



A Level Music Edexcel

A Level Music is essential for those who wish to study Music further at University, Conservatoire, or on other Higher Education courses. It is equally useful for non-specialists who want to take a challenging and interesting A Level course. It is a highly regarded A Level as employers recognise the many disciplines, the creativity and the talents that this qualification represents.

Qualifications in Music can lead to a variety of careers that do not just include teaching and performing. Students who gain qualifications in Music can go on to work in sound recording and technology, the media, composing, law, finance, events management, the armed forces and many more.

SKILLS

Music A Level focuses on the skills of performing, composing, listening and understanding. Students develop their skills as performers either as soloists or in ensembles. They will learn about harmony and various composition techniques, composing their own music. Students also develop their aural and analytical skills through studying a variety of pieces of music from 1600 to the present day.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

- Unit 1: Performing: Students will need to record a recital of at least 8 minutes.
- Unit 2: Composing: Students need to submit two compositions, one free composition and one based on a technical study.

- Unit 3: Musical Understanding: There are 6 Areas of Study: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, and New Directions. Students study works by 13 composers (spread across the 6 areas of study) to prepare for the final exam. Students will have to answer essay questions on these set-works and also answer listening questions based on these works and other related works.

Unit 3 is assessed through an end of year exam. The performing and composing units are both assessed by an external examiner.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You should have Grade 6 or above at GCSE Music or at least a Merit at Level 2 BTEC Music. It is essential that those wishing to take the A Level Music course should be committed to learning a musical instrument. You should be able to play a musical instrument or sing at Grade 5 Level (although the actual Grade 5 qualification is not required). A good understanding of music theory and being able to read music notation is vital. If you have not taken GCSE Music or BTEC Music but have Grade 5 (Practical or Theory) then you may be considered for this course.



Level 3 RSL for Music Practitioners

Single Option: Subsidiary Diploma
Double Option: Diploma

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The Level 3 RSL courses are enjoyable, creative courses for students who wish to pursue a career or interest in music. The course aims to provide a practical understanding of the skills and knowledge needed for a career in the music industry. Lessons will be focussed around practical performance work while developing understanding of related music theory and performance techniques.

COURSE CONTENT AND SKILLS REQUIRED

The qualification includes a number of core and optional units.

These include:

- Rehearsal Skills and Live Music Performance
- Planning a Career in Music
- Music Rehearsal Skills
- Live Music Performance
- Instrumental Study

The course includes a large amount of practical ensemble work meaning that effective communication skills and an ability to work productively as part of a group is essential. It is also necessary to be able to work independently and have good organisational skills.

ASSESSMENT

All units will be completed through a combination of practical and written work. There is a mixture of internally and externally assessed units.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students who have completed the Level 3 RSL course for Music Practitioners may move onto a variety of university courses or specialist music schools. There are also career opportunities in other areas of the arts in addition to performance or teaching.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The minimum entry requirements for Level 3 applied study apply.

In order to choose Level 3 RSL for Music Practitioners as an option you should have a strong interest in Music and enjoy performing as an individual and as part of a group. You should also be interested in learning music theory in order to enhance your performance and composition skills.

You should have a Grade 5 or above in GCSE Music or have achieved a merit or distinction for the RSL Level 2 Certificate for Music Practitioners.

If you have not taken music as an option at Level 2 but have a talent for the subject and the ability to be a reflective practitioner, you may be considered for the course.

Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts

Single Option: Extended Certificate
Double Option: Diploma

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts has been specifically designed to enable students to explore a wide range of performance elements. It is creative, varied and extremely enjoyable, offering an extensive range of options which include Musical Theatre, Contemporary Performance and Drama improvisation. The course aims to provide a practical understanding of the skills and knowledge needed for a career in the performing arts industry and will allow the students to develop a strong skills basis from which to progress.

COURSE CONTENT AND SKILLS REQUIRED

The qualification consists of two core units plus four optional units. These could include:

- Performing to an Audience
- Musical Theatre Performance
- Devising Plays
- Contemporary Theatre Performance
- Film and TV Acting
- Approaches to Directing Theatre
- Singing Techniques and Performance

The course includes a large amount of practical ensemble work meaning that effective communication skills and an ability to work productively as part of a group is essential. It is also necessary to be able to work independently and have good organisational skills.

ASSESSMENT

All units will be completed through a mixture of practical and written coursework. Coursework is assessed internally and moderated.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students who have completed BTEC Level 3 in Performing Arts may move onto a variety of university courses or specialist performing schools. There are also career opportunities in other areas of the arts in addition to performance or teaching.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The minimum entry requirements for Level 3 applied study apply. Much of your time will be spent working practically with others. A lot of your enjoyment and achievement depends on your commitment to working as a member of a team. Regular attendance and punctuality is essential. In order to opt for BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts you should have a Grade 4 or above in GCSE Drama or Expressive Arts or at least a Merit in BTEC Performing Arts.

Full Time Level 3 Performing Arts & Music

We welcome students who would like to follow a full time course within the realms of Performance.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

It is possible to study completely within the Performing Arts and Music Departments at St George's Academy. By following a combination of BTEC and RSL courses in Performing Arts and Music, you are able to create a full-time programme of study. Whether you are an actor, a dancer or a musician, the units will address the needs of the modern performing arts industry meaning that you will have the opportunity to develop the right skills for your chosen career.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is through a mixture of written and practical work. Some of your work will be internally assessed by your teachers and some of your work will be assessed externally.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students who complete this course may move on to a variety of university courses or specialist performing schools. This course will also provide students with the necessary skills for a career in the Performing and Creative industry.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Much of your time will be spent working practically with others. A lot of your enjoyment and achievement depends on your commitment to working as a member of a team. Excellent attendance and punctuality is essential. This course is ideal for all forms of performer; actor, dancer, singer, musician, as we will tailor the units to suit your individual skills. You should be able to demonstrate an aptitude and commitment to performance through an appropriate course studied at Key Stage 4 or through substantial extra-curricular commitment, such as playing an instrument. You will need to have met the entry requirements as detailed under BTEC Music and BTEC Performing Arts.