

## Summary of changes

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### Key changes:

- AS and A-level are linear – assessments are in the year of certification.
- AS is a standalone qualification – AS results do not count towards A-level.
- Area of study Western classical tradition 1650–1910 is compulsory at all levels.
- There are minimum performance and composition times.

All regulatory documents for Music, the subject criteria from the DfE, assessment objectives and conditions for Music from Ofqual, can be found on their website. All awarding bodies must meet these criteria.

### Changes to AS/A-level Music

Current specification (2270)	New specification (7271, 7272)
<p>Six units</p> <p>AS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 1 Influences on music</li> <li>• Unit 2 Composing: Creating musical ideas</li> <li>• Unit 3 Performing: Interpreting musical ideas</li> </ul> <p>A-level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 4 Music in context</li> <li>• Unit 5 Composing: developing musical ideas</li> <li>• Unit 6 Performing: a musical performance</li> </ul>	<p>Three components</p> <p>AS and A-level – now decoupled and separate qualifications, each with the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Component 1 Appraising music</li> <li>• Component 2 Performance</li> <li>• Component 3 Composition.</li> </ul>

### AS Unit 1 – Influences on music

- AS 30%, A-level 15%
- One hour 45 minutes paper
- 80 marks
- Externally marked

Four Areas of study (AoS)- students choose two:

- Area of study 1 Western classical tradition compulsory
- Area of study 2a Choral music in the baroque period
- Area of study 2b Music theatre 1940–1980
- Area of study 2c British popular music 1960–present day.

Three sections to paper:

- Section A Listening
- Section B Historical Study – Western classical tradition – one essay
- Section C Historical Study – Areas of study 2a–c one essay.

### Component 1 – Appraising music

AS and A-level 40%

- AS two hour paper 96 marks
- A-level two and a half hour paper 120 marks
- Externally marked

Areas of study (AoS) – All students must study Area of study 1, AS students choose one other from Areas of study 2–6, A-level students choose two others from Areas of study 2–7:

- Area of study 1 Western classical tradition 1650–1910 compulsory
- Area of study 2 Pop music
- Area of study 3 Music for media
- Area of study 4 Music for theatre
- Area of study 5 Jazz
- Area of study 6 Contemporary traditional music
- Area of study 7 Art music since 1910 (A-level only).

Set works strands – AS students choose one from Strand A or Strand B, A-level students choose two from Strand A, B or C:

A Baroque solo concerto

B The operas of Mozart

C Piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg.

Three sections to paper:

- Section A Listening – must answer two questions at AS and three questions at A-level
- Section B Analysis – must answer one question at AS and two questions at A-level referencing set works

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section C Essay – one essay from a choice of Areas of study 2–6 at AS and one essay from a choice of Areas of study 2-7 at A-level.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 2 – Composing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AS 30%</li> <li>A-level 15%</li> <li>60 marks</li> <li>Externally assessed coursework</li> <li>One of three briefs</li> <li>20 hours controlled supervision</li> </ul>	<p>Now Component 3 – Composition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AS 30%</li> <li>A-level 25%</li> <li>50 marks</li> </ul> <p>Students must compose two pieces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Composition 1 – composition to a brief</li> <li>Composition 2 – free composition.</li> </ul> <p>No requirement for supervised time stated by the regulatory authority.</p> <p>AS and A-level both have a combined composition time of four and a half minutes.</p> <p>We will release six briefs at AS and seven briefs at A-level on or as near as possible to 15 September in the year of certification.</p> <p>Externally assessed – by upload/post from centres</p> <p>If the student’s compositions are less than the minimum time, they will not be accepted as assessment evidence.</p>
<p>Unit 3 – Performing music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AS 40%</li> <li>A-level 20%</li> <li>10–16 minutes</li> <li>80 marks</li> <li>Controlled assessment (Teacher marked)</li> <li>Postal moderation</li> </ul>	<p>Now Component 2 – Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AS 30%</li> <li>A-level 35%</li> <li>50 marks</li> </ul> <p>Externally assessed – by upload/post from centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AS: perform a minimum of six minutes.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two performances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A-level: perform a minimum of ten minutes</li> <li>• Must be taken between 1 March and 31 May in the year of certification</li> </ul> <p>If the student's performance is less than the minimum time, it will not be accepted as assessment evidence.</p>
<p>A-level: Unit 4 – Music in context 20% of A-level</p> <p>Two hour and 15 minute paper 100 marks</p> <p>Four Areas of study – students choose two:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of study 1 Western classical tradition compulsory</li> <li>• Area of study 3a English choral music in 20<sup>th</sup> century</li> <li>• Area of study 3b Chamber music from Mendelssohn to Debussy</li> <li>• Area of study 3c Four decades of jazz and blues 1910–1950.</li> </ul> <p>Three sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section A Listening</li> <li>• Section B Historical Study – Western classical tradition</li> <li>• Section C Historical Study – Areas of study 3a–c.</li> </ul>	<p>Now within Component 1 - Appraising music A-level.</p>

<p>Unit 5 – Composing – developing musical ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15% of A-level</li> <li>• Externally assessed coursework</li> <li>• 60 marks</li> <li>• One of three briefs</li> </ul>	<p>Now Component 3 Composition A-level.</p>
<p>Unit 6 – Performing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15% of A-level</li> <li>• 10–15 minutes</li> <li>• Externally assessed</li> <li>• 60 marks</li> </ul>	<p>Now Component 2 Performance A-level.</p>
<p>Assessment objectives</p> <p>Three assessment objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A01 Performing skills: performing/realising with technical control, expression and interpretation 40%</li> <li>• A02 Composing skills: creating and developing musical ideas with technical control and coherence 40%</li> <li>• A03 Listening and appraising skills: analysing and evaluating music using musical terminology 20%</li> </ul>	<p>Assessment objectives</p> <p>Four assessment objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A01 Interpret musical ideas through performing, with technical and expressive control and an understanding of style and context. AS 30% A-level 35%</li> <li>• A02 Create and develop musical ideas with technical and expressive control and coherence. AS 30% A-level 25%</li> <li>• A03 Demonstrate and apply musical knowledge. AS 15% A-level 10%</li> <li>• A04 Use analytical and appraising skills to make evaluative and critical judgements about music. AS 25% A-level 30%</li> </ul>
<p>Grading</p> <p>A*–U Grades</p>	<p>Grading</p> <p>A* (A-level) A–E</p>