MUSIC

WJEC AS/A2

PROFILE

The Advanced level course builds upon the National Curriculum and GCSE. It promotes progression through AS and A2 and lays a suitable foundation for the study of music or a related area at further or higher education and/or preparation for the world of work. It provides a worthwhile study broadening and intensifying candidates' musical experiences, providing opportunities for them to develop their aural perception skills and their appreciation of and participation in music. The course also provides opportunities for candidates to develop all aspects of their key skills and, through its academic approach, develop skills which can be transferred to other subjects.

CONTACT

Subject Lead: Miss Cooksey

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

AS Level – Year 12
Unit 1 (AS) Performing - 12%
Unit 2 (AS) Composing - 12%
Unit 3 (A2) Appraising - 16%

A2 Level – Year 13

Unit 4 (A2) Performing - 22% or 14%
Unit 5 (A2) Composing - 14% or 22%
Unit 3 (A2) Appraising - 24%

All candidates will choose to specialise in either performance or composition by doing an extended unit. Hence the difference in percentages for Unit 4 and 5.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade C or above in GCSE Music. We will consider students that do not have GCSE Music on an individual basis - all students must be proficent on an instrument or voice to Grade 5 standard.

COURSE CONTENT

AS Level – Year 12
Candidates will gain an understanding of two contrasting Areas of Study. One option should be chosen from List A and one from List B, C or D.
Area of Study A - Western Classical Tradition
The Symphony OR Religious Choral Music
Area of Study B C and D
From: Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz

Unit 1: Performing - A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study.

Unit 2: Composing - Two Compositions:A piece of at least 1 minute duration which uses techniques associated with the Western Classical Tradition. Candidates will have a choice of four set briefs, released by the board in September. A free composition of at least 2 minutes duration

Unit 3: Appraising - A written examination of approximately 1 hour 30 minutes.

A2 Level – Year 13
Unit 4: Performing - A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces, either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble, or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one are of study.

Unit 5: Composing - Two compositions. A piece of at least one minute duration, which uses the techniques associated with The Western Classical Tradition, in response to a brief set by WJEC.Learners will have a choice of four set briefs, released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the unit is to be assessed.A free composition of at least 2 minutes duration.

Unit 6 :Appraising - One option will be chosen from Area of Study E and two options from Area of Study F, one from List A and one from List B.
Area E: The Symphony OR Religious Choral Music
Area F: List A, Impressionism or Chamber Music in Wales. List B, Popular Music in Wales or American Musical Theatre or Jazz Legends

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Key skills are integral to the study of Music. Music can lead to a rewarding career in performing arts, media, librarianship, recording industry, teaching, music therapy etc. Music adds breadth to the academic profile of university applicants seeking a wide range of disciplines including medicine and physiotherapy. The skills demanded and developed at this level of study should not be underestimated.