



# MUSIC TECHNOLOGY



Mr Johnson

Fullbrook6

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

- ▶ 4 Components all relating to 3 areas of study - 2 practical, 2 exam based.
  - ▶ Component 1 (20%) - Recording project
  - ▶ Component 2 (20%) - Technology based composition
  - ▶ Component 3 (25%) - Listening & analysing exam (written)
  - ▶ Component 4 (35%) - Producing & analysing exam (practical & written)



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# Areas of Study

- ▶ 1: Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes. - Found in **ALL** Components
- ▶ 2: Principles of sound and audio technology. - Found in Components 3 & 4
- ▶ 3: The development of recording and production technology. - Found in Component 3



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# Component 1: Recording (20%)

- ▶ Capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording.
- ▶ We are given a list of 10 artists from Edexcel to record from. We can then decide which artist to record, thinking about which is most suitable.
- ▶ We must record a minimum of **five** compulsory instruments and **two** additional instruments, with a final recording between 3 and 3.5 minutes.



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## Component 2: Composition (20%)

- ▶ A 3-minute technology based composition written to a brief supplied by the exam board.
- ▶ The options will be :
  - ▶ A film clip/computer game footage or a descriptive scenario such as an art installation.
  - ▶ Text supplied by Edexcel.
  - ▶ Use of samples in a structured way according to the topic set.
- ▶ The focus is on synthesis, sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects.





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# Component 3: Listening and Analysing (25%)

- ▶ A 1 hour 30 minute exam assessing knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles.
  - ▶ Section A - listening & analysing (40 marks) - four questions, each based on unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied by Edexcel.
  - ▶ Section B - Extended written responses (35 marks) - two essay questions. One comparison question, which uses two unfamiliar commercial recordings. The second essay focuses on a specific aspect of Music Technology.



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# Component 4: Producing and Analysing (35%)

- ▶ A 2 hour 15 minute written and practical exam assessing knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing, and production techniques, to be applied to unfamiliar materials.
  - ▶ Section A - Producing & analysing (85 marks) - five questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided that include both written responses and practical tasks.
  - ▶ Section B - Extended written responses (20 marks) - one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit.

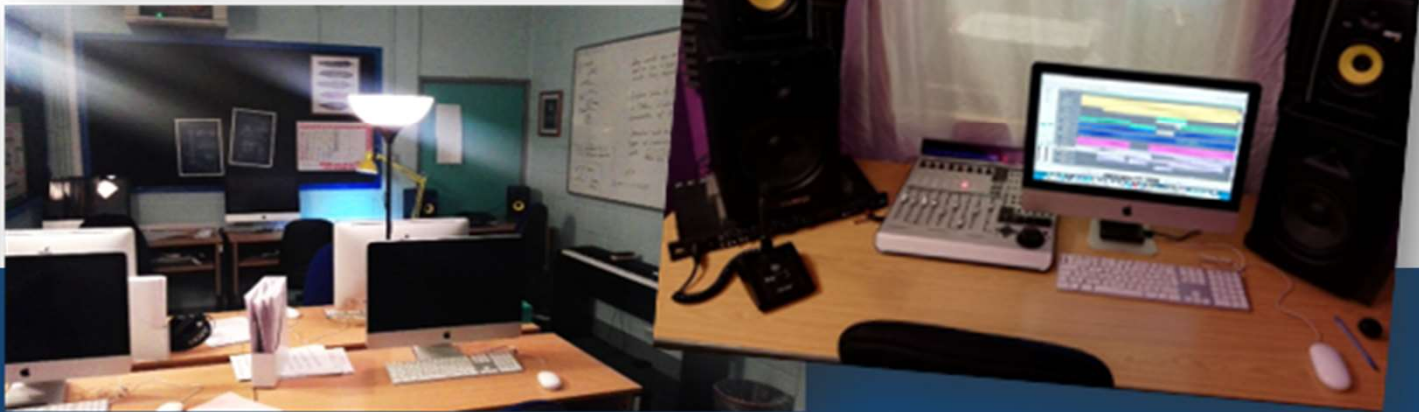
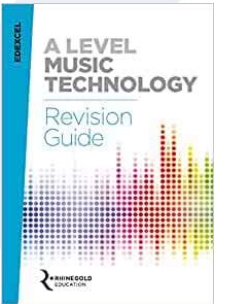


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# Resources

- ▶ The exam board have released study and revision guides for this course.
- ▶ We use Logic on the Macs, and our recording studio plus other equipment.



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## Subjects that work well with this

- ▶ Current students also study Maths, Physics, History, Politics, English, and Product Design among others.
- ▶ Music Technology is a blend of music skills from GCSE, along with a technical and at times scientific knowledge of processes, methods and techniques.
- ▶ Practical computer skills, keyboard skills, and the ability to analyse recordings and structure responses (including essays) are important.



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# Routes after this A Level

- ▶ Music Technology (often mixed with performance)
- ▶ Production and Recording
- ▶ Acoustics and Audiology
- ▶ Commercial Sound Design
- ▶ Traditional performance and composition courses are also viable



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# Potential career opportunities

- ▶ Composer
- ▶ Sound Engineer
- ▶ Producer
- ▶ Performer
- ▶ Sound Designer
- ▶ Audiologist



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