

Why choose GCSE Music?

In addition to helping students acquire subject knowledge, this specification:

- provides students the opportunity to gain self-confidence through performing to others
- develops team-working skills through performing with others
- extends students' creative skills through composing music
- encourages the understanding of the importance of continuous evaluation and refinement in any process
- provides a solid foundation for progression to music



This is a new specification (8271), launched September 2016. Below is a summary of the content of the course.

Component 1: Understanding Music	Component 2: Performing Music	Component 2: Composing Music
What's assessed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening • Contextual Understanding 	What's assessed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Performances 	What's assessed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Compositions
How it's assessed; Exam paper with listening exercises and written questions using excerpts of music.	How it's assessed; As an instrumentalist and/ or vocalist and/or via technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance 1: Solo performance (36 marks) • Performance 2: Ensemble performance (36 marks). 	How it's assessed; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition 1: Compose to a brief (36 marks) • Composition 2: Free composition (36 marks).
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: Listening – unfamiliar music (68 marks) • Section B: Study pieces (28 marks). The exam is 1 hour and 30 minutes. This component is worth 40% of GCSE marks (96 marks).	A minimum of four minutes of performance in total is required, of which a minimum of one minute must be the ensemble performance. This component is 30% of GCSE marks (72 marks).	A minimum of three minutes of music in total is required. This component is 30% of GCSE marks (72 marks).

As the course is practical based it requires *some* experience on a musical instrument and/or voice, and a regular course of tuition from an instrumental teacher is advised.