# Scheme of work

Introduction

This SOW offers a route through the A-Level Music (7272) specification.

It covers the specification in a logical order and suggests possible teaching and learning activities for each section of the specification.

The specification references are shown at the start of each section, whilst the learning outcomes indicate what most students should be able to achieve after the work is completed.

Timings have been suggested but are approximate. Teachers should select activities appropriate to their students and the curriculum time available.

The order is by no means prescriptive and there are many alternative ways in which the content could be organised.

The resources indicate those resources commonly available to schools, and other references that may be helpful. Resources are only given in brief and risk assessments should be carried out.

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## Version 1.1

September 2023

## Year 1

## Half term

Autumn 1

## Component 1: Listening an appraising

**Area of Study (AoS) 1**

Explore the Baraque solo concerto strand: Focus on listening skills, musical features and contextual knowledge.

**Optional AoS A**

Initial exploration of all bulleted composers and development of listening skills.

## Component 2: Performing

* Introduce performance diary to include a focus on:
  + rehearsal aims and targets
  + preparation for performances
  + reviews on performances seen/heard and impact on their own performance
  + programme notes on their pieces
  + final repertoire decisions and monitoring the timing of the programme
  + production preparation and progress
  + tips for rehearsing, repertoire choice and use of technology
  + assessment criteria
  + reflection on performances
  + written and verbal feedback
  + targets for development.
* Baseline assessment of performance skills and initial indication of performance options.

## Component 3: Composing

* Establishment and development of key compositional skills including:
  + rhythmic character
  + strong melodic character and harmonic outline/direction
  + melodic development
  + use and timbre of instrumental resources
  + use of overall textures and instrumental textures
  + structure and phrasing
  + harmonic basis, structure and development including cadences and modulations
  + sense of style
  + creating contrast
  + writing idiomatically
* Exercises and extracts linked to AoS, set works and optional study pieces.

## Half term

Autumn 2

## Component 1: Listening an appraising

**AoS 1**

* The operas of Mozart strand.
* Focus on listening skills, musical features and contextual knowledge.
* Strat analysis of set work *The marriage of Figaro*.

**Optional AoS A**

* Explore first bulleted composer.
* Two pieces minimum for analysis.
* Continue development of listening skills.

## Component 2: Performing

* Performance of two contrasting pieces.
* For production, initial recording of midi/audio tracks for one piece.
* Feedback for development with target setting.
* Programme note to be provided to demonstrate technical and interpretative understanding.

## Component 3: Composing

* Continue establishment and development of key compositional skills including:
  + rhythmic character
  + strong melodic character and harmonic outline/direction
  + melodic development
  + use and timbre of instrumental resources
  + use of overall textures and instrumental textures
  + structure and phrasing
  + harmonic basis, structure and development including cadences and modulations
  + sense of style
  + creating contrast
  + writing idiomatically
* Exercises and extracts linked to AoS, set works and optional study pieces.

## Half term

Spring 1

## Component 1: Listening an appraising

**AoS 1**

* The operas of Mozart strand.
* Continue analysis of set work.
* Practice exam technique and short style questions.

**Optional AoS A**

* Explore second bulleted composer.
* Two pieces minimum for analysis.
* Continue development skills.

## Component 2: Performing

* Ensemble performances
* For production, development of mixing and producing skills. Experiment with different mixes.
* Assessment using assessment criteria.
* Programme note to be provided to demonstrate technical and interpretative understanding.

## Component 3: Composing

* Approaching the briefs. Use AS briefs or sample assessment materials (SAMs) as a starting point.
* Using different stimuli as starting points and developing compositional ideas:
* For chorales:
  + chords and voicing
  + part writing
  + chorale ‘grammar’ and rules
  + cadences, cadential progressions and exploration of keys
  + chorale ‘style’.

## Half term

Spring 2

## Component 1: Listening an appraising

**AoS 2**

* The operas of Mozart strand.
* Complete analysis of set work.
* Practice exam technique of contextual analysis style questions.

**Optional AoS A**

* Explore third bulleted composer.
* Two pieces minimum for analysis.
* Continue development of listening skills with focus on the extended response question.

## Component 2: Performing

* Performance of a minimum of six minutes of music.
* For production, a minimum of six minutes of music.
* Feedback for development with target setting.
* Programme note to be provided to demonstrate technical and interpretative understanding.

## Component 3: Composing

* Practice composition based on a brief.
* Chorale brief: start with AS choral briefs and work towards A-level SAMs.
* Practice programme note.
* Assessment using composition to a brief assessment criteria.
* Feedback and target setting.

## Half term

Summer 1

## Component 1: Listening an appraising

**AoS 1**

* The operas of Mozart strand.
* Review and consolidate set work knowledge.
* Practice exam style questions.

**Optional AoS A**

* Review and consolidate set work knowledge.
* Focus on essay writing skills.

Year 12 internal assessment.

## Component 2: Performing

* Year 12 internal assessment of six minutes minimum.
* Formal assessment using assessment criteria.

## Component 3: Composing

* Start exploring ideas and resources for composition 2: free composition.
* Identify stimulus, ideas, composer, artist, genre, style etc.

## Half term

Summer 2

## Component 1: Listening an appraising

**AoS 1**

* Explore the piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg strand.
* Focus on listening skills, musical features and contextual knowledge.

**Optional AoS A**

Initial exploration of all bulleted composers and development of listening skills.

## Component 2: Performing

Consideration and decision of repertoire and options for A-level recital.

## Component 3: Composing

Continue working on free composition.

## Year 2

## Half term

Autumn 1

## Component 1: Listening an appraising

**AoS 1**

* Explore the piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg strand.
* Start analysis of set works for this strand.

**Optional AoS A**

* Explore the first bulleted composer.
* Two pieces minimum for analysis.

Continue development of listening skills.

## Component 2: Performing

* Performance of recital repertoire – a minimum of 10 minutes of music.
* For production, a minimum of 10 minutes of music – all midi and audio recorded.
* Focus on the technical control assessment criteria:
  + Performance: accuracy of pitch, intonation, rhythm, quality of tone, breathing, diction, bowing, pedalling etc.
  + Production: accuracy of pitch, rhythm, articulation, phrasing, clarity of sound capture etc.
* Feedback for development with target setting.

## Component 3: Composing

Completion of free composition.

## Half term

Autumn 2

## Component 1: Listening an appraising

**AoS 1**

* Explore the piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg strand.
* Continue analysis of set work.
* Practice exam technique of short style questions.

**Optional AoS B**

* Explore the second bulleted composer.
* Two pieces minimum for analysis.

Continue development of listening skills.

## Component 2: Performing

* Performance of recital repertoire – a minimum of 10 minutes of music.
* For production, a minimum of 10 minutes of music – production and mixing started
* Focus on the technical control assessment criteria:
  + Performance: tempo, dynamics, phrasing and articulation.
  + Production: choice of timbres, dynamics, dynamic processing including compression and EQ.
* Feedback for development with target setting.

## Component 3: Composing

Introduction of composition briefs and initial exploration of ideas.

## Half term

Spring 1

## Component 1: Listening an appraising

**AoS 1**

* Explore the piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg strand.
* Complete analysis of set works.
* Practise exam technique of contextual analysis style questions.

**Optional AoS B**

Continue development of listening skills with focus on the extended response question.

Mock exam assessment.

## Component 2: Performing

* Mock recital assessment.
* Full performance of recital repertoire – a minimum of 10 minutes of music.
* For production, a minimum of 10 minutes of music – first completed mixes.
* Focus on the performance quality assessment criteria.
  + Performance: musical style and communication.
  + Production: style balance, blend, planning, use of effects etc.
* Formal assessment using assessment criteria.
* Feedback for development with target setting.

## Component 3: Composing

Working on composition to a brief.

## Half term

Spring 2

## Component 1: Listening an appraising

**AoS 1**

* Practise listening skills relating to all three strands.
* Revision of *The marriage of Figaro* set work and practice of analysis questions.

**Optional AoS A**

Revision of AoS and practise listening questions and essay writing.

## Component 2: Performing

Recording of final performances and final mixes for production from 1 March.

## Component 3: Composing

Completion of composition to a brief.

## Half term

Summer 1

## Component 1: Listening an appraising

**AoS 1**

* Practise listening skills relating to all three strands.
* Revision of Chopin, Brahams and Grieg piano music set works and practise of analysis questions.

**Optional AoS B**

Revision of AoS and practise listening questions and essay writing.

## Component 2: Performing

Recording of final performances and final mixes for production from 1 March to AQA deadline.

## Component 3: Composing

* Final submissions of both compositions with attention to the score/written account/lead sheet.
* Programme notes and recordings for each composition.

## Half term

Summer 2

## Component 1: Listening an appraising

Final individual revision and for the final exam.