

KS4 Music

At KS4 students have 3 (1 Hour) lessons a week. Group sizes are significantly smaller than KS3 classes, thus enabling students to work with greater focus in both independent and group task settings. 1:1 time with the teacher is greatly increased also; thus helping students to refine specific details and progress their knowledge to new heights.

GCSE Music – Examining Board - AQA

Following information taken from: www.aqa.org.uk

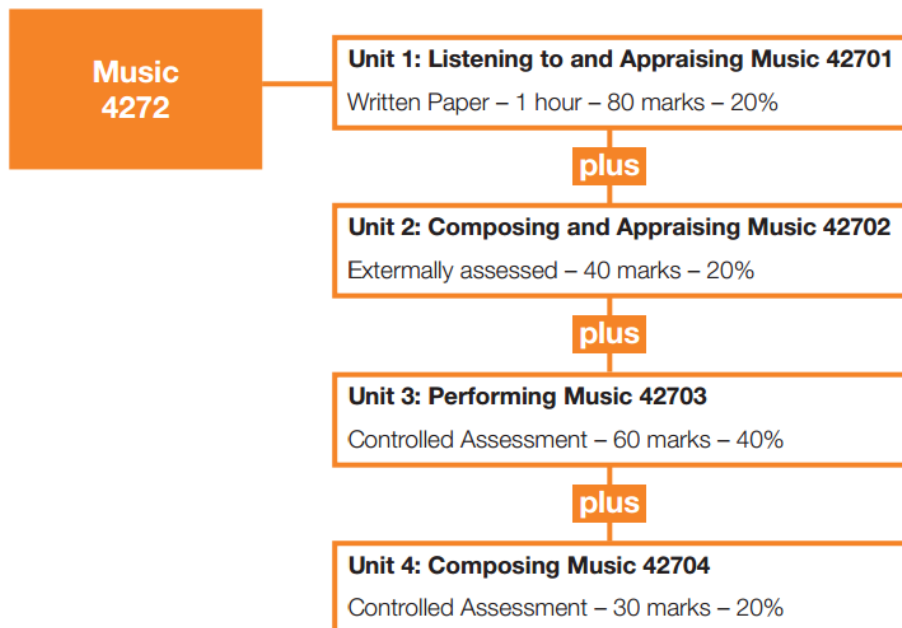
GCSE Music helps students to develop subject knowledge, understanding and skills, through listening to a variety of music, playing music and creating their own music.

The specification places a strong weighting on practical aspects of music (70 per cent), with choices catering for a wide range of interests and abilities.

GCSE Music offers a solid foundation for progression to other music studies, including A-level Music, and often to a music-related career. Our course provides the opportunity for students to develop valuable transferable skills such as self-confidence, concentration, creativity, evaluation and team work.

This specification encourages students to:

- *develop their own musical interests and skills including the ability to make music individually and in groups and to use music technology*
- *evaluate their own and others' music*
- *understand and appreciate a range of different kinds of music*
- *actively engage in the process of music study in order to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds*



Year 10

Unit 1: Listening to and Appraising Music (ongoing throughout yr10 and 11)

In preparation for the written exam, students will begin to develop and hone their musical knowledge and vocabulary, in order to help them identify what makes music the way it is.

We will study and explore the 5 musical elements with reference to 3 strands:

- a) The Western Classical Tradition
- b) Popular Music of the 20th & 21st centuries
- c) World Music

5 Musical Elements:

- Rhythm & Metre
- Harmony & Tonality
- Texture & Melody
- Timbre & Dynamics
- Structure & Form

Unit 2: Composing and Appraising Music

Students will create and evaluate a number of small compositions before beginning their assessed composition. This composition can take almost any form they desire, although it must be linked to at least 1 of the 3 strands previously studied and accompanied by a score of some description. It will then be appraised by the pupil under controlled conditions, with reference to at least 2 of the 3 strands.

Year 11

Unit 3: Performing Music

Each candidate should perform two different pieces:

- a) One for 'Individual Performance'/'Technology based Performance', lasting no more than five minutes, and
- b) One for 'Group Performance', lasting no more than five minutes.

The performances are principally assessed in the following areas:

- Level of Demand
- Accuracy/ Attention to Detail
- Communication
- Interpretation
- Sense of ensemble

See the website and specification for a more precise breakdown of assessment

Unit 4: Composing Music (Controlled Assessment: 25 hours)

Students will compose a piece of music which explores at least 2 of the 5 areas of study. It will be composed in a controlled environment over the course of 25 hours and will be accompanied by a score. It will be assessed in the following areas:

- the imaginative use of sound
- a sense of musical balance
- the creation and development of musical ideas
- an understanding of the chosen medium

- the appropriate and idiomatic use of instruments, voices and other sound sources
- appropriate uses of musical elements, devices, techniques and conventions.

Useful Websites:

The following websites are particularly useful to students of Music students at KSA.

Students should use them regularly to help support and consolidate their learning in and outside of the classroom.

1. www.aqa.org.uk

The official website of AQA with access to past papers and mark schemes.

2. www.cpd.org

A repository of music editions and source of music information. Think Choral Wikipedia!

3. www.musicnotes.com

An invaluable source for finding musical notation.

4. www.bbc/bitesize.co.uk

Written with students in mind.

5. www.musicroom.com

A place to buy books.



