Years 10 & 11 Curriculum
GCSE: Music

Year 10	Term 1 (Autumn)		Term 2 (Spring)		Term 3 (Summer)	
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic	**AoS2: Popular Music**	**AoS3: Traditional Music**	**Study Pieces: Queen**	**AoS1: Western Classical Music**	**AoS1 Study Piece Beethoven** *(symphony No.1 , Movement 1: Adagio molto – Allegro con brio)* **NEA: Free Composition**	**AoS4: 1900-Present Day** **NEA: Free Composition**
Key Concepts	**Composition** • Developing motifs, riffs, ostinato, chord sequences, melody writing, writing for new instruments **Listening & Performance** • Music of Broadway • Rock Music of 1960s & 1970s • Film and gaming music Pop music 1990s present	**Listening & Performance** • Blues music • African and Caribbean fusion music • Contemporary Latin music Contemporary Folk music of the British Isles	**Listening & Understanding** • Study and analyse 3 songs from Queen: 1. Seven Seas of Rhye 2. Love of my Life • Bohemian Rhapsody	**Listening & Performance** • Baroque Anthems & Oratorios • Classical Orchestra Music • Romantic Piano Music • Romantic Requiems	**Listening & Understanding** Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A major, 3rd movement, Rondo. Understanding the composer's writing. **Composing** • Start free composition. Develop, extend and manipulate musical ideas	**Listening & Performance** • Minimalism • Copland • British Music • Orchestral Music **Composing** • Continue free composition. Develop, extend and manipulate musical ideas

Year 11	Term 1 (Autumn)		Term 2 (Spring)		Term 3 (Summer)	
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic	**AoS3: Study Piece** ***Queen - recap*** **NEA: Brief Composition**	**AoS1 Study Piece** ***Beethoven – recap*** **NEA: Brief Composition**	**NEA: Performance** **NEA: Composition**	**NEA: Performance Submission** **NEA: Composition Submission**	**Listening Exam Prep**	
Key Concepts	**Listening & Composing** • Detailed analysis of the study pieces **Composition** • Start brief composition. • Developing stylistic features • Writing to a brief	**Listening & Composing** • Detailed analysis of the study piece **Composition** • Continue brief composition. • Developing stylistic features • Writing to a brief	**Performance** • Rehearsal for performance **Composition** • Develop, extend and manipulate musical ideas	**Performance** • Performance – accuracy and interpretation • Record performances **Composition** • Develop, extend and manipulate musical ideas	**Listening** • Bringing together listening homework and focus on the exam – Context, Texture, Harmony, Expression, Form, Instrumentation, Rhythm, Melody	

Exam Board: AQA

Updated: September 2026

Years 10 & 11 Assessment
GCSE: Music

All pupils will sit several knowledge tests and a mock examination in Year 10. In Year 11, pupils will sit an assessment and a mock examination.

	Year 10		Year 11		
	Knowledge Tests	**Mock Exam**	**Assessment**	**Mock Exam**	**Revision Resources**
	Autumn/Spring Terms	**Summer Term**	**Autumn Term**	**Autumn Term**	*Kennet Resources* • Core Questions • Knowledge Organisers • Learning Habits *External Resources* • YouTube AQA Playlist • Musictheory.net • BBC Bitesize GCSE Music
Style of Assessment	20 multiple-choice questions	**Listening & Apprising Music** A variety of eight short questions based on unfamiliar listening	**Listening & Appraising Music** A variety of six short questions based on unfamiliar listening. One longer question based on the study pieces *(Queen)*	**Listening & Appraising Music** A variety of eight short questions based on unfamiliar listening. Two longer questions based on the study pieces (Beethoven and Queen)	
Topics Assessed	• MAD T SHIRT – Melody, Articulation, Dynamics, Texture, Structure, Harmony, Instrumentation, Rhythm, Tempo and Time Signature	• AoS 1: Western Classical Tradition from 1650 – 1900 • AoS 2: Popular Music • AoS3: Traditional Music • AoS4: Western Classical Tradition 1900+ *(no set works included on this assessment)*	• AoS 1: Western Classical Tradition from 1650 – 1900 • AoS 2: Popular Music (including the *Queen* study pieces) • AoS 3: Traditional Music • AoS 4: Western Classical Tradition 1900+	• AoS 1: Western Classical Tradition from 1650 – 1900 *(including the Beethoven Study Piece)* • AoS 2: Popular Music (including the *Queen* Study Pieces) • AoS 3: Traditional Music • AoS 4: Western Classical Tradition 1900+	

Note: GCSE Music also includes Coursework elements. In Year 10 these are undertaken in the Summer Term (composition); In Year 11 the final recording (performance coursework) and final submission (composition coursework) takes please in the Spring Term.

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