




















Transition Ideas for A Level Music



Welcome to A level music. In this document we will provide some ideas for you to explore over these next few weeks to help you prepare. If you have any questions regarding what is required by the end of the A level course please ask Mr Cole & Miss Sutcliffe.

PLEASE REFER TO THE SUPER CURRICULUM IN THE FIRST INSTANCE

Music

 <p>Listen to lots of music Explore the Spotify playlists of the set works and linked composers. Regularly listen to a variety of music (Classical, world, jazz, pop etc.) A free version is available.</p>	 <p>Howard Goodall's Story of Music A TV documentary series, incorporating classical, jazz and pop. https://tinyurl.com/y9qbu9wu</p>	 <p>Practice composition Get 'Sibelius Free'. Get used to the features. Practice composing short melodies and accompaniments. (NB the full version is very expensive and there is no need to buy it). http://www.avid.com/sibelius-first</p>
 <p>Music First Interactive app that is full of information on instruments, music theory & course support materials. See your music teacher for more details.</p>	 <p>On the Track: A Guide to Contemporary Film Scoring– Fred Karlin A copy is available in the school library.</p>	 <p>Score: A film music documentary Top Hollywood film composers discuss how they compose music for film. A copy is available in the school library.</p>
 <p>AS Music Composition Workbook– Steadman and Charlton A guide to developing your composition skills.</p>	 <p>BBC Proms Watch some of the BBC Proms concert season. These run from July to Sept each year. Youtube has many of the previous performances too - including many of your set works.</p>	 <p>Practice your instrument/voice Get into the habit of recording yourself on your smartphone/iPad. Listen back to the recording and make notes of how to improve.</p>
 <p>A Level Music Harmony Workbook I– Hugh Benham An excellent companion to your harmony work. Copy available in the school library.</p>	 <p>Twentieth Century Greats – The Beatles and Bernard Herrmann Two episodes that cover set works (<i>Revolver</i> and <i>Psycho</i>)</p>	 <p>IMSLP - Petrucci Music Library Scores for most classical pieces available to freely download. Listen and practice score reading https://imslp.org/wiki/Main_Page</p>
 <p>Watch live music See as much live music as possible; amateur and professional. This will help you to develop your ability to appreciate, analyse and evaluate music of all types.</p>	 <p>Analyse A level set works A playlist is available on YouTube or Spotify. https://tinyurl.com/ydcxnjsk</p>	 <p>Perform in public Join the school or external music groups, or form your own group or ensemble. The more you experience you have of performing the better you will get.</p>

 Visit
 Listen

 Watch
 Explore

 Create
 Read



Transition Ideas for A Level Music

Performing

- **PLEASE PREPARE A SOLO PERFORMANCE READY FOR SEPTEMBER. This will be assessed in about week 2. It should be of GCSE standard or higher.**
- **Practise** your instrument or voice regularly. Try to create a regular practice regime, perhaps a set amount of time every day. As well as your pieces, do warm up correctly and practise scales and exercises as well. However, try to make practising enjoyable.
- Look through the pieces you have **enjoyed performing before** and choose one. Practise and polish it up for a performance. You should be able to play it better now you are a bit more advanced. Listen to some performances of the piece on YouTube/Spotify. What do you like about these performances? Is there anything you can incorporate?
- Create a **performance to share** with family or friends. Can you perform it for your family at home? Can you film your performance and send it to your grandparents/uncles/aunts etc.. Remember we have our department **Twitter** account that we would love to showcase your performances on.
- Pick a piece you have **just started learning**. After working on your performance, record it and listen to it back. How could you improve it?
- Explore the **repertoire** lists for pieces at approximately your ability level now and the grade 6,7,8 levels required by the end of year 13. Listen to the pieces on YouTube/Spotify if you can. If you can source the music, choose one and learn it from scratch. You can use recorded performances to help you learn the piece and decide how to play it. **See page 2 for links**



Transition Ideas for A Level Music

Use the following resources for repertoire

Edexcel Suggested pieces booklets. These can be found here -

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.coursematerials.html#%2FfilterQuery=Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments>

ABRSM syllabus for your instrument/voice

<https://gb.abrsm.org/en/our-exams/>

Look at the Trinity syllabus for your instrument/voice

<https://www.trinitycollege.com/qualifications/music/grade-exams>

Look at the Trinity Rock & Pop syllabus for your instrument/voice

<https://www.trinityrock.com/exams/syllabus>

Look at the RSL Rockschoo! syllabus for your instrument/voice (including wider repertoire)

<https://www.rslawards.com/rockschoo!/>

NB- If it says 'grade/level 7' on any of these then it is definitely the same grade/level for the Edexcel A level music examiners!



Transition Ideas for A Level Music

Composing & Theory

Composing

- Compose a short 8 bar **melody** and notate it down on a piece of manuscript. Below it, try to explore how many different ways you could develop this. (*eg repeat, sequence, retrograde, invert, extend, augmentation, diminution, rhythmic changes, develop the first 2 bars only, etc etc*)
- **Share** your short 8 bar melodies with musical friends. Can you compose an 'answer' melody to another students' melody?
- Compose a **chord sequence** and notate it down on a piece of manuscript. Below it, try to explore how many different ways you could adapt this into an accompaniment. (eg different accompaniment patterns, orchestra it, rhythmic development etc..)
- Compose a short piece for your **own instrument or voice**.
- Explore the **free music software** online to help you compose something. Try the trial versions, experiment with it, use YouTube help guides to get started. Can you compose something on these? Consider MuseScore, Noteflight, Sibelius First, Cubase LE and look for music technology apps on your phone/tablet. **See page 2** for details.
- Explore music technology software to create some **soundscapes**. This could be as simple as recording everyday sounds on your phone and manipulating these into a soundscape. Audacity is great for this but also explore audio recorders/editor apps on your phone. Whilst doing this research & listen to the composers who were exploring the idea of **Musique Concrète** – Schaiffer, Stockhausen, Boulez – and particularly the BBC Radiophonic workshop (Doctor Who etc!)
- Consider making a new **arrangement** of a favourite piece of music. For example a string quartet version of your favourite film/TV theme. Can you add your own style and ideas to it? Can you apply a very different style on it? (eg a Salsa version of Uptown Funk). Explore different arrangements of famous pieces on YouTube for ideas.



Transition Ideas for A Level Music

Theory

- **Music First** - Don't forget to use your Focus on Sound account to work on your theory development. If you require a log-in or password reset just contact Mr Cole/Miss Sutcliffe.
<https://heckgrammar.musicfirst.co.uk/app/>
- This website is great to work through the **ABRSM grade theory** tests. It has explanations and short tests free of charge (there are payable areas too)
<https://www.mymusictheory.com/index.php>
- This **theory** website is good for general theory support. When you start a lesson, make sure you click on the settings wheel and change it to British terminology.
<https://www.musictheory.net/lessons>

Online Software

A pencil with manuscript paper is the best form for sketching ideas out.

NB – there is printable blank manuscript paper under the Teams 'files' section if you need some.

There is **no** requirement for you to buy any software.

Cheap or Free to use music software -

- Sibelius | First – **Free**. Compose simple scores with free music notation software. Limited to up to 4 instrument parts, but fine to work out ideas etc..
<https://www.avid.com/sibelius>
- MuseScore – **Free to download/use**, although a charge for the Pro version.
<https://musescore.org/en>
- Noteflight – **Free** to use, although a charge for the Premium version.
<https://www.noteflight.com/>
- Steinberg Cubase Elements – free 60 day trial of Cubase Elements, Dorico, WaveLab etc..
<https://new.steinberg.net/stayhome/>
- Audacity – Freeware so always free.
<https://www.audacityteam.org/>
- GarageBand on iPads/iPhones – **free** and good for recording pop song ideas (eg piano chords & vocals). Avoid using the auto features in the long term.



Transition Ideas for A Level Music

Listening & Appraising

- Download [Spotify](#) onto your computer/phone/tablet. We will use this to share playlists and we'll aim to set a piece to listen to and discuss each week .
<https://www.spotify.com/uk/>
- There is a [playlist](#) of all the [A level set works](#) on Spotify. Over these next few months listen to the pieces when you can.
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4ZRHgDSLmYSBdOGdfL1UJV?si=JzWHJ9IVSly5C-qgA4FA8A>
- [Wider listening](#) is much more important at A level than GCSE. In the exam When responding to set work type questions you are expected to mention other pieces you have listened to in a similar context (*in a way more important than remembering fine details of each set work or quoting bar numbers etc..*). For each of the 6 areas of study explore and listen to a wide range of other music. For each one, consider what makes it a fit into that genre (eg film music, baroque, Classical period opera etc). You can listen to anything, but there is a playlist of suggested pieces here if you wish –
https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1EmGXa05Wz2meE5uoFOKyx?si=m-Swd_Z-RTW20eP5p3MGyw
- Watch the BBC series '[Story of Music](#)' by Howard Goodall. This is an outstanding series detailing the development of music from early times to the present day. It's very accessible & will give you a good oversight into a wide range of music. Each video is on YouTube so you can dip in and dip out.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0Y6NPahlDE>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMxsE8wawVA>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xntvurc7jmU>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYrZpWavQd0>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxzvVGIVZqE>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWwNZjvafo8>
- Similarly, the Simon Rattle series '[Leaving Home](#)' gives a good insight into how music in the 20th Century developed, often in extreme ways. (It's harder going though!!)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Br7aY311Xr8&list=PLUim0aOs4aw5EFwhtkPiaVuwfvUYNI3a3>
- [Explore](#) YouTube, keep an eye on BBC4 programmes and if you have it look at the SkyArts listings. There are some amazing programmes that really explain concepts, composers and works covered in A Level Music.