

## AS Music OPTIONAL AREAS OF STUDY

**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.

Questions will often ask candidates to:

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

or

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

### **Optional Area of Study 1: Chamber Music, 1750 to 1830**

- the main characteristics of Haydn’s/Mozart’s/Beethoven’s/Schubert’s chamber music style
- how the following composers explored the roles of instruments in chamber music, 1750-1830
- how the following composers explored texture and timbre in chamber music, 1750-1830
- the variety of forms and structure used by the following composers in chamber music, 1750-1830
- the use of wind instruments in chamber music, 1750-1830
- the development of the string quartet, 1750-1830
- chamber music composed for five or more performers
- chamber music composed for three performers
- the contribution of Haydn to the development of the string quartet
- the contribution of Beethoven to the development of the string quartet
- the contribution of Schubert to the development of the string quartet

## Optional Area of Study 2: Music for Solo Piano, 1825 to 1890

- character pieces in music for solo piano, 1825-1890
- the contributions of Chopin and Liszt to the character piece repertoire
- dance-style pieces in the music of Chopin
- nationalistic features in the music of Chopin and Liszt
- virtuosic writing in the piano music of Liszt/all of the following composers
- the main characteristics of Chopin's/Schumann's/Liszt's piano writing
- the variety of forms and structures in music for solo piano, 1825-1890
- two of the following in solo piano music 1825-1890
  - sonatas
  - études
  - nocturnes
  - arrangements
  - variations
- programmatic pieces in the music of Schumann and Liszt

## Optional Area of Study 3: The Musical, 1900 to Today

- the main characteristics of musicals composed by the Gershwin brothers
- the main characteristics of musicals composed by Rodgers and Hammerstein
- the main characteristics of musicals composed by Bernstein
- the main characteristics of musicals composed by Lloyd Webber
- the main characteristics of the musical in the era 1919-1942
- the main characteristics of the musical in the era 1942-1959
- the main characteristics of the musical in the era 1960 to the present day
- aspects of the musical demonstrating blues and/or jazz influences
- aspects of the musical demonstrating pop and/or rock influences
- use of the chorus in musicals
- use of ensembles (e.g. duets, trios etc.)
- music for soloists in musicals
- depiction of characters in musicals
- communication of drama and emotion in musicals