

Music

Qualification: A-Level Music

Additional Entry Information:

Speak to **Mr M Thomas** for more information.

What do students need to know or be able to do before taking the course?

The qualification will build on Music performing and theoretical skills. It involves a range of practical and theoretical aspects. The students must have studied GCSE Music to access, or have a good knowledge of the rhetorics of music and performing experience. The students will have to be prepared to spend a lot of time developing their work and sharpening their skills of composing, appraising, and performing. Successful students put in a lot of hours of study outside of the music classroom as well as practicing their instrument. It is an expectation that music students will commit to music at Y Pant beyond the classroom.

What will students learn on this course (skills and course content)?

The WJEC GCE AS and A level in Music encourages learners to:

- engage actively in the process of music study
- develop performing skills to demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation, and expression
- develop composing skills to demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices and conventions
- recognise the interdependence of musical knowledge, understanding and skills, and make links between the integrated activities of performing, composing, and appraising underpinned by attentive listening
- broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity
- develop and extend the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians
- develop knowledge and understanding of a variety of instruments and styles, and of relevant approaches to both performing and composing
- develop awareness of music technologies and use in creation and presentation of music
- appraise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop understanding of musical contexts and a coherent awareness of musical chronology
- develop as effective, independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- reflect critically and make personal judgements on their own and others' music
- engage with, and extend appreciation of, the diverse heritage of music to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development.

What sort of student is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for anyone wishing to develop their skills as musicians. Students must understand that there is a large amount of practical performance (playing an instrument or singing) work involved, and a great deal of time spent composing. The standard by the time the practical exam comes around is grade 5 for AS and grade 6 for AL. Two



compositions must be completed as part of the coursework. The final appraising exam will include questions and essays on the Western Classical Tradition and Jazz or Musical Theatre.

What kind of work will students need to be able to do outside of lessons?

The students will be required to compose, appraise, and perform. There is also an onus on the students to rehearse their performance work in lessons away from the classroom. They must also involve themselves in whole school performances and presentation evenings.

What is the course content and how is this assessed?

AS Unit 1: Performing

Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes. 12% of qualification.

A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study.

AS Unit 2: Composing

Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes. 12% of qualification.

Two compositions:

1. A piece of at least 1-minute duration which uses the techniques associated with the Western Classical Tradition, in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs, released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the year in which the unit is to be assessed.
2. A free composition of at least 2-minutes duration.

AS Unit 3: Appraising

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes (approximately). 16% of qualification.

Two areas of study:

Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (Part 1)

Either:

- The Symphony 1760-1830 including one set work, Symphony Number 103, Drum Roll, Haydn, Movements 1 and 2.

Or:

- Religious Choral Music 1730-1800 including one set work, Requiem, Mozart (Requiem, Dies Irae, Tuba Mirum and Rex Tremendae).

A choice of one area of study from:

- Area of study B: Rock and Pop 1965-1990



- Area of study C: Musical Theatre, Porter, Rodgers, Schönberg and Lloyd Webber
- Area of study D: Jazz 1940-1965.

A2 Unit 4: Performing

Option A:

Total duration of performances: 10-12 minutes. 22% of qualification.

A performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces. At least one of these pieces must be as a soloist. The other pieces may be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study. At least one other piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one other, different area of study

Option B:

Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes. 14% of qualification.

A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study.

A2 Unit 5: Composing

Option A: Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes. 14% of qualification.

Two compositions:

1. A piece of at least 1-minute duration which uses the techniques associated with the Western Classical Tradition, in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs, released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the unit is to be assessed.
2. A free composition of at least 2 minutes duration.

Option B: Total duration of compositions: 5-9 minutes. 22% of qualification

Three compositions:

1. A piece of at least 1-minute duration which uses the techniques associated with the Western Classical Tradition, in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs, released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the unit is to be assessed.
2. A free composition reflecting one other different area of study of at least 2 minutes duration.
3. A free composition of at least 2 minutes duration.

A2 Unit 6: Appraising

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (approximately). 24% of qualification.

Two areas of study:



Area of study E: The Western Classical Tradition (Part 2)

Either:

- The Symphony 1830-1910 including one set work, Symphony Number 1, Movement 4, Brahms

Or:

- Religious Choral Music 1800-1890 including one set work, Requiem, Verdi (Dies Irae)

Area of study F: Music of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries

Learners choose one strand from list A and one strand from list B.

List A

Either:

- Strand 1: Impressionism including one set work, Reflets Dans L'eau, Debussy and two subsidiary pieces Colloque Sentimental, Debussy and Mother Goose (Ballet) (Prelude), Ravel

Or:

- Strand 2: Chamber Music in Wales including one set work, Night Dances, Plowman and two subsidiary pieces: Ariel, Samuel and Tango Passacaglia, Wilson-Dickson

List B

Either:

- Strand 3: Popular Music in Wales, Gruff Rhys, Super Furry Animals, The Manic Street Preachers, and Kizzy Crawford

Or:

- Strand 4: American Musical Theatre, Stephen Sondheim, and Stephen Schwartz

Or:

- Strand 5: Jazz Legends, Duke Ellington, and Miles Davis

What could students go on to do at the end of this course?

Jobs and future courses directly related to this qualification include:

- Music therapist
- Musician
- Private music teacher
- Secondary school teacher
- Sound technician, broadcasting/film/video



Jobs and courses where this qualification would be useful include:

- Arts administrator
- Broadcast engineer
- Community arts worker
- Event manager
- PPC specialist
- Radio broadcast assistant
- Radio producer
- Theatre stage manager