

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021

## GCSE Music



# Why choose Music

Music is a vary varied and exciting option to take. Students will enjoy **GCSE Music** if they want to **study** a subject that involves creatively composing or arranging **music**. It gives students the opportunity to create and play **music** with others, for example in a rock group, concert band, or vocal group and learn about different styles of music.

There is only one exam – the rest is course work.

Perhaps most importantly: students are more likely to succeed and achieve a higher grade if they study something they are good at, and enjoy.



# Course Overview

## Composition 30%

Free composition (15%)  
Composition to a set brief (15%)

Your performances for both components must be a **minimum of four minutes** with at least **one minute** as part of an ensemble

Your compositions for both components must be a **minimum of three minutes** long

## Performance 30%

Solo performance (15%)  
Ensemble performance (15%)

## Component 3: Listening and Appraising

Written exam 1hr 30 mins (40%)

# Assessment



## Assessment Objectives

AO1

Perform with technical control, expression and interpretation

AO2

Compose and develop musical ideas with technical control and coherence

AO3

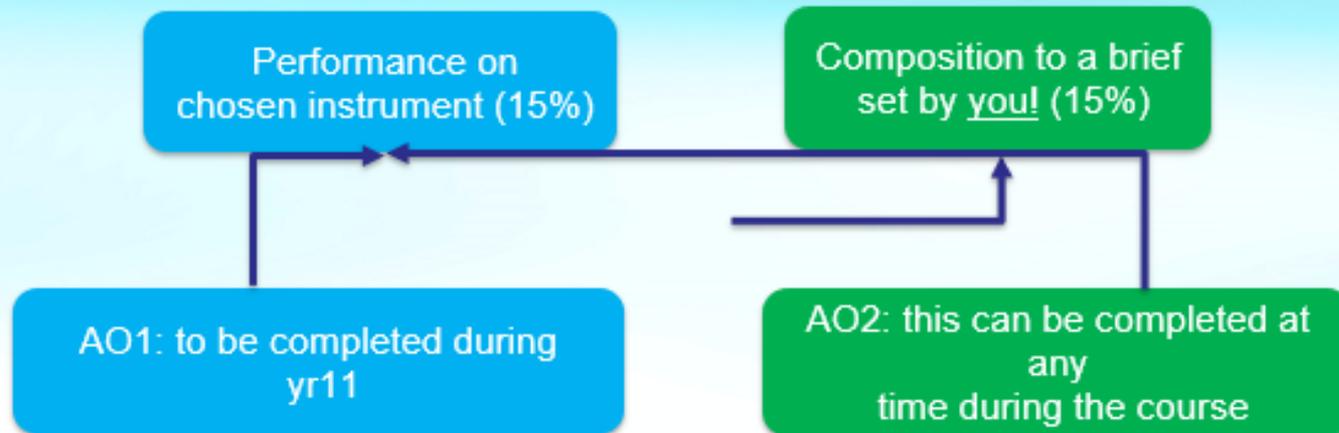
Demonstrate and apply knowledge

AO4

Use appraising skills to make evaluative and critical judgements about music



# Integrated Portfolio: What does it all mean?



## Submission:

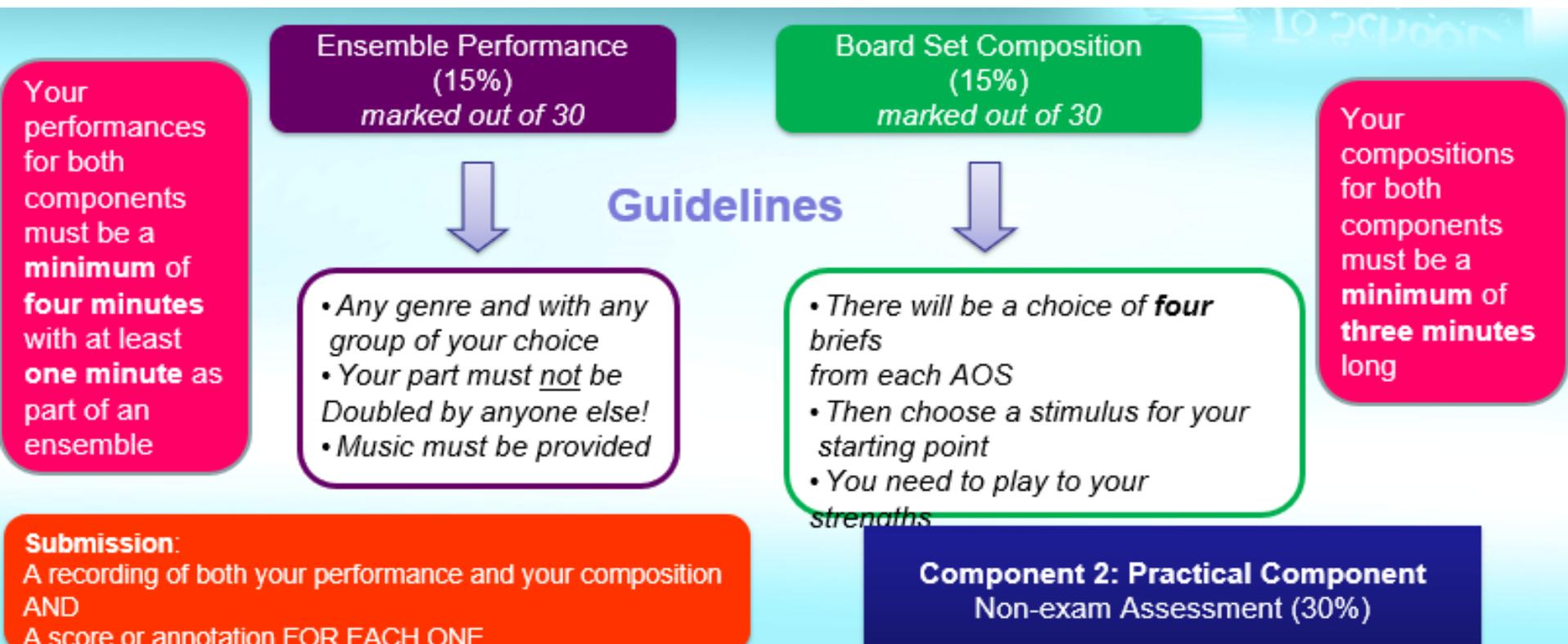
A recording of both your performance and your composition either live or computer generated

AND

A score or annotation FOR EACH ONE

**Component 1: Integrated Portfolio**  
Non- exam Assessment (30%)

# Practical Component: What does it all mean?



# Listening and Appraising- Areas of Study

1: My Music

2: The Concerto Through Time



5: Conventions of Pop



Areas of Study

3: Rhythms of the World



4: Film Music

# What do our students say about GCSE Music?

*“GCSE music is a very exciting and varied course, there are 3 main parts that you are assessed on and each is quite different. I enjoy composition the most in music as you can create a piece of your choice and of any genre, you can really go in any direction you want. Performing is also really fun especially near Christmas where we get to create and perform our own Christmas songs!  
I think if you enjoy playing and listening to music and have a real passion for the subject then music GCSE is the course for you!”*

**Jessica F Yr 11**

# FAQs about GCSE Music

## What are the requirements in order to do the course?

There are no requirements in order to be considered for the course.

We would hope that students are familiar with musical vocabulary and technical terms from their KS3 lessons – we offer a theory club to support students too.

We would also hope that they have some experience of performing and composing – even if this is just within school or during individual lessons – you must do a live performance by the end of the course.

## Do I have to be able to play more than one instrument?

There is no need to be able to play more than one instrument. If you choose to take the performance exam, you will need to perform a solo and an ensemble piece. If you do not play a musical instrument, you can choose to select the sequencing route where you would use music technology.

## What standard do I need to be on my instrument?

Ideally, Grade 3 or 4 standard on an instrument (or voice).

## Do I need to be able to read music?

Reading music is a huge advantage but if you do not, this is taught within the course.

# Music

For more information please speak to your Year 9 teacher  
or contact [a.dale@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:a.dale@roundwoodpark.co.uk)

OCR is the exam board we use. You can have a look at the contents of the  
course here:

[www.ocr.org.uk/gcsemusic](http://www.ocr.org.uk/gcsemusic)

