

ST MARY'S COLLEGE



INTRODUCTION

By electing to study A Level Music you will have the opportunity of developing further the musical skills you already possess. The aural aspects of the course involve listening to and analysing a wide variety of musical styles; the creative part of the course will test your composition skills; and you will also need to demonstrate your skills as a performer.

The subject combines well with many others at St. Mary's, perhaps most obviously Performance Studies, Media Studies and English Literature due to the creative processes involved. However Languages, Sciences and Mathematics have also been shown to link directly with Music.

AS LEVEL

Content

- **MUSC1 – Influences on Music**
 - The Western Classical Tradition, and a choice from:
 - Choral Music in the Baroque Period
 - The Musical from 1940-1980
 - British Popular Music from 1960 – present day.
- **MUSC2 – Composing**
 - One composition task from a choice of three briefs
- **MUSC3 – Performing**
 - Two performances from a choice of six options

How is the course delivered?

As well as traditional teacher-led lessons you will be expected to take responsibility for much of your own learning. Working in an ensemble for your performance may be an option and composition work will be undertaken independently.

Entry requirements

A Music GCSE at grade C or above or an equivalent level of ability in the subject must be proved. AS Level Music will be very challenging if students are not continuing to have some regular musical training in the form of instrumental/vocal lessons or do not have a strong theoretical background and understanding.

What skills and interests do I need?

AS Music students should be competent instrumentalists or singers of at least grade V standard on at least one instrument or voice.

The ability to write music is also most important as is a broad musical knowledge and an appreciation of a range of musical styles.

Other useful skills include:

- analytical ability
- a thorough and systematic approach to work
- being an independent learner
- the ability to meet deadlines

How does it build upon studies in Key Stage 4?

AS Music is very different from GCSE Music at Secondary School, the depth of theoretical and technical knowledge needed means that you must be prepared to acquire a lot of background information in order to inform your in-depth analysis of pieces of music in your studies

How is the course assessed?

Module	Assessment
MUS 1 – Influences on Music	Written Paper 1 ¾ hours External Assessment (30%)
MUS 2 – Composing	Coursework External Assessment (30%)
MUS 3 – Performing	10 – 16 minutes Internal Assessment (40%)

Special Equipment

Obviously you will own or have use of a hired instrument.

You will also be required to provide pens, pencils and paper (both manuscript and for written work) as well as a file to keep your work in.

A2 LEVEL

Content

- **MUSC4 – Music in Context**
 - The Western Classical Tradition, and a choice from:
 - English Choral Music of the 20th Century
 - Chamber Music
 - Four Decades of Jazz
- **MUSC5 – Composing**
 - One composition from a choice of three briefs
- **MUSC6 – Performing**
 - Two or more contrasting performances



How is the course delivered?

The course is delivered in a very similar way to AS level music,

Entry requirements

An AS Level Music result at Grade E or above must be achieved before moving on to A2 Music. It is possible to transfer your AS grade from another school/college if you have followed the AQA specification.



How is the course assessed?

Module	Assessment
MUSC4 – Music in Context	Written Paper 2 ¼ hours External Assessment (20%)
MUSC5 – Composing	Coursework External Assessment (15%)
MUSC 6 – Performing	15 minutes performance External Assessment (15%)

Progression routes

By developing a variety of musical skills throughout the A Level Music course many career routes could be open to you. These could include:

- Teaching
- Music Therapy
- Performing
- Arts Administration
- Music Production/Publishing

Applying to a Music College rather than a traditional University after finishing A Level Music is an option to be considered, especially for anyone with a particular interest in performance or composition.

Further Information

For further information please contact Doreen Middlemast

Full specifications can be found at www.aqa.org.uk

NOTES:

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