



# Bolingbroke Academy

## **Sixth Form Bridging Project** **Music**



**Transitioning from Year 11  
into Year 12**

## The Music A Level: Overview

Exam Board: AQA

Component 1: Appraising music	+	Component 2: Performance	+	Component 3: Composition
<b>What's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Listening</li><li>• Analysis</li><li>• Contextual understanding</li></ul>		<b>What's assessed</b> <p>Music performance</p>		<b>What's assessed</b> <p>Composition</p>
<b>How it's assessed</b> <p>Exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music.</p>		<b>How it's assessed</b> <p>Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist, or vocalist and/or music production (via technology).</p>		<b>How it's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Composition 1: Composition to a brief (25 marks)</li><li>• Composition 2: Free composition (25 marks)</li></ul>
<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Section A: Listening (56 marks)</li><li>• Section B: Analysis (34 marks)</li><li>• Section C: Essay (30 marks)</li></ul> <p>This component is 40% of A-level marks (120 marks).</p>		<b>Requirement</b> <p><b>A minimum of ten minutes of performance in total is required.</b></p> <p>This component is 35% of A-level marks (50 marks).</p> <p>Non-exam assessment (NEA) will be externally marked by AQA examiners. Work must be completed between 1 March and the specified date given at <a href="http://aqa.org.uk/keydates">aqa.org.uk/keydates</a></p> <p>Work must be sent by post/uploaded to AQA by the specified date given at <a href="http://aqa.org.uk/keydates">aqa.org.uk/keydates</a></p>		<b>Requirement</b> <p><b>A minimum of four and a half minutes of music in total is required.</b></p> <p>This component is worth 25% of A-level marks (50 marks).</p> <p>NEA will be externally marked by AQA examiners. Work must be completed and sent by post/uploaded to AQA by the specified date given at <a href="http://aqa.org.uk/keydates">aqa.org.uk/keydates</a></p>

### What is a “Bridging Project”?

The bridging work **MUST** be completed for each of your courses by the time you start your course. Your work will be assessed in September. The aims of the bridging project are:

- Check you are happy with the course content you will be studying for two years
- Prepare you for study at A Level
- Practice skills you will need to develop as an A Level student

What do you need to do for September?

### **You have three tasks to do to help prepare for your A Level Music course in September!**

In addition, you should ensure you are ready for the year ahead by organising the following items:

- Essential text books (Rhinegold AQA A Level Music Study Guide and Revision Guide, ABRSM grade 5 theory book)
- Ring binder folder and coloured dividers
- Pencil case with a pen and a spare pen, pencil, rubber, highlighters, coloured pens (for annotations!) and ruler
- A4 pad of lined paper
- A4 pad of manuscript paper (can be bought from any music shop – e.g. Northcote Music, or online)

## **TASK 1: PERFORMANCE**

Prepare a minimum of 5 minutes of music (at least two pieces) to perform upon your return in September.

- Choose pieces that are challenging! A Level Music has high expectations for performance and you need to be able to demonstrate that you can perform at a high level (minimum grade 5).
- Ensure your pieces are varied; you need to be able to showcase a wide variety of techniques.
- For accompaniment, you may use a backing track (you will need to burn the backing track onto a CD and bring in in September), or provide a piano accompaniment for the performance (you will need to print sheet music for this). If the intention of the piece is for it to be unaccompanied, this is acceptable.
- You will need to print off sheet music for yourself and the teacher.
- You can choose to perform on more than one instrument.

Complete the table below with your choices of pieces to perform.

<b>Name of piece</b>	<b>Composer</b>	<b>Level of Difficulty</b>	<b>Why I have chosen this piece</b>

## **TASK 2: THEORY AND ANALYSIS**

- Complete the chorale worksheet exercise on the back of this booklet: label each of the notes and label each chord with the correct chord numbers.
- Highly recommended: purchase the ABRSM Grade 5 Theory book and complete at least 5 pages of exercises from it. You need to be at this level with your theory skills to succeed in Music A Level! Bring this theory book to your first week back in September.

## **TASK 3: APPRAISING PRESENTATION**

Attend at least TWO live contrasting musical performances over the summer, and prepare a presentation on these performances! You will present to your class upon return in September. You could write about a pop concert, a music festival, an orchestral classical concert, a solo recital, an opera, a show, a Prom (highly recommended that you try to go to one concert in the Proms!)

Prepare for your presentation using flashcards and/or a powerpoint presentation. Ensure you are not just reading off your notes or a slide, but that you use them to help back up your presentation!

Include the following information in your presentation:

- Why you went to this performance
- What made the performance compelling to watch (you can use AQA A Level Music performance assessment criteria online to support with this)
- How the performance has inspired your own performance preparation (in repertoire choice or performance techniques, for example)
- Some deeper background into the genre of music that was performed (when and how this style of music developed, key features of the music, significant artists in the genre)
- A description of the music itself that was performed (including reflections on melody/harmony/tonality/structure/timbre/texture/tempo/metre/rhythm/dynamics/articulation)
- Images (or videos!) of the event and of the artist