

Music

Examination board: Edexcel

Content

In Years 12 and 13, pupils will follow the Edexcel specification. This comprises the following three components:

Performing: You will perform pieces for a total of eight minutes. This is worth 30% of the total A Level. The performance will be recorded after 1st March of Year 13.

Composing: You will develop musical ideas culminating in one composition: a free composition or one from a choice of briefs set by the examination board and based on the different Areas of Study. This composition should be at least four minutes in duration. If you are choosing from an Edexcel brief, you will start this composition in Year 13; if you are choosing to do a free composition, you can start it in Year 12. This piece will be worth 2/3 of the total composition mark.

The second composition (worth 1/3 of the total composition mark) will assess compositional technique. For this, you will learn to harmonise a chorale in the style of J.S. Bach. The brief for this composition will be released in April of Year 13.

These compositions will make up 30% of the total A Level.

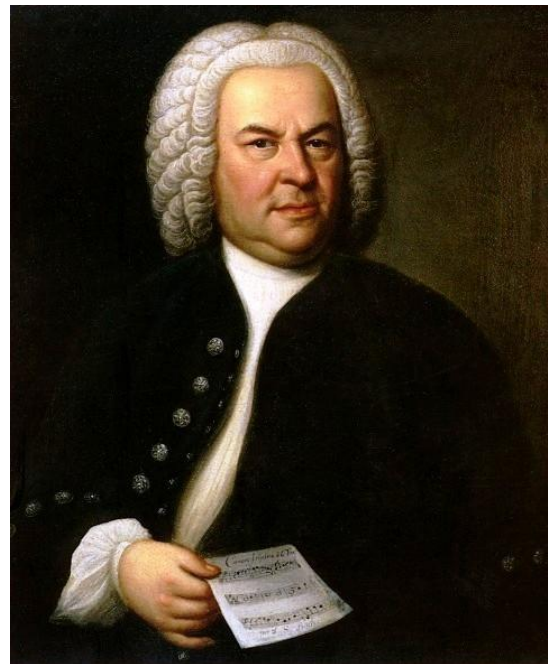
Appraising: You will study two set works from the following six Areas of Study:

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz (three set works for this area)
- Fusions
- New Directions.

This culminates in a listening examination in the summer of Year 13 lasting 2 hours 10 minutes and worth 40% of total A Level. It is divided into the following components:

Section A: Areas of study and dictation consisting of listening questions related to set works and melodic/rhythmic dictation.

Section B: Extended response consisting of two essay questions – one in which you will write about unfamiliar music in relation to other works, and another in which you will write in detail about a set work.



Year 12 Internal Assessment: At the end of Year 12, you will be marked on a six-minute performance, your composition in progress, a harmonisation of a chorale in the style of Bach, and a paper testing your knowledge of the set works studied in relation to wider listening.