

GCSE Music - Edexcel Exam Board

Sept 2014 – June 2016

There are three components to the course – with weightings the same as in Key Stage 3:

Performing (30%) – two pieces, one solo, the other as part of a group. These can be recorded at any time during the course. It is anticipated that at least one piece will be done before the end of Y10 for many of this current group. For those who follow exam syllabuses, the required standard is approx. Gd 4 – but played well

Composing (30%) – two pieces recorded on CD, and written as some sort of score, or a brief piece of written work explaining the working processes behind the composition. These compositions will be based on work done through Y10 and the Autumn Term of Y11. During each term we will focus on a different Area of Study, and from these will come composing mini-tasks – sort of technical exercises. At the end of each term there will be the opportunity to build one of these exercises, and in the Spring Term of Y11, two of these will be chosen for final assessment.

Listening (40%) – at the end of Y11 there will be one 1½hr exam, similar to those sat in May of Y7, 8 and 9. The material examined will be based on work done through the course, including features of musical knowledge such as theory of rhythm, pitch, time signatures, keys, common terminology, and instrumentation, historical and cultural context.

Areas of study (and sub-strands):

Autumn 2014	Western Classical music 1600-1899 Baroque Classical Romantic
Spring 2015	Popular Music in context Jazz/Blues Rock Dance
Summer 2015	World Music Indian Raga African music Celtic Folk
Autumn 2015	Music in the 20th Century Expressionism/Serialism Minimalism Musicals