



Kimberley  
School

# A Level **MUSIC**

SIXTH FORM  
ARTS



East Midlands  
Education Trust

SUBJECT BOOKLET  
2020 - 2022

## What is Music A Level?

A Level Music allows candidates to:

Recognise the interdependence of musical skills, knowledge and understanding and the links between the activities of performing/realising, composing and appraising.

## Who is it for?

This new specification is for candidates who wish to:  
Draw on their experiences at GCSE as well as offering a meaningful foundation for the study of Music beyond GCE level.

## What will I study?

A Level

Component 1: Appraising Music

Candidates answer 3 sets of questions linked to AoS 1 – Western Classical Music and two sets of questions linked to AOs from a choice of six options.

AoS1 The Western Classical Tradition (compulsory) and one other different area set by AQA.

Component 2: Composing:

Candidates respond to one brief from a choice of three:

Composition is out of 50 marks and constitutes 25% of the total marks of the qualification.

Candidates compose 2 compositions – composition 1 to a set brief and composition – a free composition.

Component 3: Performing: A Musical Performance (Externally Assessed).

Candidates can perform through a combination of solo or ensemble performances.

Performances will last between 10-12 minutes.

Performance is out of 50 and constitutes 35% of the total marks for the qualification.



The course is made up of:

## Year 12

### Unit 1:

Written Examination: Influences on Music

1¾ hours 120 marks

40% of the total A Level marks

Candidates are given structured questions using a CD of musical excerpts.

Candidates then answer two essay questions, one question from a choice of two based on the set work from the compulsory AoS and one question from a choice of two based on a second AoS.

### Unit 2:

Composing: Creating Musical Ideas (Externally Assessed)

Coursework 50 marks 25% of the total A Level Marks

Candidates respond to a set brief (25 marks) and a free composition (25 marks).

Compositions will last for a total of between 4 – 6 minutes.

### Unit 3:

**Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964**

Performing: Interpreting Musical Ideas (Internally Assessed)

10 –12 minutes 50 marks.35% of the total A-level marks

Candidates offer a combination of performances from solo to ensemble as an instrumentalist or vocalist.

## Year 13

### Unit 4:

Written Examination: Music in Context

2 hours and 30 minutes - 120 marks 40% of the total A-level marks

Candidates are given structured questions using a CD of excerpts. Candidates then answer three essay questions, one question from the set works from the compulsory AoS and two question from a choice of six based on a new AoS.

### Unit 5:

Composing: Developing Musical Ideas (Externally Assessed)

Coursework 50 marks 25% of the total A-level marks

Candidates compose two compositions.

### Unit 6:

Performing: Musical Performance (Externally Assessed)

10- 12 minutes 50 marks 35% of the total A-level marks

Candidates will offer two (or more) contrasting pieces to form a short programme, as a soloist or ensemble or a combination of these.

## How will I be assessed?

**AO1 Interpret musical ideas with technical and expressive control and a sense of style and awareness of occasion and/or ensemble (performing/realising)**

+

**AO2 Create and develop musical ideas with technical control and expressive understanding making creative use of musical devices, conventions and resources (composing/arranging).**

+

**AO3 Demonstrate understanding of, and comment perceptively on, the structural, expressive and contextual aspects of music (appraising).**



See Mr Warrender for further details.