



Saint Benedict
Catholic Voluntary Academy

2026

**BE
PREPARED**

Music



St Ralph
Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

A Level Music (Eduqas)

Welcome

This booklet will help you prepare for the academic and practical demands of Eduqas A Level Music.

Task 1 – Know the Course

Read the Eduqas specification

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-as-a-level/>

<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk>

Task 2 – Develop Your Listening

Music A Level requires that you listen to and become familiar with music from lots of different composers from different Areas of Study.

Keep a listening journal. It should state who you have listened to, what piece, what era it is and what your opinion is of the music. (There should be at least 10 pieces of music on this)

You should focus on the music of: Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Stravinsky, Mahler, Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Richard Rogers and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Task 3 – Learn Music Theory

Use musictheory.net, teoria.com and musictheoryacademy.com to study intervals, scales, keys, chords, cadences, time signatures and terminology

Task 4– Performance Challenge

Prepare and record a 3–5 minute performance on your instrument (voice) and evaluate it. What went well? What could be improved

Task 5 - Read About Music

Use the library and find a book about Music or read a magazine article.

Suggested reading:

The Rest Is Noise

How Music Works,

The Story of Music,

Musicophilia

This Is Your Brain on Music

BBC Music Magazine

Gramophone

Classic FM

Write a summary of what you have read

Please submit your preparatory work by 18 Sept. This will include:

Your listening journal, Performance and Evaluation, Reading Summary

You will have a theory test to look at your development of theory on the following areas:

Key Signatures

Bass and Treble Clef Notation

Time Signatures and

Rhythms

Instruments and what they sound like

Chords

▲ **MusicTheory.net**



Music Theory Academy



BBC Music Magazine



<https://www.musictheory.net>

Teoria



Classical Music Playlist



Musical Theatre Playlist



Information

The Eduqas A Level Music course develops students as performers, composers and critical listeners. Assessment is divided into three components:

Component Weighting

Performance 25% or 35% (depending on pathway)

Composition 35% or 25% (depending on pathway)

Appraising (Listening & Written Exam) 40%

You will study

The compulsory Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony)

One optional Area of Study (Musical Theatre)

One optional Area of Study (Into the Twentieth Century)

Key Words

List of musical terms

Melody

- Conjunct
- Disjunct
- Sequence
- Repetition
- Imitation
- Contrast
- Chordal
- Intervals e.g. tritone
- Fragmented
- Portamento
- Ornamentation
- Phrasing
- Passing notes
- Auxiliary notes
- Essential/Unessential notes
- Augmentation
- Diminution
- Episodic work
- Idée Fixe/leitmotif/motto theme
- Thematic transformation
- Phasing
- Diatonic and chromatic intervals (up to an octave)
- Arpeggios/broken chords
- Scalic
- Chromatic movement
- Pentatonic
- Blues/blue notes
- Guide tones
- Chromatic
- Whole tone
- Modal
- 12 tone
- Klangfarbenmelodie
- Octatonic
- Range
- Syllabic
- Melismatic
- Riffs
- Licks

Harmony

- Primary chords
- Secondary chords
- Dominant 7th
- Major 7th
- Minor 7th
- Diminished chords
- Neapolitan 6th
- Augmented 6th
- Ninth chords
- Secondary sevenths
- Sus4 chord
- Added 6th
- Power chord
- Inversions
- Appoggiaturas
- Tierce de picardie
- Added note chords
- Jazz chord extensions and use of guide tones
- Essential and unessential notes
- Cadences: perfect, imperfect, plagal, interrupted, phrygian
- Modulations
- Suspensions
- Quartal Harmony
- Diatonic
- Functional Harmony
- Non-functional harmony
- Concords/Consonance
- Discords/Dissonance
- Clusters
- Chromatic harmony
- Parallel harmonies
- Consecutive chords
- Harmonic rhythm
- Circle of fifths
- Higher dominant discords
- Drone
- Pedal

Key Words

Tonality

- Major
- Minor
- Modal
- Atonal
- Bitonal
- Polytonal
- Tonic
- Dominant
- Relative minor
- Modulation
- Tonicisation
- Transposition
- Enharmonic

Form and structure

- Binary
- Ternary
- Rondo
- Theme and variations
- Strophic
- Sonata Form
- Tone/Symphonic poem
- Sonata Rondo
- Minuet and Trio/Scherzo
- Through composed
- Cyclic
- Verse and chorus
- Pre-chorus
- 32 bar song/AABA
- 24 bar structures
- 12 bar blues
- Introduction
- Exposition
- Development
- Recapitulation
- Coda
- Outro
- Middle eight/release
- Programmatic forms
- Fugue
- Ostinato
- Ground bass
- Repetition
- Bridge
- Loop
- Riff
- Break

- Jazz chorus
- Head
- Cadenza
- Inversion
- Retrograde
- Retrograde inversion
- Improvisation
- Call and response
- Echo
- Integration
- Aleatoric

Sonority

- All orchestral instruments
- Acoustic instruments
- Electronic instruments
- Pit orchestra/band
- Underscore
- Rock and pop bands
- Jazz combos and associated performance techniques, e.g. mutes, growls, walking bass, drum kicks and fills, comping, stab chords
- Front-line, Rhythm section
- Articulation e.g. legato, staccato
- Vocal combinations e.g. Solos, duets, trios ensembles and choruses
- Vocal qualities e.g. speech-like, belt, twang and falsetto
- Scat
- Performance techniques associated with areas of study, e.g. sul ponticello, stride, scat
- Music technology e.g. distortion, feedback, tremolo, effects such as wah-wah pedal
- Unusual instruments e.g. theremin
- Pointillism

Key Words

Texture

- Monophonic
- Homophonic
- Polyphonic
- Contrapuntal
- Heterophonic
- Unison
- Chordal
- Imitation
- Melody dominated homophony
- Countermelody
- Counterpoint
- Descant
- Round
- Canon
- Drone
- Layering
- Stretto
- Antiphony
- Fugal
- Multi layered improvisation

Rhythm and metre

- All note values and associated rests
- Regular
- Irregular
- Simple time (duple, triple and quadruple, etc.)
- Compound time (duple, triple, quadruple 7/8 etc.)
- Additive meters

- Cross-rhythms
- Rubato
- Dotted rhythms
- Divisions of beat, such as triplets etc
- Syncopation
- Accents
- Free rhythm
- Isorhythm
- Hemiola
- Polyrhythm
- Swung quavers
- Groove
- Kicks
- Double time
- Rests

Tempo

- Terms for speeds from very slow to very fast
- All terms linked with set works/ individual repertoire

Dynamics

- Terms from very soft to very loud
- Signs/symbols in common usage
- All terms linked with set works/ individual repertoire
- Accents
- Subito
- Sforzando