

Music at GCSE, IB Diploma and A Level

Bromsgrove School



GCSE Music (Eduqas)

Component 1: Performing

Total duration of performances: 4-6 minutes

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated

A minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance of at least one minute duration. The other piece(s) may be either solo and/or ensemble. One of the pieces performed must link to an area of study (see below) of the learner's choice.

Marks given for Accuracy, Technical Control, Expression and Interpretation

Standard level equivalent to Grade 3 (any exam board)

30% of
GCSE

Component 2: Composing

Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated

Two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will choose one brief from a choice of four, each one linked to a different area of study. The briefs will be released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken. The second composition is a free composition for which learners set their own brief.

A composition log, updated by the student, is submitted along with the completed compositions.

30% of
GCSE

Component 3: Appraising

Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes (approximately)

This component is assessed via a listening examination.

Eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study.

- Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices *
 - Baroque, Classical, Romantic periods
 - Binary, Ternary, Rondo, Minuet and Trio, Variations, Strophic forms
- Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble
 - Jazz, Blues
 - Musical Theatre
 - Chamber Music
- Area of study 3: Film Music
- Area of study 4: Popular Music *

*Two of the eight questions are based on extracts set by WJEC:

- JS Bach: *Badinerie* from Orchestral Suite in B minor, BWV1067
- Toto: *Africa* (1982)

(There are no set works for Areas of Study 2 or 3)

40% of
GCSE

A Level (AQA)

Unit 1 – Appraising Music

Candidates take 3 Areas of Study:

Compulsory:

AoS1: Western Classical tradition 1650-1910

- Baroque: the solo concerto
- Classical: the operas of Mozart
- Romantic: the piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg

Optional (choose 2):

AoS2: Pop Music – Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, Muse, Beyoncé, Daft Punk, Labrinth

AoS3: Music and Media – Bernard Herrmann, Hans Zimmer, Michael Giacchino, Thomas Newman, Nobuo Uematsu

AoS4: Music and Theatre – Kurt Weill, Richard Rogers, Stephen Sondheim, Claude-Michel Schönberg, Jason Robert Brown

AoS5: Jazz – Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Pat Metheny, Gwilym Simcock

AoS6: Contemporary Traditional – Astor Piazzolla, Toumani Diabate, Anoushka Shankar, Mariza, Bellowhead

AoS7: Art Music since 1910 – Dmitri Shostakovich, Olivier Messiaen, Steve Reich, James MacMillan

The exam (2 ½ hours) has 3 sections:

- Listening – short and long answer questions on pieces of music (from your 3 Areas of Study) that you listen to ... like a musical comprehension
- Analysis – writing an analytical account of a passage of music chosen from the set works in Area of Study 1. There will be 3 questions (Baroque, Classical, Romantic) ... candidates answer 2
- Essay – an essay on music from one of your optional Areas of Study – there will be a question on each optional Area of Study, giving you a choice of 2

Unit 2 – Performance

You perform 10 minutes of Music, ideally of Grade 8 standard (lower grades are acceptable). This can be solo, ensemble, or via IT (sequencing).

Marks are awarded for: Ambition of project (5), Technical control (15), Expressive control (15), Performance quality (15)

Unit 3 – Composition

You compose 2 pieces of music – one is in response to a briefs set each year by AQA; the other is 'free'.

Total playing time of the two combined is 4 ½ - 6 minutes

The Examiners assess: Technical control, Structure of ideas and their development, Use of Elements to create musical character, Sense of style, Quality of communicating the composition. A holistic mark is awarded for each piece.

40% of
A' level

35% of
A' level

25% of
A' level

IB Diploma

IB Diploma is available at both Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL)		HL	SL
Throughout the course the pupil is the researcher, the creator and the performer			
Candidates look at four Areas of Inquiry in an exploration of Personal, Local and Global contexts.			
<u>Contexts</u> Personal - you are familiar with these styles; this music has significance for you within your immediate cultural context Local – music with local significance but you may be unfamiliar with it; it is part of your local, regional or cultural community and may include music you are not currently engaged with Global – you are unfamiliar with some music from a variety of places, societies and cultures; music you have not yet engaged with which could be from anywhere around the world			
<u>Areas of inquiry</u> 1. Music for sociocultural and political expression - Protest songs, Liturgical music, National anthems 2. Music for listening and performance - Chamber music of the Western Art Tradition, Cool Jazz, Experimental music 3. Music for dramatic impact, movement and entertainment - Music for film, Music for ballet, Musical theatre 4. Music technology in the electronic and digital age - Electronic Dance Music, <i>Elektronische Musik</i> , Technology in popular music production			
Unit 1 – Exploring Music in Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written work (max. 2400 words) demonstrating engagement with and understanding of diverse musical material One creating exercise One performed adaptation of music from a local or global context 		20%	30%
Unit 2 – Experimenting with Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A written experimentation report for creating and performing Creating – three creating excerpts Performing – three performing excerpts 		20%	30%
Unit 3 – Presenting Music A collection of works demonstrating engagement with diverse musical material from four areas of inquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting as a researcher: programme notes (600 words) Presenting as a creator: composition and/or improvisation (max. 6 mins) Presenting as a performer: solo and/or ensemble (max. 12 mins) 		30%	40%
Unit 4 – Contemporary Music Maker Project (HL only) Students submit a continuous multimedia presentation documenting their real-life project (max. 15 minutes) evidencing the project proposal, process, evaluation and the final product.		30%	n/a

music@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

01527 579679 extension 235

[@BromsMusic](#) on Twitter

Search Bromsgrove School on [YouTube](#)