

# Music

**A Level Music** is a stimulating and creative course that develops your performance, composition, and analytical skills.

You'll explore a broad range of music - from classical symphonies to jazz, rock, musical theatre, and contemporary works - while gaining a deep understanding of how music is created, structured, and performed.



“  
*Austin Friars exists to provide excellent education inspired by our Augustinian values.*  
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# AUSTIN FRIARS

This A Level combines practical and academic study, encouraging both creativity and analytical thinking. It provides flexibility to focus on your strengths through Option A (Performance) or Option B (Composition), and offers excellent preparation for university courses in Music, Performing Arts, or related creative industries. Studying Music at A Level builds discipline, teamwork, and communication skills which are valued by universities and employers.

Eduqas offers two pathways (Option A and Option B) within the A Level to suit different strengths and interests. Both lead to the same qualification.

### Course Structure and Assessment:

The course is divided into three components. Students may follow Option A or Option B depending on whether they wish to emphasise performance or composition

### Exam Format:

**Section A** – Listening and Analysis: Short questions on set works and unfamiliar extracts.

**Section B** – Set Works and Essay: Longer written answers analysing specific works and discussing stylistic features.

**Section C** – Unfamiliar Music: Analytical comparison of unseen extracts, applying theory and contextual understanding.  
Duration: 2 hours 15 minutes.

### Entry Requirements:

A minimum of Grade 5 standard (or equivalent ability) on your main instrument or voice. Grade 5 Theory (ABRSM or equivalent) is recommended but not essential. GCSE Music at grade 5 or above is desirable. Students without GCSE Music may be accepted after consultation or audition with the Head of Music. Regular practice and involvement in musical ensembles, choirs, or bands is expected.

### Component 1:

#### Option A: 35% of total qualification

Performance of one or more pieces lasting 10–12 minutes.

#### Option B: 25% of total qualification

Performance lasting 6–8 minutes.

Assessed by a visiting examiner.

Performances can be solo and/or ensemble, and are assessed for technical control, expression, interpretation, and communication.

### Component 2: Composing

#### Option A: 25% of total qualification

Two compositions (total 4–6 minutes):

1. A free composition.
2. A composition to a brief set by Eduqas.

#### Option B: 35% of total qualification

Three compositions (total 8–10 minutes):

1. A free composition.
2. A composition to a brief.
3. A technical study (e.g. Bach chorale, Baroque or Classical exercise).

Internally assessed and externally moderated.

### Component 3: Appraising (40%)

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes

Assesses listening, analysis, and contextual understanding of music.

### Areas of Study:

#### 1. The Western Classical Tradition (1750–1900)

Focus on the development of the symphony, including set works by Haydn, Mozart, and Mendelssohn.

#### 2. A choice of one from:

- Rock and Pop (1960–2000)
- Musical Theatre (1940–1980)
- Jazz (1920–1950)

#### 3. A choice of one from:

- Into the Twentieth Century (e.g. Debussy, Poulenc)
- Into the Twenty-First Century (modern and contemporary works)

Students are encouraged to participate in choirs, orchestras and chamber groups, school concerts and musical productions, composition and recording workshops, and visits to concerts, universities, and professional performances.