



**GUISELEY
SCHOOL**



Eduqas A Level Music Level Overview

The A level course is a 2-year course.

There are 3 strands to the course:

- Appraising Music
- Performing Music
- Composing Music

Appraising Music (40%)

This is a 2-hour 15-minute written exam consisting of **listening, score analysis, and essay** questions.

It covers three distinct Areas of Study (AoS):

- **Area of Study A:** The Western Classical Tradition focuses on the Development of the Symphony (1750–1900).
Requires detailed analysis of one set work (such as Haydn's Symphony No. 100 (Military), alongside a broader study of the genre (the symphonic work) from the Classical to late Romantic periods.
- **Area of Study C:** Musical Theatre focusing on composers like Rodgers (Oklahoma!), Bernstein, Claude-Michel Schönberg, Sondheim, Lloyd Webber, and Schwart).
Area of Study E: Into the Twentieth Century focusing on Impressionism, Expressionism, and Neo-classicism with set works by composers, Debussy and Poulenc. This area of study focuses on the distinct musical styles of the early twentieth century, which was a time of change and experimentation in music.

Whilst you are assessed on your knowledge of the set works as part of extended responses, you have access to blank scores in the exam to aid retrieval.

Performing and Composing Music (60%)

You can choose to 'specialise' in performance or composition – whilst you complete both, the discipline you specialise in will have a heavier recital or portfolio.

Option A	Option B
Performance (35%): A recital lasting 10–12 minutes . You must perform a minimum of three pieces, covering at least two different Areas of Study (Pop and Rock, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Classical). At least one piece must be a solo .	Composition (35%): Three compositions with a total duration of 8–10 minutes . One piece is written to the Western Classical brief , the second must link to a completely different Area of Study (e.g., Rock and

Composition (25%):

Two compositions with a **total duration of 4–6 minutes**. **One piece must be written in the Western Classical Tradition** in response to a **brief** set by Eduqas; the **second** is a **completely free** composition.

Pop, Jazz, or Musical Theatre), and **the third** is a **free** composition.

Performance (25%):

A recital **lasting 6–8 minutes**. You must perform a **minimum of two pieces**, covering at least **one Area of Study**.

Performance

The performance recital is complete in Year 13 and is in front of a live examiner – this is different to a recorded performance in GCSE Music.

Composition

As part of your composition portfolio, you keep a composition log outlining your process of development and refinement of your compositions. Compositions are completed before Easter of Year 13.