

# Music

## Examination board – Edexcel

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### Edexcel A Level Content

In Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth, girls will follow the syllabus for Edexcel. This comprises the following three components:

**Performing:** You will perform pieces adding up to a minimum of 8 minutes continuous performance (30% of total A level). The performance will be recorded after 1<sup>st</sup> March of Upper Sixth.

**Composing (30% of total A Level):** You will develop musical ideas culminating in one composition from a choice of briefs set by the examination board based on the different Areas of Study or a free composition. This composition should be at least 4 minutes in duration. If you are choosing from a brief, then you will start this composition in Upper Sixth, but if you are choosing to do a free composition, you can start it in Lower Sixth.

Your second composition will assess compositional technique and will be at least 1 minute in duration. For this, you will learn how to harmonise a chorale in the style of J. S. Bach. The brief for the second composition is released in April of the Upper Sixth year.

**Appraising:** You will study 3 set works from the following 6 Areas of Study:

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Directions

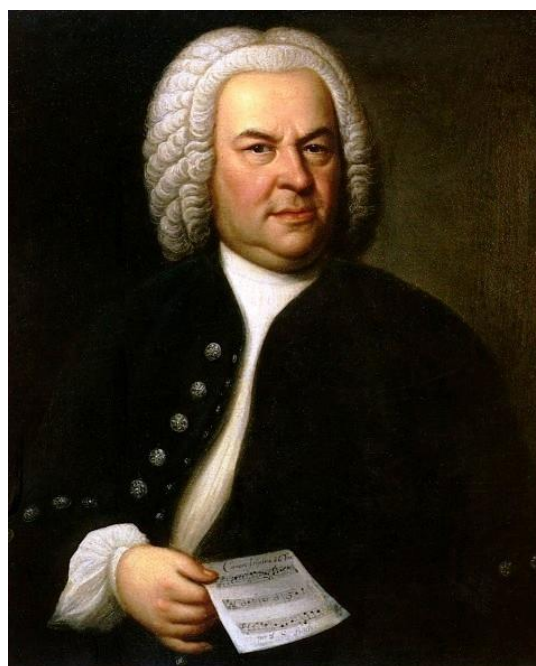
This culminates in a listening examination in the summer of Upper Sixth lasting 2 hours (40% of total A level) divided into the following components:

**Section A:** Areas of study and dictation consisting of listening questions related to set works and melodic/rhythmic dictation.

**Section B:** Extended response consisting of 2 essay questions – one on a piece of unfamiliar music and another writing in detail about a set work in relation to other works.

At the end of Lower Sixth, you will be marked on a 6 minute performance; a composition; a harmonization in the style of Bach and a paper testing your knowledge of the set works studied and related unfamiliar music.

**GCSE Entry requirements:** You should achieve grade 7 – 9 at GCSE in order to study music at A level. You should be at ABRSM grade 7 standard or above and be a confident performer.



Johann Sebastian Bach