

SIXTH FORM MUSIC COURSES

BOARD: WJEC
ACCREDITATION: AS and A2 Level



The Music Department at Greenhill School has enjoyed an outstanding reputation for excellence not only in Pembrokeshire but throughout the U.K. Results at AS and A2 Level have continually been amongst the highest in Greenhill, with a pass rate of 100% A* to C (100% A* - A 2017), well above the national average. The majority of students who take Music in VI Form achieve a higher grade than in their other subjects.

Why opt for Music?

Music is highly regarded at all Universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. It is one of very few subjects that is both academic and creative which makes an excellent support to all parts of the curriculum. If you have a natural flare or are a keen performer this is an excellent opportunity to use your skills to gain a credible A'level.

The AS and A'Level courses involve the same areas of study as GCSE: APPRAISING, PERFORMING & COMPOSING. Students will be expected to take an active role in some or all-musical activities. Within the County the students have the opportunity to develop their performance skills in County Orchestra, Wind Band, Brass Band, Jazz Band and Choir.

We are looking for students who are enthusiastic, committed and ambitious. We also hope they will take an active role in the social and educational commitments of their younger peers that are inevitable in a performing subject.

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

AS (3 units)

AS Unit 1: Performing

Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes

12% of qualification

60 marks

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.

AS Unit 2: Composing

Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes

12% of qualification

54 marks

Two compositions:

1. A piece of at least **1 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 year in which the unit is to be assessed.
2. A free composition of at least **2 minutes** duration.

AS Unit 3: Appraising

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes (approximately)

16% of qualification

72 marks

Two areas of study:

Area of study A: **The Western Classical Tradition** (Part 1)

Either:

- **The Symphony** 1760-1830 including **one** set work, *Symphony Number 103, Drum Roll*, Haydn, Movements 1 and 2.

Or:

- **Religious Choral Music** 1730-1800 including **one** set work, *Requiem*, Mozart (*Requiem, Dies Irae, Tuba Mirum and Rex Tremendae*).

A choice of **one** area of study from:

Area of study B: **Rock and Pop** 1965-1990

Area of study C: **Musical Theatre**, Porter, Rodgers, Schönberg and Lloyd-Webber

Area of study D: **Jazz** 1940-1965.



A Level (the above plus a further 3 units)

A2 Unit 4: Performing

Option A: Total duration of performances: 10-12 minutes **90 marks**
Option A: 22% of qualification

Option B: Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes **60 marks**
Option B: 14% of qualification

Option A: Performing (22%)

A performance consisting of a **minimum of three** pieces. At least **one** of these pieces must be as a **soloist**. The other pieces may be **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. **At least one** other piece must reflect the musical characteristics of **one other, different** area of study.

Or

Option B: Performing (14%)

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.

A2 Unit 5: Composing

Option A: Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes **54 marks**
Option A: 14% of qualification

Option B: Total duration of compositions: 5-9 minutes **90 marks**
Option B: 22% of qualification

Option A: Composing (14%)

Two compositions:

1. A piece of at least **1 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.
2. A free composition of at least **2 minutes** duration.

Or

Option B: Composing (22%)

Three compositions:

1. A piece of at least **1 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.
2. A free composition reflecting one **other** different area of study of at least **2 minutes** duration.
3. A free composition of at least **2 minutes** duration.