

A Level Music Technology: Course Overview

Component 1: Recording

Assessment:

- 20% of the qualification

Overview:

- One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs provided by exam board. Candidates will be expected to record the song using a minimum of five compulsory tracks. For this specific task you will be using Cubase in one of the two computer suites and/or the studio and live room.

Component 2: Technology Based Composition

Assessment:

- 20% of the qualification

Overview:

- You must choose a set brief and be able to create, edit, manipulate and structure sounds to produce a composition. For this specific task you will be using Cubase in one of the two computer suites.

Component 3: Listening and Appraising

Assessment:

- 25% of the qualification

Overview:

- Knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles, in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings. Candidates will be expected to apply this knowledge to three key areas:
 - Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
 - Principles of sound and audio technology
 - The development of recording and production technology

This will be a written examination lasting 1 hour 30 minutes

Component 4: Producing and Analysing

Assessment:

- 35% of the qualification

Overview:

- Within this component candidates must use their acquired technological knowledge to edit, mix and produce unfamiliar materials provided by the examination board.
- Each candidate will be provided with a set of audio/MIDI materials for the practical element of the written paper:
 - Section A: Producing and Analysing – five questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided
 - Section B: Extended written response – one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit.

This will be a written examination lasting 2 hour 15 minutes

Course Structure – Year 12

Term 1 & 2

- Listening and Appraising – 2 lessons per week: Looking at the key defining features of genres from the 20th Century. How artists recorded albums and trying to recreate styles from famous songs
- Producing and analysing – 4 lessons per week: Introduction to Cubase and the studio – learning about how the equipment can be used effectively
 - Composition Task – Sequencing 1
 - Composition Task – Multi Track 1

Term 3 & 4

- Listening and Appraising – 2 lessons per week: Looking at the key defining features of genres from the 20th Century. Creating a live recording.
- Producing and analysing – 4 lessons per week: Introduction to Cubase and the studio – learning about how the equipment can be used effectively
 - Composition Task – Composition 1
 - Composition Task – Multi Track 2

Term 5 & 6

- Listening and Appraising – 2 lessons per week: Exam preparation
- Producing and analysing – 4 lessons per week: Preparation for Coursework start: Multitrack planning and rehearsal

How to be Successful

To get the most out of A Level Music Technology you should:

- Attend all lessons and ensembles!
- Complete every piece of work (including homework) to the highest standard
- Spend time after each lesson consolidating notes and reviewing material covered
- Attend all rehearsals and be as musically active as possible
- Practice regularly
- Organise your notes and scores carefully to aid revision
- Ask for help when you need it

Help Available

It is important to ask for help when you need it

- The studio is your space – USE IT!!
- Composition support is available at lunchtimes in C6 – see timetable
- Lesson resources, revision materials and audio tracks are available on the new VLE
- Regular or occasional individual support and help is available – just ask!

