

GCSE Music



What is Music

The WJEC Eduqas specification 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.

The study of **Music** would prepare you for further study within **creative subjects** as well as prepare you for employment in the music industry, but increasingly, employers and universities are looking for young people who have skills that are learned through creative subjects: creative thinking, emotional intelligence, adaptability, communication and tenacity to name just a few.



Course Overview and structure.

Coursework (60% of overall grade)

- The coursework consists of four pieces of work
 - **2 performances (1 solo and 1 ensemble)** (30% of the overall grade)
 - **2 compositions (1 own brief composition and 1 set brief composition)** (30% of the overall grade.)

Exam : Appraising (40% of overall grade)

- An 8 question exam, based on the **four** areas of study.



Assessment

GCSE Music is graded **9-1**.

Performance, compositions and the **exam** are all **directly** related to the following Areas of Study.

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices.

- The music of the Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras provides the context for a study of binary, ternary, minuet and trio rondo, variation and strophic forms.

Area of study 2 : Music for Ensemble.

- The study of texture and sonority through **Jazz and Blues**, **Musical Theatre** and **Chamber music**.

Area of study 3 : Film Music.

- To study and consider how music for film is created, developed and performed, and the impact this has on the audience.

Area of study 4 : Popular Music.

- To explore the musical idioms associated with a variety of popular music



Performing

Learners are **encouraged to develop** their **knowledge and understanding** of music through **performing**.

One piece must be linked to **one of the four areas of study**. The use of **music technology and improvisation** is accepted within both **solo and ensemble performances**.

- **Record 2 performances.** Broadly equivalent (or above) grade 3 (ABRSM/Trinity etc)
- **Total duration of performances:** 4-6 minutes
- **Non-exam assessment:** internally assessed, externally moderated
- **30% of qualification** (72 marks)



Composing

Learners are encouraged to **develop** their **knowledge** and **understanding** of music through **composing**. All learners are required to **create** and **develop musical ideas** in relation to given and **chosen briefs**.

Learners must submit a composition **which responds to a brief** set by **WJEC** and a **free composition**. Learners will compose a piece of music in a style of their own choice.

- **Write 2 compositions**
- **Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes**
Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated
- **30% of qualification (72 marks)**



Appraising

This **examination** will **assess knowledge and understanding of music** through the **four areas** of study:

- **AOS 1:** Musical Forms and Devices
- **AOS 2:** Music for Ensemble
- **AOS 3:** Film Music
- **AOS 4:** Popular Music.

Learners will develop knowledge and understanding and be tested on the use of the musical elements, musical contexts for each style and musical language.

- **Written examination:** 1 hour 15 minutes
- **40% of qualification** (96 marks)



Key Career Skills

- Creativity
- Communication
- Independence and discipline
- Analytical thinking
- Organisation
- Problem Solving

Future career opportunities

Studying **MUSIC** can lead to a career in many areas both in the music industry and out of it;

With additional training, be it through a university or via an apprenticeship you could become.

- A musician
- A music Teacher
- A music Therapist
- Sound engineers (Live and studio based)
- Music producers
- Music publisher
- Music critic
- Specialist marketer or Promoter
- Agent
- Event organiser
- Composer
- Retailer
- DJ
- Librarian
- Journalist
- Music software developer

Future study opportunities

Studying **MUSIC** can lead to further study at Level 3 (A level), for example at **NSG** we offer:

- **A Level Music**
- **A level Drama**
- **A level Dance.**

GCSE Music also has **strong links** with other level 3 courses, like **English Literature, Maths, Physics, Psychology** and **Fine Art**.

Universities are keen to attract students who have a well-rounded education and achieve good results, studying an Art is often positive as it supports this and balances against the perceived 'academic' subjects.