



Heathcote School
An Introduction to A-Level Music
Transition Guide
2018-2019

WELL DONE!

You have successfully completed your GCSE in music and lots of other subjects to enable you to achieve a place on the A Level music course.

Now, just take a moment to reflect on your current position.

What do you feel are your strengths in this subject?

What do you feel you need to improve on?

Where would you like to be in a year's time?

How are you going to get there?

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM OUR STUDENTS:

You must be at least grade 5 standard on your main instrument/voice.

WEEKLY INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

It is essential that you have weekly one to one tuition with a specialist instrumental/vocal teacher. This is non-negotiable. At Heathcote School we offer the following instrumental tuition:

- ❖ Piano
- ❖ Vocal
- ❖ Woodwind (flute, clarinet, oboe & saxophone)
- ❖ Guitar (electric & classical)
- ❖ Strings (violin, viola, cello & double bass)
- ❖ Drums
- ❖ Steel Pans

Lessons are during school time and will take place during your free periods so you **will not miss any of your lessons**. We expect 100% attendance to these lessons. If there is a problem and you cannot make the lesson for a valid reason then we will reschedule the lesson time as long as we are given notice. The lessons are £110 per term if you chose to continue your instrumental studies at Heathcote, however, if you have instrumental lessons outside of school this is completely acceptable as long as they are on a weekly basis.

ATTENDANCE

Poor attendance will result in poor results. Furthermore, punctuality to lessons is essential. Music is about solo performance work but also ensemble (Group) work. If you are not there, or late it affects the rest of the class and their results too.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

You will be expected to work outside of the lessons. Detailed notes must be kept of classwork and you will be responsible for this work, if it is lost this will have an impact on your grades.

It is very important for you to be undertaking focused practice every day for at least 45 minutes. You have to perform with confidence and fluency and be in complete control of your instrument to access the highest marks at GCE level. Furthermore, you are expected to demonstrate, through your performance work, a high level of stylistic understanding. Homework is not optional and we expect deadlines to be met. All homework and resources can be accessed on Show My Homework or from your music teacher.

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM

We expect you to speak to us. If you feel you are struggling with the work, or would just like a bit of help with a particular aspect of the course, speak to us! We are not mind readers so communication is essential between teachers and students.

Qualification Summary (H543):

Aims

The aims of this OCR A-Level:

OCR's A-Level in Music will encourage 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
- broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity
- develop as effective, independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds • reflect critically and make personal judgments on their own and others' music
- engage with, and extend appreciation of, the diverse heritage of music in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development
- 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
- 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 their use in the 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.

Learners opt for components: 01, 03, and 05 or 02, 04 and 05:

<p>Recital - minimum of 6 minutes and two contrasting pieces. Choice of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • solo piece(s) on one or more instruments or voice • ensemble performance (including accompanying) • realisation using music technology 	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>Performing A(01) Recital 75 Marks Non-exam assessment – externally assessed via audio-visual recording</p>	<p>25% of total A-level</p>
<p>Recital – minimum of 10 minutes and three contrasting pieces. Choice of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • solo piece(s) on one or more instrument or voice • ensemble performance (including accompanying) • realisation using music technology Section 1: Free Choice Section 2: Focused Study 	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>Performing B(02) Recital 105 Marks Non-exam assessment – externally assessed via audio-visual recording</p>	<p>35% of total A-Level</p>
<p>Compositions with a combined duration of at least 8 minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One to a brief set by OCR • One to a brief written by the learner • Three short technical exercises 	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>Composing A(03) Compositions accompanied by a score, lead sheet or written description 105 Marks Non-exam assessment – externally assessed via audio recordings</p>	<p>35% of total A-Level</p>
<p>Compositions with a combined duration of at least 4 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One to a brief set by OCR • One to a brief written by the learner 	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>Composing B(04) Compositions accompanied by a score, lead sheet or written description 75 Marks Non-exam assessment – externally assessed via audio recordings</p>	<p>25% of total A-Level</p>
<p>Listening and appraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysing and evaluating music • Familiar and unfamiliar pieces • Prescribed works • Questions based on aural extracts 	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>Listening and appraising (05) Written exam including aural extracts 120 Marks 2 hour and 30 minutes written exam</p>	<p>40% of total A-Level</p>

A-Level Knowledge and understanding:

This Advanced Level GCE specification enables you to gain an experience of a wide range of musical skills including performing, composing and analysing as well as developing an understanding of the historical and contextual uses of music. Students will develop:

- Analytical skills
- Knowledge and understanding of performance
- Knowledge and understanding of compositional processes

A-Level Skills:

This Advanced GCE specification students need to develop practical skills in music-making activities, including:

- Performing (e.g. solo, ensemble, improvising)
- Composing (free composition, technical study)
- Aural analysis skills
- Music Theory Skills

The pieces we will be listening to and analysing are a selection from the following genres:

- Area of Study 1: Music of Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven
- Area of Study 2: Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band
- Area of Study 3: Developments in instrumental Jazz 1910 to present day
- Area of Study 4: Religious music of the Baroque Period
- Area of Study 5: Programme Music 1820-1910
- Area of Study 6: Innovations in music 1900 to present day

Areas of study 1 & 2 are compulsory and learners will then choose to answer questions from 2 of the other areas of study.

In preparation for the course it would be advisable to listen to a variety of music from the musical genres listed above.

The full specification for the course can be found here:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/219397-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-music-h543.pdf>