

Music – GCSE SPECIFICATION

Pearson
(Edexcel)
GCSE

Assessment:

40% Listening – final exam
(1 hour and 45 minutes – externally marked)

30% Composition – 2 Controlled Assessments submitted (internally assessed)
(internally marked and externally moderated)

30% Performance – 2 Controlled Assessments submitted
(internally marked and externally moderated)

Performing: You should play for at least 4 minutes in total and include both a solo and ensemble performances. These should be at least a minute in length. i.e. Solo – 1 minute, Ensemble – 3 minutes. Each performance will be marked out of 30.

Composing: You will need to compose two pieces of music of at least three minutes combined duration. i.e. Composition 1 – 1 minute, Composition 2 – 2 minutes. One composition will be composed to a brief set by the exam board, the other is a free choice. Each composition will be marked out of 30.

Listening and Appraising: Is assessed through a 1 hour 45 minute written paper. Section A will include questions related to 6 of your 8 set works, one short melody/rhythm completion exercise and a question on an unfamiliar piece. In Section B you will be asked to compare and contrast/or evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of a set work with an unfamiliar piece of music.

Areas of Study and the Set Works:

Instrumental Music 1700-1820

- JS Bach: 3rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major
- Beethoven: 1st Movement from Piano Sonata no.8 in C minor 'Pathétique'

Vocal Music

- Purcell: Music for a While
- Queen: Killer Queen (from the album *Sheer Heart Attack*)

Music for Stage and Screen:

- S.Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of *Wicked*)
- J.Williams: Main title/rebel blockade runner (from the soundtrack to *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*)

Fusions:

- Afro Celt Sound System: Release (from the album *Volume2:Release*)
- Esperanze Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album *Esperanza*)

Why study Music?

If you enjoy performing music in your own time and are learning an instrument, having singing lessons or enjoy creating music on computers or in a recording studio, then this is a good subject to choose! If you would like to create music of your own, then composing will give you the opportunity. If you want to broaden your knowledge of all types of music,

including classical, popular and world, then this course will give you an appreciation of the diversity of musical styles that exist today. Music graduates can offer some of the most highly desired key skills across all employment areas:

- communication
- problem solving skills
- time management
- creative thinking
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What will I learn?

You will learn to improve your performing skills and through your work in composing you will gain an insight into how music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product. You will also learn how to analyse music in a variety of styles and discover the social and historical context in which music has been composed over the last 400 years or so.

You have already gained a lot of the basic skills needed for this course in your music lessons over the last three years at LRGS and you may be also able to back this up further with your extra curricular musical activities both in and out of school.

Your listening skills will enhance the aural perception needed in language examinations. Your performing skills will give you confidence in playing to an audience – useful if you intend to study, for example, drama or law. It will also provide a useful foundation for AS Performing Arts or Music Technology as well as Music as well.

And finally....

The Music Department at LRGS has a large range of instrumental resources and an extensive music library. There are many thriving musical groups within the school and it is expected that GCSE students will take a leading role in these. The department provides dedicated rehearsal space with recently updated ICT facilities. Specialist computer programmes enable all students to produce high quality work. GCSE students have also engaged in joint education projects with the Lancashire Music Service and Lancaster Girls Grammar School.