

You will be studying the EdExcel specification.

## **What will I be learning on this course?**

'A' Level

### **Unit 1: Performance**

You will work with your instrumental teacher to prepare a contrasting recital of a minimum of 8 minutes.

**Component 1:** Performing (\*Component code: 9MU0/01)

Non-examined assessment: externally assessed

30% of the qualification

60 marks

#### **Content overview**

- Approaches to performing

#### **Assessment overview**

- A public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital.
- Performance can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology.
- The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of 8 minutes.
- Performances must be recorded after 1 March in the year of certification and all materials for assessment submitted to arrive by 15 May in the year of certification.

### **Unit 2: Composition**

You will compose two pieces, one to a set brief by the exam board and one as a free composition. You will also study the basics of harmony including inversions, cadences and modulation.

**Component 2:** Composing (\*Component code: 9MU0/02)

Non-examined assessment: externally assessed

30% of the qualification

60 marks

#### **Content overview**

- Approaches to composing

#### **Assessment overview**

- Total of two compositions, one to a brief set by Pearson and one either free composition or also to a brief.
- One composition must be from either a list of briefs related to the areas of study, or a free composition, carrying 40 marks for this component. This composition must be at least 4 minutes in duration.
- One composition must be from a list of briefs assessing compositional technique, carrying 20 marks for this component. This composition must be at least 1 minute in duration.
- Total time across both submissions must be a minimum of 6 minutes.

### **Unit 3: Composition**

You will study 18 set works from six areas of study (12 of which were learnt at AS), and will also learn about the context of these pieces.

**Component 3:** Appraising (\*Component code: 9MU0/03)

Written examination: 2 hours  
40% of the qualification  
100 marks

### Content overview

- Knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language.  
- Application of knowledge through the context of six areas of study, each with three set works.

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Direction

- Application of knowledge to unfamiliar works.

The areas of study are: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusion, New Directions.

### Assessment overview

- One written paper of 2 hours, with a total of 100 marks.  
- One audio CD with the extracts to accompany questions on the paper will be provided per student.  
- This paper comprises two sections: A and B.

Section A: Areas of study and dictation (50 marks)

- Three questions related to the set works (audio and skeleton score provided).  
- One short melody/rhythm completion exercise.

Section B: Extended response

- Two essay questions – essay one (20 marks) and essay two (30 marks)  
- Essay one asks students to draw links from their study of the set works to the music heard as an unfamiliar extract.  
- Essay two gives a choice of three questions that ask students to evaluate the musical elements, context and language of one set work. Each option will be from a different area of study.

### **How will I be assessed in this course?**

'A' Level – is 100% externally assessed

#### Unit 1: Performance

You will perform your 8-minute recital in front of an audience, which will be filmed and sent off to EdExcel. (30% of total A level marks)

#### Unit 2: Composition

You will complete two compositions during the course, which will be sent off to EdExcel. (30% of total A level marks)

#### Unit 3: Appraising

You will have a 2-hour examination paper on the set works and wider context. (40% of total A level marks)

**The three most commonly asked questions about this course are:**

**1. Do I have to read music and what grade do I have to be on my instrument?**

Yes; Grade 4/5 minimum.

**2. Will there be any additional support?**

Yes – we use a composer-in-residence to help you with composition.

**3. Is it hard?**

Yes it is. However, we also feel that the course is highly rewarding.

<b>Sixth Form</b>			
<b>YG</b>	<b>Autumn Term</b>	<b>Spring Term</b>	<b>Summer Term</b>
Y12	Performance 30% Composition 30% Appraising 40%  (different units to be taught by different teachers)	Performance 30% Composition 30% Appraising 40%  (different units to be taught by different teachers)	Revision  STUDY LEAVE
Y13	Performance 30% Composition 30% Appraising 40%  (different units to be taught by different teachers)	Performance 30% Composition 30% Appraising 40%  (different units to be taught by different teachers)	Revision  STUDY LEAVE