

Summary of changes

Key changes:

- GCSE is linear – assessments are in the year of certification
- Area of study – Western classical tradition 1650–1910 is compulsory at all levels
- There are minimum performance and composition times
- There is a new grading system 1–9 (with 9 being the highest grade).

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 GCSE Music

Current specification (4270)	New specification (8271)
<p>Four units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1 Listening to and appraising music • Unit 2 Composing and appraising music • Unit 3 Performing music • Unit 4 Composing music. 	<p>Three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1 Understanding music • Component 2 Performing music • Component 3 Composing music.
<p>Weightings %</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80%: non-examined assessment (NEA) • 20%: written exam. 	<p>Weightings %</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60%: non-examined assessment (NEA) • 40%: written exam.

<p>Unit 1 – Listening and appraising music</p> <p>20%</p> <p>One hour paper</p> <p>Total 80 marks</p> <p>Externally marked</p> <p>Five Areas of study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of study 1 Rhythm & metre • Area of study 2 Harmony & tonality • Area of study 3 Texture & melody • Area of study 4 Timbre & dynamics • Area of study 5 Structure & form. <p>Three strands of learning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Western classical tradition 2. Popular music of 20th and 21st centuries 3. World music. <p>Paper has one section</p> <p>12 questions – students must answer all questions.</p>	<p>Component 1 – Understanding music</p> <p>40%</p> <p>One and a half hour paper</p> <p>Total 96 marks</p> <p>Externally marked</p> <p>Four Areas of study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of study 1 Western classical tradition 1650–1910 compulsory • Area of study 2 Popular music • Area of study 3 Traditional music • Area of study 4 Western classical tradition since 1910. <p>Study Pieces for each Area of study</p> <p>Paper has two sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A Listening – unfamiliar music – students must answer all eight questions 68 marks • Section B Study pieces – two questions (including extended response) referencing the study pieces (one must be Area of study 1 above) 28 marks.
<p>Unit 2 – Composing and appraising music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% • 40 marks • Externally assessed • 20 hours supervised time for composition • Two hours supervised time for appraisal 	<p>Composing now in component 3.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One composition. 	
<p>Unit 3 – Performing music 40% 60 marks Controlled assessment (Teacher marked) Postal moderation Must perform two pieces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piece 1 as a soloist no longer than five minutes • Piece 2 as part of an ensemble no longer than five minutes. 	<p>Component 2 – Performing music 30% 72 marks Controlled assessment (Teacher marked) Postal/uploaded moderation Must perform two pieces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piece 1 as a soloist • Piece 2 as part of an ensemble lasting a minimum of one minute. <p>Combined minimum time of four minutes</p> <p>If the student’s performance is less than the minimum time it will not be accepted as assessment evidence.</p> <p>Assessment must be taken in the year of certification.</p>
<p>Unit 4 – Composing music 40% 30 marks Controlled assessment (Teacher marked) Postal moderation 25 hours supervised time for composition One composition</p>	<p>Component 3 – Composing music 30% 72 marks Must compose two pieces – details below set by regulatory authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition 1 – composition to a brief • Composition 2 – free composition. <p>We will release four briefs on or as near as possible to 15 September in the year of certification.</p> <p>No requirement for supervised time stipulated by regulatory authority</p> <p>Controlled assessment (Teacher marked)</p>

	<p>Postal/uploaded moderation</p> <p>Combined minimum time of three minutes</p> <p>If the student's compositions are less than the minimum time they will not be accepted as assessment evidence</p> <p>Assessment must be taken in the year of certification.</p>
<p>Assessment objectives</p> <p>Three assessment objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A01 Performing skills: performing/realising with technical control, expression and interpretation. 40% • A02 Composing skills: creating and developing musical ideas with technical control and coherence. 40% • A03 Listening and appraising skills: analysing and evaluating music using musical terminology. 20% 	<p>Assessment objectives</p> <p>Four assessment objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A01 Perform with technical control, expression and interpretation 30% • A02 Compose and develop musical ideas with technical control and coherence 30% • A03 Demonstrate and apply musical knowledge 20% • A04 Use appraising skills to make evaluative and critical judgements. 20%
<p>Grading</p> <p>A*–U Grades.</p>	<p>Grading</p> <p>1–9 Grades (with 9 being the highest).</p>