

AS MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Edexcel AS level specification 8MT1

"People today are still living off the table scraps of the sixties"
Bob Dylan

Unit	Unit Title	Duration	Mode of Assessment	Weighting at AS
1	Music Technology & Portfolio	60 hours	Practical	70%
2	Listening & Analysing	1 hour 45 minutes	Examination using creative techniques	30%

Style of Work:

70% practical skills; 30% study of popular music 1910 to 2010

AS studies centre on:

- Studio recording techniques – recording vocalists, bands, ensembles
- Creating music using a computer – backing tracks & arrangements
- The development of pop & jazz music over the last 100 years

Practical work includes learning how to capture, process and mix performances to make high quality recordings. Study will include the use of the equipment in the Recording Studio and the art of recording vocalists, solo instrumentalists, pop bands, jazz bands, choirs etc. Students will also learn how to play music into a computer using a piano keyboard, how to edit their performances and how to create high quality recordings on a CD or mp3 player.

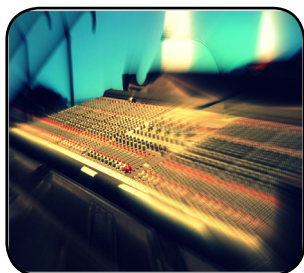
The aim of the study for the listening paper is to help students understand more about the development and influence of technology on music over the past 100 years. Students will be asked to listen to lots of music, including music from their favourite artistes, music from other artistes and recordings from different styles – everything from Soul to Rap music, Rock 'n' Roll to Reggae, Blues to Disco.

The examination consists of listening to a CD with 8 -10 tracks of popular music from the past 100 years and answering questions about the genre, the processes used to record the song and maybe differences between recording a song in the 60s and recording the same song now – with all the latest equipment available.

Course Prerequisites: an interest in popular music and be able to sing and/or play an instrument. There is an advantage in being able to play piano to about Grade 2 standard, or above, but it is not essential to undertake the course. GCSE in Music is also an advantage – but again not essential for this course.

Why Music Technology?

- I want to broaden my knowledge of music, and to explore new ways of creating music.
- I might like to consider a career as a sound engineer, record producer or music teacher.



A2 MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Edexcel A2 level specification 9MT01

"Rock and roll isn't a career or hobby - it's a life force...it's just something I have to do" The Edge

Unit	Unit Title	Duration	Mode of Assessment	Weighting at AS
3	Music Technology & Portfolio 2	60 hours	Practical	60%
4	Analysing & Producing	2 hours	Examination using creative techniques	40%

A2 studies centre on producing a CD recording of the three practical projects:

- Studio recording techniques – a 12 – 24 track recording with vocals
- Creating music using a computer – create a backing tracks & live audio
- Composition using music technology – writing a short piece to a set brief

Practical work includes learning how to capture, process and mix performances to make high quality recordings. Study will include the use the equipment in the Recording Studio and the art of recording vocalists, solo instrumentalists, pop bands, jazz bands, choirs etc. Students will also play music into a computer using a piano keyboard to create backing tracks and create a composition, for example, the music for a 3 minute film or the product launch of a new car or range of clothes.

The written paper involves recreating a recording of a short song. The basic material will be provided by Edexcel but students will need to copy and paste parts of the song to create the structure of the piece: play in certain tracks e.g. the bass part and add effects such as reverb, chorus and delay to the vocal parts to achieve the right amount of processing. This is a totally new style of examination - but is based on what life is really like in today's recording/production/film industry.

Course Prerequisites:

A good grade in AS Music Technology. It is important that the student has an interest in popular music and also has the ability to sing and/or play an instrument.

