

A Level Music

Transition Tasks 2021

Course overview

Exam Board: Edexcel

Component 1: Performing, 30%

- 8 minutes (minimum) performance
- Any instrument(s)
- Any style
- Solo/ensemble/improvising

Component 2: Composing, 30%

- One 4 minute composition either based on a brief or a free composition
- 2 completed harmony exercises in the style of a Bach Chorale

Component 3: Appraising, 40%

- 2 hour exam
- Based on set works, unfamiliar music, aural skills, essay writing
- Set works are based on 6 areas of study: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions.

Course expectations:

- Students are required to be having instrumental lessons from a private teacher inside or outside of school to help prepare them for unit 1.
- Students will be set work to do outside of lessons in the form of practice, compositional exercises, essays, and harmony, research and revision/consolidation tasks, wider reading and listening.
- Students are expected to be involved in the Trust's music extra-curricular community

Gap task 1 – Analysis, wider listening and wider reading

As an A level Music student you will have a passion for music in its wider sense.

For this task you will need to listen to a piece of music of your choice or some live music you see over the summer break (COVID restrictions permitting!), and complete a short, written summary

Your summary should include:

- Composer(s) details
- Performer(s) details
- Background information on the style / genre / period of the music you heard
- A short background and contextual summary of the music
 - Is it reflective of the style or period in its musical features?
 - Was it controversial when it was written?
 - How was it received by the public of the time/press etc.
 - Why was it written? Did the composer meet his/her intentions?
- Your opinions on the music. Did you like or dislike it and why?

Gap task 2 – Performance

Prepare one piece for performance baseline assessment

This will be used to provide you with feedback on your performance skills and be the first informal mark for this unit in your first year. The piece can be in any style, any length (though I advise you keep it under 6 minutes) with or without accompaniment. If you require an accompanist then please bring in a copy of your music in September. Don't repeat your GCSE solo: try to prepare something different.

Summer shopping list

- A big file!
- Poly wallets as required
- File dividers
- Paper

If you have any questions about any of the gap tasks or about the course next year please email apiper@wigstonmat.org

Good luck, and see you in September!

Mr Piper
