

## Music – Student Guide for Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced GCE Specifications

In this course you will develop your skills in performing, composing and listening. You will encounter a great variety of music, particularly from the western classical traditions and from jazz but, in your own performing and composing, you will have considerable freedom to choose your own repertoire. If you are interested in Music Technology, you will have ample opportunity to use it and develop your skills.

Many other subjects would go well with Music, from a wide range of Humanities and Languages, as well as Mathematics and Science.

With a qualification in Music, you could go on to higher education and job possibilities include work in the music industry, teaching or other related areas.

This subject is made up of 6 units.

To get a certificate for Advanced Subsidiary GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in 3 AS units.

To get a certificate for Advanced GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in 3 AS units, together with 3 A2 units.

### Before you start this course

It would be helpful if you have studied GCSE Music or have appropriate grounding either via the National Curriculum KS 1 to 3 or through performing and listening at home and in the community.

The course is organised around three areas of study: for AS you will be concerned with ways in which composers use instruments to express their musical ideas and learn to create music using the common classical or popular musical language of 'western tonality' (as well as developing your own style and technique). For A2, you will develop your understanding of tonality by studying a wider range of more recent styles and you will also have a strong focus on the relationship between words and music.

### The units available for AS are:

#### Unit 2550 Performing

For this unit you will give a short solo recital and also perform either on a second instrument, in an ensemble, or perform your own composition.

#### Unit 2551 Composing 1

For this unit you will compose or arrange one piece of music and learn about western tonal harmony through short exercises to develop your understanding of basic harmony. Your work will be assessed by your own teacher/tutor and moderated by OCR.

#### Unit 2552 Introduction to Historical Study

For this unit you will study music directly linked to your work for Unit 2551. There is a 2 hour examination for this unit, divided into three sections. In the first, you will listen to an extract related to your harmonic exercises in Unit 2551 and answer questions on it. In the second, there will be questions on two sets of prescribed works – 18th/19th century orchestral music, and 20th century jazz – and in the third, there will be a choice of questions about the background to the music you have been studying.

These 3 units form the Advanced Subsidiary GCE qualification.

### The units available in A2 are:

#### Unit 2553 Performing: Interpretation

For this unit you will be able to choose for yourself what music to study and perform. You will give a recital as a soloist or accompanist, or in an ensemble, and also present a short written report of an investigation into music you have listened to that is related to the programme you perform. Both will be assessed by a visiting examiner.

## Unit 2554 Composing 2

You will be asked to set to music one of two sets of words. For the rest of the course you may choose whether to study closely one style from a wide range of different ones, or whether to compose music, perhaps using Music Technology, for a film storyboard set by OCR. All your work will be assessed by OCR.

## Unit 2555 Historical and Analytical Studies

This will consist of a timed examination paper (2½ hours) with three main sections: aural extracts, prescribed historical topic (one from four) and a synoptic essay. In preparation for the first section you will study a wide range of early 20th-century vocal music, learning about techniques of word-setting (which will also help you to carry out the composition task in Unit 2554) and about more advanced techniques of handling harmony and tonality. The prescribed historical topics offer you further opportunities to support your composing by listening to and studying the background to music that is relevant to it.

These 3 units complete the Advanced GCE qualification.

### The assessment structure for Music is:

