

Edexcel GCSE Music (Spec: 1MU0)

What will I learn?

You will explore music through performing, composing and the study of eight set works. You will analyse your own and other composers' music through a variety of elements of music including texture, structure, melody, harmony, instrumentation.

How is the course structured?

There are 3 units in the GCSE specification: Unit 1 Performance; Unit 2 Composition; Unit 3 Appraising. In Unit 1 – Performance, you will perform both a solo and an ensemble performance. In Unit 2 – Composition, you will compose two pieces of music. In Unit 3 – Appraising, you will study 8 set works from four areas of study (AOS1 Instrumental Music from 1700-1820, AOS2 Vocal Music, AOS3 Music for Stage and Screen, AOS4 Fusions) and you will also be asked to compare one set work with an unfamiliar piece of music.

How will I study?

You will perform through the practical element of lessons. Students will benefit from having individual instrumental/vocal lessons outside of the class. In composition, you will learn how basic structures work, how to write a simple melody and apply harmony to it, and also how to create musical variety in texture, tonality, dynamics and a number of other elements. The set works necessitate a more academic approach, allied with the chance to experience the set works practically, where possible.

How will I be assessed?

Performances and compositions are recorded and assessed within the academy throughout the course, and moderated by external examiners. The Listening and Analysis unit is assessed by a formal written examination of 1 ¾ hours. Unit 1 Performance is worth 30% of the final grade, Unit 2 Composition is worth 30% of the final grade and Unit 3 Appraising is worth 40% of the final grade.

