



AS level Music AQA Specification

Aims

The AS and A2 specifications provide a worthwhile, satisfying and complete course of study which broadens experience, develops imagination, fosters creativity and promotes personal and social development.

In particular, the AS and A2 specifications in music encourage candidates to:

- extend the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to
- communicate through music and to take part in music-making;
- engage in, and extend their appreciation of, the diverse and
- dynamic heritage of music, promoting their spiritual and cultural
- development;
- develop particular strengths and interests, encouraging life-long learning and providing access to music-related careers.

**The Scheme of Assessment has a modular structure.
The Advanced Subsidiary (AS) award
comprises three compulsory assessment units.**

Understanding Music (40% of AS)

A 2½ hour listening and written examination in two sections.

Area of Study 1: *The Western Tonal Tradition, 1700-1850.*

Questions on three set works will include detailed analysis of short recorded excerpts and printed passages and a choice of essay questions. Scores will not be required in the examination room.

Area of Study 2: *Change and Development in a Musical Genre, Style or Tradition.*

There will be a choice of essay questions on a topic chosen by the teacher.

Composing (30% of AS)

Candidates will submit **two** compositions, at least **one** of which is stimulated by the music studied in Unit 1 and at least **one** of which is written in a recognisably tonal idiom. One composition must be capable of being realised as part of Unit 3. The total playing time should normally be of between 4 and 10 minutes.

Completed work will be submitted for external assessment by AQA examiners.

Performing (30% of AS)

Candidates will perform a programme of *ensemble* music on instruments or voices of their choosing of between 5 and 10 minutes.

In addition, candidates will prepare a realisation of **one** of the pieces composed in Unit 2. This may involve the rehearsing and directing of others or a realisation by the candidate alone, perhaps involving the use of music technology. Both performances will be centre-assessed and recorded and then externally moderated by the AQA