

A2 MUSIC OPTIONAL AREA OF STUDY 1

ENGLISH SECULAR VOCAL MUSIC, 1580 to 1620

The following is intended as guidance only. It should be noted that this is not an exhaustive list.

Listed below are possible aspects of the topics within each A2 Optional Area of Study which students should be prepared to answer in essay form with detailed in depth study of three specific works and/or reference to a range of examples from different works or in the case of **JAZZ IN THE USA, 1930 to 1960**, recordings.

Questions will often ask candidates to:

...‘Refer to specific works to illustrate your answer.’

or

...‘Choose and comment on three specific works to illustrate...’

- the range of literary texts and lyrics which were set to music
- importance of anthologies/Triumphes of Oriana
- main characteristics of the ballett
- main characteristics of the light madrigal
- main characteristics of the serious madrigal
- main characteristics of the ayre
- approach to form and structure
- pieces for five/ six voices with extended textural and timbral variety
- range of musical devices used to illustrate/ enhance the meaning of the text
- contribution of Thomas Morley
- contribution of Byrd
- contribution of Weelkes
- contribution of Wilbye
- contribution of Dowland

A2 MUSIC OPTIONAL AREA OF STUDY 2

NEW DIRECTIONS IN TWENTIETH CENTURY MUSIC

- total serialism (the composer's control over register, dynamics, duration, rhythm and tone colour)
- the development of electronic music and electronic instruments
- the contribution of Stockhausen to the development of electronic music
- minimalism and minimalist techniques in the music of Reich
- the combination of live and recorded music in performance
- the use of percussion instruments in twentieth century pieces
- the exploration and use of new instrumental timbres and sonorities
- use of the voice in twentieth century music
- role of improvisation / chance music
- contribution of Stockhausen
- contribution of Boulez
- contribution of Reich

A2 MUSIC OPTIONAL AREA OF STUDY 3

JAZZ IN THE USA, 1930 to 1960

- main characteristics of jazz in the swing era
- main characteristics of 1940s modern jazz/bop/bebop
- developing jazz styles of the 1950s
- ensemble styles
- solo styles
- use of improvisation
- the rise of virtuosity
- approaches to harmony
- approaches to melody
- approaches to rhythm
- contribution of Count Basie
- contribution of Duke Ellington
- contribution of Dizzy Gillespie
- contribution of Charlie Parker
- contribution of Miles Davis
- contribution of John Coltrane
- contributions of two/three of Benny Goodman, Billie Holiday, Thelonious Monk, Ornette Coleman