

# GCSE Music

**Examination Board:** OCR

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## Why study Music?

Studying GCSE Music will provide transferable skills that will help you with all subjects.

It involves written, analytical, practical, and social/personal skills such as:

- independent learning: having to be disciplined about practising on your instrument or voice
- team working particularly if you're involved in weekly groups or ensembles, concerts, and performances
- performance and presentation skills which are useful for any job/career
- listening: this is highly developed in musicians, and it is an important part of the course
- analytical and essay-writing skills
- confidence and self-esteem: which has a knock-on effect in all areas of life and learning
- creativity and self-expression: helping young people to think differently and harness the power of their imagination

## Possible next steps (including careers)

Being a musician isn't the only career in music – other options include being a sound technician, community musician, music therapist, teacher, or private tutor, or a range of careers in the music industry, in a concert hall or music venue. The arts/creative industries: this might include work in film, TV, theatre, radio, arts administration, or creative education.

Professions such as medicine, law, accountancy; Music is highly regarded as an academic subject and so could complement your other studies in leading to a professional career.

## Aptitudes needed

You need to have an interest in Music; either playing, composing, or listening.

It is helpful if you can already play an instrument/sing/rap but it is not a necessity, but you do need to have motivation to start to learn and to practise so that you are able to complete a performance.

Reading music notation is also helpful but again is not a necessity.

## Topic Structure

GCSE Music is split into 3 parts: Performing, Composing and Listening

Year 10:

Listening

- Area of Study: The Conventions of Popular Music
- Area of Study: Film Music
- Area of Study: Concerto through Time
- Area of Study: Rhythms of the World

Performing

- Working on solo and ensemble skills on the instrument of your choice

Composing

- Composition 1 – free choice for student

Year 11

Listening

- Revision of Areas of Study
- Practise questions

Performing

- Recording of final performances – 1 solo and 1 ensemble

Composition

- Composition 2 – set brief by exam board.

## Assessment Structure

**Listening Exam – 40%**

- Multiple choice questions
- Short answers in prose
- Short essay style answers

**Performance -30%**

- Solo and Ensemble
- 4 minutes

**Composition – 30%**

- Free composition
- Set brief