



# Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form KS5 Curriculum

## A Level Music

**Course Title:**

Music

**Entry Requirements:**

Grade 6 in GCSE Music and at least Grade 4 on any instrument.

**Examination Board**

Pearson Edexcel

**Assessment:**

The Performance component is assessed externally: a recording (in front of a live audience) will be sent off for marking. The Composition component is assessed externally, with two compositions to submit. The Appraising component is a written examination lasting approximately 2 hrs and 10mins and is assessed externally.

### Is this course right for me?

You need to be a highly organised individual. You will need to be practicing your instrument regularly. You will need to be ready to explore new methods of creativity in composition. You will need to be ready to analyse set works for musical features. The nature of the course requires that you are able to work independently and organise your time appropriately to meet deadlines. You will need to be highly committed to study in order to achieve at the highest level in this course.

# A LEVEL MUSIC



## Unit Contents:

### Component 1: Performing

NEA - Externally assessed; 60 marks; 30%

**Content Overview:** Approaches to performing

#### Assessment Overview:

- A public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital.
- Performance can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology.
- The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of eight minutes

### Component 2: Composing

NEA - Externally assessed; 60 marks; 30%

**Content Overview:** Approaches to composing

#### Assessment Overview:

- Total of two compositions, one to a brief set by Pearson and one either free composition or also to a brief.
- One composition must be from either a list of briefs related to the areas of study, or a free composition, carrying 40 marks. This composition must be at least four minutes in duration.
- One composition must be from a list of briefs assessing compositional technique, carrying 20 marks. This composition must be at least one minute in duration.
- Total time across both submissions must be a minimum of six minutes.

### Component 3: Appraising

Written Exam (2h 10m); 100 marks; 40%

**Content Overview:** Knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language. Application of knowledge through six areas of study: Vocal Music, Music for Film, Popular Music, Fusions, New Directions.

**Assessment Overview:** One written paper

- Section A - Areas of study and dictation - three questions related to set works and one short melody/rhythm completion exercise.
- Section B - Extended written response - two essay questions. One asks students to draw links from their study of set works to an unfamiliar extract. The second asks students to evaluate musical elements of a set work.

## Progression:

Students who study music at A Level progress onto a wide range of Higher Education courses and careers. These include university courses and specialist music institutions (Conservatoires). Studying music helps develop a range of skills and it is looked upon favourably by HE institutions regardless of the subject applied for.

## Examples of university courses and grades required:

- Cambridge University – 152 UCAS Tariff Points
- Durham University – 136-160 UCAS Tariff Points
- Newcastle University – 128-152 UCAS Tariff Points
- Surrey University – 120-128 UCAS Tariff Points



## Further Information Contact:

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