



## A Level

# Music

The A Level music course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to experience the key disciplines of performance, composition, and analysis. This course is suitable for both students wanting to prepare for a higher education course in music, as well as students who wish to study music as an additional area of interest.

### What Entry Requirements Do I Need?

BTEC/GCSE music at Grade 6 or above, or equivalent potential. A general interest in music in terms of performing, composing, listening and analysing. The ability to play an instrument to Grade 5 or above, for the performing aspects of the course. At least Grade 5 theory is also recommended.

### What Will I Learn on This Course?

The A Level course covers music history and theory through studying a selection of set works, and students will learn about performing and composition through a coursework portfolio. The areas of study for next year include:

1. Instrumental music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven
2. Popular song: Blues, jazz, swing and big band
3. Instrumental jazz from 1910 to the present day
4. Religious music of the Baroque Period
5. Programme music 1820-1910
6. Innovations in music from 1900 to the present day

This qualification requires learners to develop an in-depth understanding of musical elements and their interdependence, musical contexts and musical language, all of which will be assessed across the whole course. Students will be expected to demonstrate this in their written exam and apply these concepts, where appropriate, to their own work when performing and composing.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

The A Level course is divided into three sections: Performing (25% or 35%), Composing (25% or 35%), Listening and Appraising (40%)

#### Performing A- 25%

##### Recital (6-9 minutes)

A video recorded recital

Learners will make use of musical elements, techniques and resources to interpret and communicate musical ideas with technical and expressive control and an understanding of style and context. This will be achieved through playing or singing solo or in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music through music technology.

#### Composing A- (35%)

##### Composition of at least three separate pieces of music:

One to a brief set by OCR, one to a brief written by the learner, a specialist study in composition techniques. Combined duration at least 8 minutes.

#### Performing B- (35%)

##### Recital (10-12 Minutes)

A video recorded recital

Learners will make use of musical elements, techniques and resources to interpret and communicate musical ideas with technical and expressive control and an understanding of style and context. This will be achieved through playing or singing solo or in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music through music technology.

#### Composing B- (25%)

Composition of at least two separate pieces of music: One to a brief set by OCR, one to a brief written by the learner. Combined duration at least 4 minutes.

### Listening and Appraising

Written exam responding to extracts on a CD and contextual study of prescribed works and Areas of Study  
Aural recognition and context, unheard/unfamiliar music, analysing and evaluating prescribed music

There are also plenty of opportunities within The Vale Academy Music Department to take part in extra-curricular activities e.g. concert band, samba band, choir, Taiko drums, jazz band and string group to name but a few. The Sixth Form are encouraged to take an active part in lessons with key stage 3 and 4 students in order to pass on and develop their expertise with younger students as we feel this is beneficial to their learning experience and helps them to understand the different approaches to their subject area.

### Why Study Music at A Level?

A level Music is both exciting and rewarding. Unique in its combination of academic study and creative opportunity, the course is based around developing three key skills; performing, composing and listening, and appraising. A level Music is essential if you are considering a job in the music industry, whether you plan to go down an academic or creative career path. It is also a strong choice if you are passionate about music for its own sake and simply want to study it in depth.