



MUSIC



Mr Johnson

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This evening we
are going to
tell you about:

- Course structure
- Assessment
- Extra resources
- Potential degree and apprenticeship routes from this A-Level
- Subjects that work well with this subject
- Potential career opportunities



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Course Structure

- ▶ 3 Components, very similar to GCSE Music
 - ▶ Component 1 (30%) - Performing
 - ▶ Component 2 (30%) - Composing
 - ▶ Component 3 (40%) - Appraising



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Component 1: Performing (30%)

- ▶ A public performance of 1 or more pieces, performed as a recital (recorded).
- ▶ It can be performing solo, in an ensemble, or improvising.
- ▶ The total time must be 8 minutes.



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Component 2: Composition (30%)

- ▶ Two compositions, one to a brief and one free composition (or to another brief).
- ▶ One composition must be from a list of briefs related to the areas of study, or a free composition, worth 40 marks. It must be at least 4 minutes long.
- ▶ One composition must be from a list of briefs addressing composition technique, worth 20 marks. It must be at least 1 minute long, unless the brief specifies something longer.
- ▶ The total combined time must be at least 6 minutes.



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Component 3: Appraising (40%)

- ▶ Knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts, and language.
- ▶ Application of knowledge through the context of 6 areas of study (13 set works), and unfamiliar listening.

Vocal Music

Instrumental Music

Music for Film

Popular Music and Jazz

Fusions

New Directions



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Component 3: Appraising (40%)

- ▶ Assessment is one written paper, 2 hours 10 minutes, worth 100 marks.
- ▶ Audio files are provided to each student, rather than listening together.
- ▶ Section A: Areas of Study and dictation (50 marks)
 - ▶ Three questions relating to set works and one short melody/rhythm exercise
- ▶ Section B: Extended written response
 - ▶ Two essays (20 marks and 30 marks)



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Area of study	Set works
Vocal Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. S. Bach, Cantata, Ein feste Burg, BWV 80: Movements 1, 2, 8 • Vaughan Williams, On Wenlock Edge: Nos. 1, 3 and 5 (On Wenlock Edge, Is my team ploughing? and Bredon Hill)
Instrumental Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clara Wieck-Schumann, Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1 • Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique: Movement I
Music for Film	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danny Elfman, Batman Returns: Birth of a Penguin Parts I and II, Batman vs the Circus, The Rise and Fall from Grace • Bernard Herrmann, Psycho: Prelude, The City, Marion, The Murder (Shower Scene), The Toys, The Cellar, Discovery, Finale
Popular Music and Jazz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Bush, Hounds of Love: Cloudbusting, And dream of sheep, and Under ice • Beatles, Revolver: Eleanor Rigby, Here, there and everywhere, I want to tell you, and Tomorrow never knows • Courtney Pine, Back in the Day: Inner state (of mind), Lady Day and (John Coltrane), and Love and affection
Fusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debussy, Estampes: Nos. 1 and 2 (Pagodes and La soirée dans Grenade) • Anoushka Shankar, Breathing Under Water: Burn, Breathing Under Water and Easy
New Directions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaija Saariaho, Petals for Violoncello and Live Electronics • Stravinsky, The Rite of Spring: Introduction, The Augurs of

Set work list



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Resources

- ▶ The exam board have released study and revision guides for this course.
- ▶ We have our 6th form music room using Macs, and Sibelius 7.



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Subjects that work well with this

- ▶ Music often works well with Maths, as well as other creative subjects such as Drama.
- ▶ The skills required are very similar to GCSE Music: keyboard/piano skills are very useful, and music theory knowledge is important. Grade 5 theory is highly recommended in order to access and understand the set work analyses.



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Routes after this A Level

- ▶ Music Technology (often mixed with performance)
- ▶ Composition
- ▶ Music Management (event and orchestra/group management)
- ▶ Music Journalism
- ▶ Musical Theatre



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Potential career opportunities

- ▶ Composer
- ▶ Sound Engineer
- ▶ Instrument tutor
- ▶ Producer
- ▶ Performer
- ▶ Music Therapist
- ▶ Audiologist
- ▶ Teacher
- ▶ Community Arts



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