



Parents' Guide to Preparing for Examinations in GCSE Music



The Music department have prepared several ways in which students can be supported in preparing for their GCSE exam in Music. The course is assessed across three components (details below). The resources and advice below can be used in preparation for the mock exams as well as the real examinations in the summer. All the resources are created with the aim of streamlining and simplifying the revision process so that no matter the grade a student is capable of, they are easily able to access the content and enter the exam with a full awareness of what they need know.

Music revision – Friday Lunchtimes. This is initially provided to support specific groups of students with composition intervention. As coursework deadlines and mocks approach, revision sessions are to be made available to a wider range of students. Details of these will be provided by Mrs Tomlin. Students are also encouraged to direct revision queries or requests for support to Miss Lockey, the head of department.

Microsoft Teams – as part of the revision site for the Year 11 students, there are a range of specifically designed resources aimed at making sure revision is as straightforward as possible. Students should consider the use of traditional revision guides in addition with the resources available on the Year 11 revision area.

These include:

- GCSE Vocabulary and Knowledge Organisers
- Key Vocab flashcards – students can use these to create flashcards and test themselves on the definitions
- Listening practice questions and listening logs
- Revision content for all areas of study and set works – *Western Classical Tradition, Traditional Music, Queen and Beethoven*

Dates of GCSE Music exams in Summer 2026:

Listening Paper – 1h 30min – 5th June 2026 (PM) – 40% of GCSE

GCSE Performances - Recordings to take place during w/c 30 March 2026 – *one solo performance, one ensemble performance, total 4 minutes minimum, 30% of GCSE*

GCSE Compositions – To be completed by Easter 2026 – *one free composition, one brief composition (briefs provided by AQA), total 3 minutes minimum, 30% of GCSE*

(Final deadline: 7 May – all performances and compositions need to be internally assessed and moderated by this deadline)

Students have studied the content on the AQA specification and there is no tiered entry – all students complete the same exam.

If students feel they need any further support or guidance in GCSE Music, they should direct questions to Mrs Tomlin in the first instance. The whole department wishes students the very best of luck in their mock and summer exams. We are incredibly grateful for support from parents/carers.

The Music department

September 2025