

## Specification

Exam Board— Edexcel

[www.qualifications.pearson.com](http://www.qualifications.pearson.com)

## Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 6 in Music

If not studied previously at least GCSE Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature and ABRSM (or equivalent) Grade 5 or 6 in an instrument or voice

*For further details please contact*

**Mr R Garbett, Head of Music**

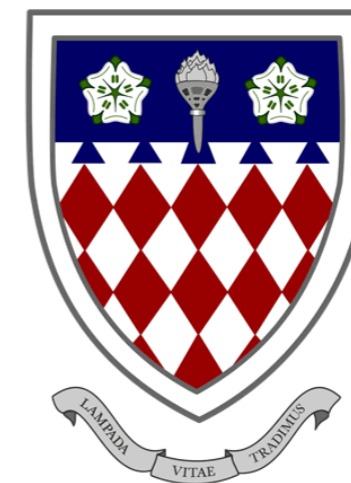
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# Spalding High School Sixth Form

# A Level Music



## Why Choose A Level Music?

A Level Music encompasses three areas of focus

- Listening
- Performing
- composing.

It caters for all musicians, singers or instrumentalists, who have already achieved a GCSE grade B and/or achieved grade 5 standard or above on their instrument/voice. It provides an extension to the skills learned at GCSE with the opportunity to develop more detailed knowledge of specific topics through focused study.

As one of this country's biggest industries, music is an ever expanding subject with countless benefits.

A level Music is challenging and rewarding, and can lead to university and conservatoire degree courses in a wide range of institutions. It demands commitment but provides scope for personal and intellectual development.

## What career paths might I follow with A Level Music?

Music offers a wide range of career paths, from all kinds of performance work to composing for TV/film/radio, access to the performing arts and theatre, journalism and research, teaching, music therapy, instrument making, studio technology and much more. It has a close affinity with dance and literature too, offering broader career choices.

The range of jobs can seem quite endless. There are more jobs than ever in music business related areas, such as careers in digital marketing, social media, PR, technology, label services, ticketing and merchandising, and it is also common to find music graduates in consultancy, finance, banking and legal jobs.

## What is the content of the course and how is it assessed?

### Component 1: Performing (Component code: 9MU0/01)

*Non-examined assessment: externally assessed*

**30% of the qualification**

**60 marks**

#### Assessment overview

- A public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital.
- Performance can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology.
- The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of 8 minutes.
- Performances must be recorded after 1 March in the year of certification and all materials for assessment submitted to arrive by 15 May in the year of certification.

### Component 2: Composing (\*Component code: 9MU0/02)

*Non-examined assessment: externally assessed*

**30% of the qualification**

**60 marks**

#### Assessment overview

- A total of two compositions, one to a brief set by Pearson and one either free composition or also to a brief.
- One composition must be from either a list of briefs related to the areas of study, or a free composition, carrying 40 marks for this component. This composition must be at least 4 minutes in duration.
- One composition must be from a list of briefs assessing compositional technique, carrying 20 marks for this component. This composition must be at least 1 minute in duration, unless the brief specifies a longer minimum duration.
- The total time across both submissions must be a minimum of 6 minutes

### Component 3: Appraising (\*Component code: 9MU0/03)

*Written examination: 90 minutes*

**40% of the qualification**

**100 marks**

#### Content overview

- Knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language.
- Application of knowledge through the context of six areas of study, each with three set works.
  - Vocal Music,
  - Instrumental Music,
  - Music for Film,
  - Popular Music and Jazz,
  - Fusions,
  - New Directions.
- Application of knowledge to unfamiliar works.

#### Assessment overview

- One written paper of 2 hours, with a total of 100 marks.
- One audio CD per student, with the extracts to accompany questions on the paper, will be given.
- This paper comprises two sections: A and B.