



A Level Music
Transition
Activities



Summer Preparation

Over the summer you are required to complete some activities to help us identify your musical skills and to prepare you for the start of the A Level Music course.

The new A level course looks very demanding so preparing over the summer will be essential for you to achieve highly.

There are three main musical areas, listening & appraising, composing and performing that are tested throughout A level music, we would like you to complete some tasks for each of these areas.

Performing

Prepare a '2 minute wow' performance. This can be any piece (or part of a bigger piece), in any style and played on any instrument. We want your piece to reflect your ability so please choose a piece graded at your current standard. Please keep your performance to 2 minutes maximum in length.

Composing

Task 1: Create an account on www.noteflight.com and compose a short piece of music for any combination of instruments or a solo instrument with accompaniment part. We would like you to create a brief for this composition which could be related to a style or genre, to accompany a scene or tell a story.

You can use the share button to send your composition with Mr Parker (one of the A level music teachers) his email address is pparker@nsg.northants.sch.uk

Task 2: Complete the theory/exercises at the back of this booklet. If you are struggling with this use www.musictheory.net or www.teoria.com to help.

Listening and Appraising

For A level music you will study 12 set pieces (some involving several movements) from 6 areas of study. This means you are going to cover a wide range of musical styles throughout the history of music. The Pieces are

Area of Study...	Set Works
1: Vocal Music	J. S. Bach, Cantata, Ein feste Burg, BWV 80: Movements 1, 2, 8 Vaughan Williams, On Wenlock Edge: Nos. 1, 3 and 5 (On Wenlock Edge, Is my team ploughing? and Bredon Hill)
2: Instrumental Music	Clara Wieck-Schumann, Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1 Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique: Movement I
3: Music for Film	Danny Elfman, Batman Returns: Main theme (Birth of a Penguin Part II), Birth of a Penguin Part I, Rise and fall from grace, and Batman vs the Circus Bernard Herrmann, Psycho: Prelude, The City, Marion, The Murder (Shower Scene), The Toys, The Cellar, Discovery, Finale
4: Popular Music and Jazz	Kate Bush, Hounds of Love: Cloudbusting, And dream of sheep, and Under ice Beatles, Revolver: Eleanor Rigby, Here, there and everywhere, I want to tell you, and Tomorrow never knows
5: Fusions	Debussy, Estampes: Nos. 1 and 2 (Pagodes and La soirée dans Grenade) Anoushka Shankar, Breathing Under Water: Burn, Breathing Under Water and Easy
6: New Directions	Kaija Saariaho, Petals for Violoncello and Live Electronics Stravinsky, The Rite of Spring: Introduction, The Augurs of Spring, and Ritual of Abduction

You will need to become familiar with all of these pieces/movements, and make links between them and other pieces in the same/similar style, these are called wider listenings.

Please complete an elements analysis or MADTSHIRT analysis (using the following table and grids on the next 4 pages) of the following pieces.

Danny Elfman: Batman Returns.

'Birth of the Penguin Part 1' and 'Batman v's the Circus'

Bernard Hermann: Psycho.

'Prelude' and 'Toys'

Audio files can be found here

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10RlckzKJd_NvRK1TAroGG-jwVMV9mynz

On the following page is the MADTSHIRT grid sheet to help you

Melody:

Conjunct/Disjunct

Range/Pitch

Ascending/Descending

Diatonic/Chromatic

Phrasing

Ostinato/Riff

Leitmotif

Improvisation

Sequence

Imitation

Syllabic/Melismatic

Word painting

Articulation

Legato/Staccato

Accents

Ornamentation
(Tremolo/Trill)

Grace notes

Glissando

Pitch Bend

Dynamics

Terraced Dynamics

Sforzando

Crescendo

Piano (*p*) - Mezzo Forte (*mf*) - Forte (*f*)

Diminuendo

Tempo

Rubato

Free time

Accel.

Grave - Largo - Moderato - Allegro - Vivace

←

Rit.

Structure

Popular Song Form:

Verse/Chorus/Solo/
Bridge/Outro

Sonata Form:

Introduction/Exposition/
Development Section/
Recapitulation

ABA...

Theme & Variations

Harmony & Tonality

Pedal/Drone

Consonant/
Dissonant

Harmonic Rhythm

Diatonic/Chromatic

Major/Minor

Modulation
(key change)

Tonic/Dominant/
Relative minor

Perfect Cadence

Imperfect Cadence

Instrumentation, Sonority, Timbre

SATB

Brass: Trumpet,
Trombone, Tuba

Woodwind: Flute,
Clarinet, Sax, Oboe

Strings: Violin, Cello,
Double Bass

Arco/Pizzicato

Keyboards: Piano, Synth,
Harpsichord

Percussion (Drum fills)

Ensemble/Band

Distortion/Reverb

Rhythm & Metre

Straight/Swung

Note lengths:
Crochet (1/4)
Quaver (1/8)
Semiquaver (1/16)

Triplets

Dotted rhythms

Syncopation

Simple Time:
2/4, 3/4, 4/4

Compound Time:
6/8, 12/8

Texture

Unison

Octaves

Monophonic

Homophonic

Polyphonic

Imitation

Canon

Melody Dominated Homophony

Birth of the Penguin part 1 from Batman Returns

Melody	Rhythm and Metre
Structure	Texture
Harmony and Tonality	Instrumentation / Playing Techniques

Batman v's the Circus from Batman Returns

Melody	Rhythm and Metre
Structure	Texture
Harmony and Tonality	Instrumentation / Playing Techniques

Prelude from Psycho

Melody	Rhythm and Metre
Structure	Texture
Harmony and Tonality	Instrumentation / Playing Techniques

The Toys from Psycho

Melody	Rhythm and Metre
Structure	Texture
Harmony and Tonality	Instrumentation / Playing Techniques

And Finally....

Please also complete the ABRSM Grade 5 theory paper (S) to the best of your ability. It should take a maximum of 2 hours to complete (in the transition work folder : Link is here.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10RlckzKJd_NvRK1TAroGG-jwVMV9mynz)