

## MUSIC

### Cerddoriaeth

Course Title: Music  
Examination Board: WJEC  
Qualification: GCSE



### COURSE OUTLINE

Music GCSE is designed for all students who have enjoyed Music at KS3 and would like to study it at a higher level. Students who study music have a keen interest in the subject, and enjoy the mix of practical Performing, Composing and Listening activities. It is an ideal course for students who currently learn an instrument, or have some form of instrumental tuition in or outside of school. You will develop all the necessary Performing, Composing and Listening skills over the two years of the course.

The course is split into four Areas of Study:

- Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices
- Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble
- Area of study 3: Film Music
- Area of study 4: Popular Music

These four AoS are key to the music course, and are embedded in your Composing, Performing and Listening activities. You will learn about the Musical features and characteristics, the history and the important composers and performers of each Area of Study.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

#### UNIT 1: PERFORMING

35% of qualification.

Total duration of performances: 4-6 minutes

##### Section A: Performing (30%)

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 of the learner's choice.

##### Section B: Programme Note (5%)

A programme note for one of the pieces chosen for performance, linked to an area of study.

#### UNIT 2: COMPOSING

35% of qualification.

Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes

##### Section A: Composing (30%)

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.

##### Section B: Evaluating (5%)

An evaluation of the piece composed in response to a brief set by WJEC.

#### UNIT 3: APPRAISING

30% of qualification. Written examination: 1 hour

Eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study - Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

A natural progression for a successful GCSE Music candidate is to move on to study Music, Performing Arts or Music Technology at A Level. However, GCSE Music on its own is widely recognised for its skills and academic requirements by employers, and careers in the field of music are many and diverse. Here is a small selection: performing (pop/rock, classical, musical theatre), composing (pop/rock/dance, song writing, classical), education and teaching, concert management, music publishing, music therapy, music technology and sound recording, musical engineering and music retail.

For further information please contact:  
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