

Music

Exam Board: WJEC

This course is for students who have a keen interest in creating and performing different styles of music. It is useful to have taken Music at GCSE level, but this is not essential as long as the prospective student can perform at approximately Grade 5 standard. Music provides students with a variety of skills, as well as adding breadth to other subject combinations and may be studied in further education.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- A minimum of 6 A* to C grades at GCSE with a B grade in Music (if studied) **and** approximately Grade 5 standard on any instrument or voice (students do not have to have sat the exam but must be able to perform at this standard by Spring of Year 12). If you have any queries, please contact Mrs R Power (Head of Music).

AS course

Students will undertake a programme of study involving performing, composing and appraising.

Unit 1: Performing (12% of A Level)

- 6 - 8 minutes solo and/or ensemble performance at approximately Grade 5 standard (or above).

Unit 2: Composing (12% of A Level)

- Two contrasting compositions lasting between 3 and 6 minutes. The use of music technology will be encouraged.

Unit 3: Listening & Appraising (A Level 16%)

- A 1 hour and 30 minutes listening and written exam based on two Areas of Study:
 - **The Symphony** 1760 – 1830 with a detailed study of Haydn: *Symphony No. 1*;
 - **Rock and Pop** 1965 - 1990.

A2 course

The above plus a further 3 units (students may specialise in either performing or composing):

Unit 4: Performing

- Option A: 22% of qualification, total duration of solo and/or ensemble performance 10 - 12 minutes **OR**
- Option B: 14% of qualification, total duration of solo and/or ensemble performance 6 - 8 minutes.

Unit 5: Composing

- Option A: 22% of qualification, total duration of composition 5 – 9 minutes **OR**
- Option B: 14% of qualification, total duration of compositions 3 - 6 minutes.

Unit 6: Listening & Appraising (24%)

- A 2 hour and 15 minutes listening and written exam based on three Areas of Study:
 - **The Symphony 1830–1910** with a detailed study of Brahms: Symphony No. 4;
 - **Twenty-first Century Chamber Music in Wales;**
 - **Popular Music in Wales.**

Progression Routes

Courses on offer in universities and conservatoires are wide-ranging, with specialist performance, composition, management, production, musicology and education degree courses available.

Career Opportunities

Today music is a major industry with a wide range of opportunities, employing an estimated 130,000 full-time in the UK alone. Students may want to study music for the love of it, or to pursue a career as a singer, instrumentalist, or composer, but the possibilities don't stop there. Whatever their interest, there are jobs in teaching or music therapy, production, promotion, management, as well as performance and many other options.