

REVISED GCE AS & A LEVEL
Student Guide
Music

For first teaching from September 2008

For first award of AS Level in Summer 2009

For first award of A Level in Summer 2010

music

Student Guide: Music

CCEA's GCE Music course aims to provide you with a worthwhile, satisfying and complete course of study that broadens your experience, develops your imagination, fosters your creativity and promotes your personal, social, spiritual and cultural development.

The **AS** (Advanced Subsidiary)/**A2** structure of this GCE means you can study for the **AS** Level award, completing units AS 1 and AS 2 and then decide if you wish to continue to **A2** Level where you will complete the two additional units: A2 1 and A2 2. This will lead to an award for the **full Advanced GCE**.

Q. Why study GCE Music?

This course incorporates the three fundamental musical activities of *composing*, *performing* and *listening and appraising*. We have tried to ensure we meet the needs and interests of a wide variety of students by providing flexibility within the assessment units. Overall, this course provides a good basis for further study, leisure or both.



Q. What do I need to take this course?

You should already play an instrument and/or sing and have some understanding of basic harmonic progressions and staff notation. It is not necessary to have studied GCSE level in Music to take this course, however it is recommended that you hold at least a Grade C GCSE (or equivalent).

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Q. What will I study?

Unit	Areas of Study	Unit	Areas of Study
AS 1	<p>Performing You should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> create a performance with technical control and accuracy; and interpret and communicate the composer's intentions with an appropriate sense of style. <p>Composing You should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> create, organise and develop musical ideas in line with your chosen brief; and control and use appropriate instrumental/music technology resources to realise your chosen brief. 	AS 2	<p>Music for Orchestra, 1700 to 1900 (Compulsory) and any one from:</p> <p>Chamber Music, 1750 to 1830 Music for Solo Piano, 1825 to 1890 The Musical, 1900 to Today</p>
A2 1	<p>Appraising You should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comment perceptively on the music you perform; and write a coherent and reflective commentary on your compositions and/or music technology options. 	A2 2	<p>Music for Orchestra in the Twentieth Century (Compulsory) and any one from:</p> <p>English Secular Music, 1580 to 1620 New Directions in Twentieth Century Music Jazz in the USA, 1930 to 1960</p>

Q. How will I be assessed?

Unit	Type of Assessment
AS 1 Making and Appraising Music 1 64% of AS 32% of GCE <i>Available Summer only</i>	You choose 1 of 4 options (A,B,C,D) For options A, B, C you will undertake a <i>core solo or ensemble performance</i> with a <i>viva voce</i> <u>and</u> a <i>composing or music technology</i> option (with commentary) For option D you will undertake a <i>core composition</i> (with commentary) and a <i>performing</i> option with a <i>viva voce</i> .
AS 2 Responding to Music 1 36% of AS 18% of GCE <i>Available January and Summer</i>	You take two examinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a test of aural perception (<i>1 hour</i>)• a written examination (<i>1 hour 15 mins</i>)
A2 1 Making and Appraising Music 2 30% of GCE <i>Available Summer only</i>	You choose 1 of 4 options (A,B,C,D) For options A, B, C you will undertake a <i>core solo or ensemble performance</i> with a <i>viva voce</i> <u>and</u> a <i>composing or music technology</i> option (with commentary) For option D you will undertake a <i>core composition</i> (with commentary) and a <i>performing</i> option with a <i>viva voce</i> .
A2 2 Responding to Music 2 20% of GCE <i>Available January and Summer</i>	You take two examinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a test of aural perception (<i>1 hour</i>)• a written examination (<i>1 hour 30 mins</i>)

Q. What can I do with a qualification in Music?

There are many opportunities for students who wish to progress beyond GCE. For example, some may choose to pursue further and higher education courses in music or performing arts and others may simply use their GCE qualification to access other degree level courses. Music qualifications can lead to employment in various areas such as teaching, performing, recording, radio/tv broadcasting and production and music therapy.

How can I find out more?

There are a number of ways that you can find out more about studying Music.

These include:

- Teachers at your school or college
- Students who are already studying the subject
- www.ccea.org.uk/music
- www.ulster-orchestra.org.uk
- Careers advisor
- UCAS www.ucas.com or CAO www.cao.ie for details on entry requirements for university courses

To view the full specification and the full range of support material available for GCE Music AS and A2 please visit the Music microsite www.ccea.org.uk/music

