



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



AQA A-Level Music

- **35% Performance** – 10 minute solo recital.
- **25% 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.



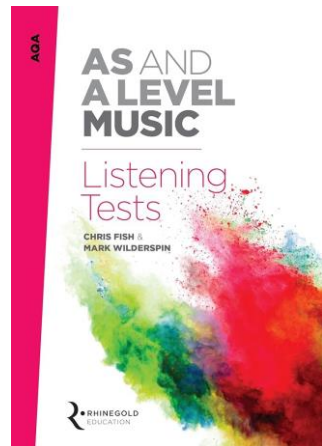
Further Study

- 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:

- AQA – Revision Guide



- BBC Bitesize:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z6dhkmn>



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=UxzvVGvZqE> – 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 & 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!