

# Music AS/A2

## EXAMINATION BOARD AQA

### ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Music, preferably to Grade C. It is expected that all candidates will continue to receive instrumental or vocal tuition throughout the course. Also, if the student's main instrument is not the piano, some keyboard skill is highly advantageous.

### AS & A2

The AS and A2 specifications provide a worthwhile, satisfying and complete course of study which broadens experience, develops imagination, fosters creativity and promotes personal and social development.

In particular, the AS and A2 specifications in music encourage candidates to:

- Extend the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to communicate through music and to take part in music-making.
- Engage in, and extend their appreciation of, the diverse and dynamic heritage of music, promoting their spiritual and cultural development.
- Develop particular strengths and interests, encouraging life-long learning and providing access to music-related careers.

### A2 ONLY

In addition, the A2 specification in music:

- Extends the skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the Advanced Subsidiary and provides a basis for further study.

### AS EXAMINATION

#### UNIT 1

2½ hour listening and written paper

40% of the total AS marks  
20% of the total A Level marks.

#### Understanding Music

An examination in two sections:

**Area of Study 1:** The Western Tonal Tradition, 1700 – 1850  
Questions on three set works will include detailed analysis of short recorded excerpts and printed passages and a choice of essay questions. Scores will not be required in the examination room.

**Area of Study 2:** Change and Development in a Musical Genre, Style or Tradition.  
There will be a choice of essay questions on a topic chosen by the teacher.

#### UNIT 2

Coursework  
(Externally assessed)

30% of the total AS marks  
20% of the total A Level marks

#### Composing

Candidates will submit **two** compositions, at least **one** of which is stimulated by the music studied in Unit 1 and at least **one** of which is written in a recognisably tonal idiom. One composition must be capable of being realised as part of Unit 3. The total playing time should normally be of between 4 and 10 minutes.

Completed work will be submitted for external assessment by AQA (NEAB) examiners.