

The background of the image is a close-up of a handwritten musical score on aged, yellowed paper. The score consists of several staves with various musical notations, including notes, stems, and clefs. The handwriting is in dark ink and appears to be from a historical manuscript. The overall tone is sepia and textured.

# A-Level Music

Blue Coat Church of England School & Music College



# Entry Criteria

- 6 at GCSE or equivalent.
- If you have not taken Music GCSE, it would be teacher discretion and other GCSE results following an audition.

# Subjects that work well with Music

Music combines well with a variety of other subjects. Some subjects that our students pursue at the same time are:

- Music Technology
- Maths
- Physics
- Languages
- English Language
- Drama
- Art



# Edexcel A-Level Music

- **30% Performance** – 8 minute solo recital.
- **30% Composition** – one composition to a brief, one technical composition.
- **40% Listening & Appraising** – An exam on the studied set works. This is a combination of short answer questions and essays.
  
- Here is a copy of the specification:

[https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Music/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Music 9MU0 specification.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Music/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/Pearson%20Edexcel%20Level%203%20Advanced%20GCE%20in%20Music%209MU0%20specification.pdf)



# Further Study

- Our pupils have progressed on to study Music at some of the best universities and conservatoires in the country, including: Cambridge, Royal Holloway, York, Goldsmiths, Bristol, RNCM, Birmingham Conservatoire & Leeds College of Music.
- We have also had students gaining scholarships at Oxford University.
- Many of our students have gone on to study other subjects at university, but their Music A-level played an important part in their admission to those courses.







# Suggested Reading List:

- Edexcel A-Level Music Revision Guide:  
[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Edexcel-Level-Music-Revision-Guide/dp/1785581724/ref=asc\\_df\\_1785581724/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=310848069966&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=15509784329509842630&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=1006529&hvtargid=pla-567993534132&psc=1&th=1&psc=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Edexcel-Level-Music-Revision-Guide/dp/1785581724/ref=asc_df_1785581724/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=310848069966&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=15509784329509842630&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=1006529&hvtargid=pla-567993534132&psc=1&th=1&psc=1)
- BBC Bitesize:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z6chkmn>





# Suggested Videos

Here are some suggested videos to watch:  
Howard Goodall: The Story of Music.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0Y6NPahIDE> – Episode 1
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMxsE8wawVA> – Episode 2
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xntvurc7jmU> – Episode 3
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvzXcxyyhc0> – Episode 4
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxzvVGLVZqE> – Episode 5
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWwNZjvaf08> – Episode 6



# Activities to complete for September

- Prepare a short solo performance on your instrument.
- After watching the six videos on the previous page, prepare a short presentation on your favourite piece of music from your favourite era.
- Complete the glossary of key terms (attached).





# Key Words Glossary

The next few pages contain a glossary for you to complete. The key words are grouped by musical element.

## MELODY

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Conjunct     |  |
| Disjunct     |  |
| Triadic      |  |
| Scalar       |  |
| Sequence     |  |
| Riff         |  |
| Ornament     |  |
| Trill        |  |
| Mordent      |  |
| Glissando    |  |
| Turn         |  |
| Acciaccatura |  |
| Passing note |  |
| Ostinato     |  |

## RHYTHM, METRE & TEMPO

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Syncopation  |  |
| Polyrhythm   |  |
| Triplet      |  |
| Crotchet     |  |
| Quaver       |  |
| Semiquaver   |  |
| Minim        |  |
| Semibreve    |  |
| Allegro      |  |
| Lento        |  |
| Moderato     |  |
| Accelerando  |  |
| Rallentando  |  |
| Rubato       |  |
| 4/4          |  |
| 6/8          |  |
| Cross rhythm |  |

**DYNAMICS**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <i>Fortissimo</i>      |  |
| <i>Forte</i>           |  |
| <i>Mezzo Forte</i>     |  |
| <i>Mezzo Piano</i>     |  |
| <i>Piano</i>           |  |
| <i>Pianissimo</i>      |  |
| <i>Sforzando (Sfz)</i> |  |
| <i>Crescendo</i>       |  |
| <i>Diminuendo</i>      |  |

**INSTRUMENTATION, TIMBRE & SONORITY**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <i>Con Sordini</i>     |  |
| <i>Pizzicato</i>       |  |
| <i>Arco</i>            |  |
| <i>Double stopping</i> |  |
| <i>Drum roll</i>       |  |
| <i>Col Legno</i>       |  |
| <i>Una Corda</i>       |  |

**TONALITY**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <i>Major</i>  |  |
| <i>Minor</i>  |  |
| <i>Modal</i>  |  |
| <i>Atonal</i> |  |

**HARMONY**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>Triad</i>               |  |
| <i>Dominant</i>            |  |
| <i>Tonic</i>               |  |
| <i>Subdominant</i>         |  |
| <i>Perfect cadence</i>     |  |
| <i>Plagal cadence</i>      |  |
| <i>Interrupted cadence</i> |  |
| <i>Imperfect cadence</i>   |  |
| <i>Dominant pedal</i>      |  |
| <i>Tierce de Picardie</i>  |  |



**TEXTURE**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Monophonic</i>                 |  |
| <i>Homophonic</i>                 |  |
| <i>Melody &amp; Accompaniment</i> |  |
| <i>Polyphonic</i>                 |  |
| <i>Octaves</i>                    |  |
| <i>Counter melody</i>             |  |
| <i>Pedal</i>                      |  |
| <i>Inverted pedal</i>             |  |
| <i>Heterophony</i>                |  |
| <i>Homorhythmic</i>               |  |

**STRUCTURE**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <i>Binary form</i>       |  |
| <i>Ternary form</i>      |  |
| <i>Rondo form</i>        |  |
| <i>Popular song form</i> |  |

If you can think of any pieces of music that contain these features, add it to your glossary!