

Year 11 2022 - GCSE Music revision

Performing = 30%

This should be your priority until you have recorded your final performance.

Practise your instrument several times a week, and include relevant warm up and technical exercises. When you are working on your coursework piece, identify specific passages for attention. You may need to focus on:

- Intonation
- Timing and rhythmic accuracy
- Hand coordination and finger dexterity
- Expression and dynamics
- Sound production and quality

These resources are useful for learning how to develop a productive practice routine.

<http://musiclessonsresource.com/for-students-10-music-practice-tips>

<https://www.classicfm.com/lifestyle/wellbeing/musician-practice-tips/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/deceptivecadence/2013/09/03/216906386/10-easy-ways-to-optimize-your-music-practice>

Remember that performing is about skill, not talent - and that your teachers are experts in developing the relevant skills. You are welcome to share your performing progress with your teacher every week, either in person at school or by sending audio/video examples of your progress, and to ask for help with specific skills/sections of your performance. There are no extra marks for working entirely alone on this part of the course, so please ask for help when you need it.

Composing = 30%

Lesson time until early March will include opportunities to work on your composing coursework. Here are some things you can do at home to develop the relevant skills for your chosen composition. You are welcome to send examples of these revision tasks to your teacher for feedback, and we recommend that you keep this feedback for reference when you are composing.

- Once you have chosen a musical style, listen to several examples of music in that style. How is it structured? How are the instruments and sound sources used to create contrast and interest? How are texture and rhythm used to develop the main material? What are the typical melodic and harmonic features of the style? Create a mind map, log book or table showing what you have learned, and refer to it when you are planning and refining your own composition.

- Once you have chosen a way of notating your work (writing it down), practise notating music by other people. You may like to do this by copying other notation sources, or test yourself to notate music you have only heard, not 'seen'. This is a difficult process, but it will help you become much more confident with your chosen notation style and it will also be useful listening exam practice.
- Once you have chosen a combination of instruments and sound sources to compose for, create a checklist of their strengths, capabilities, and typical features in music. Then learn how other composers have used these instrumental traits to create contrast and development. For example, it is common for solo piano music to include different textures (monophonic, countermelodies, chordal) and to make use of a wide pitch range. By finding examples of these features, and many more, you will be informed about relevant ways to develop your composition.

Listening = 40%

The listening exam will take place in Summer 2022. It consists of 8 questions, each about a different piece of music. 2 questions will be about set works (Bach and Toto) and the other 6 questions will be 'unfamiliar music' linked to the Areas of Study.

From March onwards, all of our lesson time will be focused on exam preparation, and we will work through past papers and other exam materials during our lessons and homework.

If you want to do extra revision beyond that which is set for homework, here are some suggestions:

- Create vocabulary lists for each area of study and for each element of music. These are listed below.
- Practise writing DR T SMITH answers for unfamiliar music. Choose a YouTube video from the Google classroom posts and listen to a 30-second extract. Do not write DR T SMITH responses for whole songs.
- Develop your aural skills using apps such as EarMaster, then apply this skill to full arrangements of music. Do not spend too much time working on apps and sources that 'isolate' chords and intervals, since this will not be part of the exam.
- Work through the Year 10 and Year 11 Google classrooms, repeating the various listening and theory exercises that have been posted. It may be helpful to look at your previous answers and identify ways to improve your written responses. You should be able to resubmit any Google form, although please ask your teacher if you want it to be marked and released again.

Areas of Study

- 1) Musical forms and Devices (set work = Bach)
- 2) Music for Ensemble
- 3) Film Music
- 4) Popular Music (set work = Toto)

Elements of music: Dynamics, Rhythm and tempo, Texture, Structure, Melody, Instruments and sounds, Tonality, Harmony.