Cana Quema</i> A Shankar, <i>Breathing Underwater</i>
Music for Film	Herrmann, <i>Psycho</i> Portman, <i>The Duchess</i> Elfman, <i>Batman Returns</i>	New Directions	Cage, <i>Three dances for two prepared pianos</i> Saariaharo, <i>Petals</i> Stravinsky, <i>The Rite of Spring</i>

The examination itself will comprise of two sections. Section A will feature listening questions related to the set works and one short melodic/rhythmic dictation exercise. Section B will feature two essay questions relating to unfamiliar music and the set works. Time spent preparing for this examination will be devoted to analysing the set works and developing aural skills.

Entrance Requirements: Students will need a minimum grade 7 in GCSE Music. They must be at Grade 5 standard on at least one instrument, and it is highly recommended that they should have passed Grade 5 theory.