

Music

GCE Student Guide

This specification outlines the content and assessment arrangements for the new CCEA AS and A2 courses in music.

Teaching of the new AS will begin in September 2016 with the first awards being made in summer 2017 and the first awarding of the full A level occurring the following year.

Students can take the AS course as a qualification in itself or as part of the full GCE A level. The AS course is worth 40 percent of the full A level with the A2 course accounting for the remaining 60 percent.

Why study Music?

The AS and A2 specifications are not just for students who are considering specialising in music at university or music college and neither are they solely aimed at those with a classical training.

Of course the CCEA qualification provides applicants for these institutions in Northern Ireland and further afield with the necessary knowledge and skills, but an A level in music is a valuable asset regardless of the career path which may eventually be followed.

For someone who has talent as a performer, who enjoys composing their own music, who is interested in music technology or who simply enjoys music of any description, GCE Music offers a way to develop their potential and to ultimately achieve a worthwhile qualification.



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What will I study?

Unit	Areas of Study
AS 1	Solo performance
AS 2	Composition or composition with music technology
AS 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music for Orchestra 1700–1900• Sacred Vocal Music (anthems)• Secular Vocal Music (musicals)
A2 1	Solo performance
A2 2	Composition or composition with music technology
A2 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music for Orchestra in the Twentieth Century• Sacred Vocal Music (mass/requiem mass)• Secular Vocal Music 1600 to the present day

How will I be assessed?

Unit	Assessment Description	Weighting
AS 1	A solo performance at a level equivalent to at least Grade 4 standard of 5 to 7 minutes duration and a viva voce assessed by a Visiting Examiner	32.5% of AS 13% of A level
AS 2	An internally assessed composition task or composition task with music technology of 1½ to 2½ minutes' duration accompanied by a written commentary of no more than 1000 words	32.5% of AS 13% of A level
AS 3	A 1 hour test of aural perception and a 2 hour written examination	35% of AS 14% of A level
A2 1	A solo performance at a level equivalent to at least Grade 5 standard of 8 to 10 minutes duration and a viva voce assessed by a Visiting Examiner	19.5% of A level
A2 2	An internally assessed composition task or composition task with music technology of 2 to 3 minutes' duration accompanied by a written commentary of no more than 1200 words	19.5% of A level
A2 3	A 1¼ hour test of aural perception and a 2 hour written examination	21% of A level

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What can I do with a qualification in music?

A wide variety of job opportunities are available in music or associated areas for suitably qualified and motivated people.

- The most obvious careers are those which are directly involved with creating and performing music such as instrumentalists, singers, accompanists, conductors, composers and arrangers.
- There are various types of music teaching jobs in the primary and secondary sectors with more specialised work in third level institutions such as universities and colleges. Instrumental and vocal tuition (whether classical, traditional, jazz or popular) may be carried on privately or on a peripatetic basis.
- For those with a background in music technology there is the possibility of employment in the recording industry as a composer, producer or sound engineer.
- Instrument making and repair are sometimes overlooked and yet provide a lucrative income because of the specialised nature of the work.
- There are numerous jobs associated with music such as arts management, music publishing, musicology and music journalism.
- Music is also a rewarding leisure activity for those who take part in choirs, bands and amateur ensembles or simply enjoy attending concerts or listening to music.

To find out more, visit the **CCEA Website** for the latest support and updates for this subject.

