

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

A Level

Exam Board: Edexcel



Sixth Form

Where do I start from?

You will need to meet the School's minimum entry requirements. Please also refer to the Sixth Form Minimum Entry Requirements information sheet. For this subject you should have a minimum standard equivalent to Grade V on main instrument or voice; a minimum of Grade 6 at GCSE in Music is essential (although a higher graded instrumentalist who has not studied GCSE Music would also be acceptable). Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature is required, and Maths Grade 4 is acceptable. Instrumental keyboard skills are a necessity. We have an expectation that pupils actively involve themselves in the school's extra-curricular programme.

The new Edexcel specification is designed to introduce, strengthen and develop key recording and production techniques, principles of sound and audio technology as well as analytical and listening skills. The course is suitable for students who wish to take music to College or University level, and for those who simply wish to extend their musical experience and knowledge even further.

If you are keen to take this course further to post 18 study, please check entry requirements and the subject combinations needed.

If you would like an enjoyable, challenging, complex and practical subject to give your UCAS application breadth and contrast this is a great subject to choose!

What will I study?

The course introduces you to production tools and techniques to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording. As a developing musician the course will teach you to be able to create, edit and structure sounds to produce a technology based composition. Edexcel will provide detailed lists of specific genres of popular music that must be analysed and studied giving insight into stylistic techniques and recording methods.

How will I be assessed?

There are termly assessments and internal examinations throughout the course. External assessment is partly by examination and partly by coursework.

Component 1: Recording (20%)

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 (20%)

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 Analysing (25%)

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 (35%)

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