

GCSE MUSIC

Course content and overview

GCSE Music encourages an **integrated approach** to the three distinct disciplines of performing, composing and appraising through four interrelated areas of study. The four areas of study are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of music through the study of a **variety of genres and styles** in a wider context.

Assessment Details:

Unit 1 Performing 35%	
COURSEWORK	<p>Section A: 30%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perform a minimum of two pieces• One performance must be as part of an ensemble; the other pieces/piece can be either as a soloist or as a member of an ensemble <p>Section B: 5%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write a programme note on one of the pieces you have performed
Unit 2 Composing 35%	
COURSEWORK	<p>Section A: 30%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compose two contrasting pieces of music• Composition 1: music inspired by a set brief by WJEC• Composition 2: FREE composition, <u>anything goes!</u> <p>Section B: 5%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write an evaluation of Composition 1- this piece of work will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of your work.
Unit 3 Listening 30%	
EXAM	<p>Pupils complete a 1 hour listening exam made up of eight questions, two on each of the following areas of study:</p> <p>AOS1: Musical Forms and Devices AOS2: Music for Ensemble AOS3: Film Music AOS4: Popular Music</p> <p>Two of the eight questions are based on the following pieces of music which pupils study as part of the course:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Peer Gynt Suite No.1: Anitra's Dance: Grieg (1875)2. Everything Must Go: Manic Street Preachers (released 1996)

Useful Revision Guides, resources and websites

The Music GCSE specification can be found at: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/p2ohtvdr/wjec-gcse-music-spec-from-2016-e.pdf>

Revision materials can be found at BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zx6k96f>

Supporting Home Learning

- Independent instrumental/vocal practise is imperative to success.
- Completion of targeted revision

Progression Routes & Careers

Music, as a GCSE subject, can be instrumental to pupils when accessing further studies in several subjects or careers. A passion for music can take you far into the worlds of performance, composition, education and media. The study of music is highly regarded by universities and further education establishments because it

- **increases confidence and self-esteem** – which has a knock-on effect in all areas of their life and learning
- **improves health and wellbeing** – reducing stress, increasing a sense of wellbeing and happiness
- **provides important life and social skills** – such as listening, concentration, working as a team
- **develops creativity and self-expression** – helping young people to think differently and develop their power of imagination
- **improves cognition, literacy and numeracy** – recent neuroscience research has shown that children who learn an instrument have higher levels of cognitive capacity, specifically in their language acquisition and numerical problem-solving skills
- **can be the key to unlocking potential** – particularly for young people who are strongly creative, or who struggle to engage with other areas of learning

Job Options	Career Paths
<p>Jobs that directly relate to studying Music include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music producer• Music therapist• Musician• Private music teacher• Secondary school teacher• Sound designer• Sound engineer• Sound technician, broadcasting/film/video• Special effects technician• A Musician in the Armed Forces	<p>Jobs where GCSE Music would be useful include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arts administrator• Broadcast engineer• Choreographer• Community arts worker• Event manager• Marketing executive• Private tutor• Radio broadcast assistant• Radio producer• Talent agent• Theatre stage manager

Contact for help: Laura.davidson@brotaf.cymru