

“Edexcel's Music course covers composing, performing, listening and understanding, to provide an excellent basis for lifelong learning and for higher education courses in music.”

Some of the transferrable skills from Music are Teamwork, Ensemble skills, Research skills, Essay writing and Analytical skills, Presentation skills and Ensemble skills.

**Suggested Tasks** – You should complete as many of these as possible to put yourself in an advantageous position for each element of the course – performing, composing and appraising.

\*In preparation for the performance aspect of the course, take every opportunity to rehearse and perform with a variety of ensembles. If this is not possible expand your own solo repertoire – and practice regularly! Record yourself playing a piece and then record it four weeks later. What improvement have you made? Keep your recordings.

\*In preparation for the composition aspect of the course, compose a short piece for your instrument or voice (ie. a song). The piece should have at least 2 contrasting sections. If you have studied composition before add chords to this and ideas for texture. Please record this and have some form of notation or plan for us to follow as we listen to it.

\*If you do not already have Grade V theory, begin working through the ABRSM Theory of Music books, grade1-onwards. There are also some fun websites to help with this, for example

[www.MYMUSICTHEORY.COM](http://www.MYMUSICTHEORY.COM)

[www.musictheoryrevision.com](http://www.musictheoryrevision.com)

The **Set Works** cover a very wide range of styles, from 20th Century popular music to examples from the Renaissance period. In order to prepare for this you should listen to a wide range of music, and research some of the styles.

Complete at least one of the following tasks, starting with task 1

1. Create a timeline of the following musical periods – Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This could be presented

as a powerpoint, a mind map for each period, a poster, an essay, a newspaper article – be creative but informative. Include information about the key dates of each period, instruments used during the period, musical features of the time – (what is the harmony like? what do you find out about the tonality? And structure of pieces?) What types of pieces (genres) are there – orchestral, concertos, chamber – quartets, vocal – secular or sacred music? What is the purpose of music during this period? What key points of history happen during this time and what are the names of the most successful composers during each period?

You should make sure you mention and include the following composers – Vivaldi, Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Berlioz, Debussy.

2. Watch a film where the composer of the film score is Bernard Hermann, Rachel Portman or Danny Elfman compare the music for this film with another film composer. Find out what is typical of their music, what is their process for film writing? How successful are they and what awards have they won?
3. Research Music of the 1960s in England. Who are the most successful bands? What are the musical features of the bands – what are the songs about? What instruments? Create a playlist of Music of the 1960s explain why each song is worthy to be on this list.

Some useful websites are:

**[www.classicfm.com](http://www.classicfm.com)** Composers and periods of music:

**<http://www.nickredfern.co.uk/Education.htm>** Information about networks

**<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3>** Composer of the week and A-Z of Composers

**<https://www.spotify.com>** Spotify is a free piece of software, which will prove valuable.

You will also be able to see performances of some of your choices on Youtube. You should also take interest in the BBC Proms Series. BBC3 and BBC4 channels are useful for this.

We hope you enjoy these tasks, and look forward to seeing you in September.