

# GCSE Music

OCR 9-1

## An overview

You will have to complete:

A Performance on your chosen instrument

A composition in a style chosen by you

An ensemble performance

A composition set by OCR

A listening paper based on Area of Study 2, 3, 4 & 5

60% is coursework

40% is an exam at the end of the course.



# What are the areas of study?

- Area of study 1: My Music
  - This is all about your chosen instrument – how it works, how well you play it, how it is used in various styles of music etc

- Area of study 2: The Concerto Through Time
  - This about various periods of music and the part the Concerto plays within it.
  - Specifically we will be looking at The Baroque Solo Concerto, The Baroque Concerto Grosso, the Classical Concerto and the Romantic Concerto

- Area of Study 3: Rhythms of the World
  - This has a focus on four geographical regions of the world: India and Punjab, Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, Africa, and Central and South America.
  - Integral to this is an understanding of rhythm, including reading it, writing it, understanding it, and definitely counting it.

- Area of Study 4: Film Music

- What it says on the tin really; we will be studying a range of film music, including a variety of eras, and also how music is used as soundtrack for video games.

- Area of Study 5: Conventions of Pop

- This includes: Rock 'n' Roll of the 50's and 60's, Rock Anthems of the 70's and 80's, Pop Ballads of the 70's, 80's and 90's, and Solo Artists from 1990 to the present day.
- This will be a lot about how voices and instrument interact, and how styles have developed.

# How good do I need to be at my instrument?

- You do need to have a basic ability on one instrument to start GCSE Music – however you can sign up for instrument lessons in order to progress.
- You need to feel confident that you can play complete pieces (of your choice) on your chosen instrument when you start GCSE music; these do not need to be complicated or difficult pieces, as long as you feel confident performing them.
- You can use more than one instrument on the course, but this is not compulsory – you will need one chosen instrument as your main study.
- You will need to take part in extra-curricular music groups – what's the point of being a musician if you don't share it with others?

# I've never composed my own music before...

- That's ok, that's part of what we're here to learn. As long as you are keen to expand your skills as a musician and can approach your learning creatively, you'll be absolutely fine.
- The composition set by OCR (the exam board) is not as bad as it sounds – it's based on the styles of music we will study from the Areas of Study, so will work alongside the knowledge you are developing.

# What about the exam?

- The exam will cover the styles of music that we study throughout the course from the Areas of Study, you just need to be prepared to study, revise and listen to music throughout the course to be successful in this area.
- 90 minute - listening exam

# What else do I need to take GCSE Music?

- Nothing compulsory, but there are some things that might be useful:
  - We will be learning to read and write various aspects of music theory throughout the course, however getting a head start on this will only make your GCSE experience easier and more successful.
  - Be prepared to appreciate a wide range of music. This doesn't mean you have to love it all however.
  - Be prepared to collaborate with other musicians, and to share your thoughts and opinions.
  - 1:1 instrumental lessons will be of benefit.

# Any further questions?

Please do feel free to contact Mr Philpott with any further questions you might have: [rphilpott@honywoodschoo.com](mailto:rphilpott@honywoodschoo.com)