

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Exam Board: Edexcel

Assessment methods: Portfolios (40%) and two exams (60%)

Length of Exams: 1 hour 30 minutes and 2 hours and 15 minutes

Breakdown of unit content and tasks:

This course focuses on the role of the Sound Engineer/Music Producer, and is for students looking for a practical course where they can work with sequencing and recording technology to record and compose music. On the course, students explore a range of technology and techniques including MIDI and MIDI controllers, samplers, synthesis, sound manipulation and audio mixing techniques. They learn the principles of multitrack recording and sound capture using a variety of microphone techniques. They also study the development of music technology to the present day.

Component 1 – Recording (20%)

One recording chosen from a list of 10 songs or artists consisting of a minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments. The finished track needs to be between three and three and a half minutes.

Component 2 – Technology-based composition (20%)

This module centres on creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition using synthesis, sampling and creative use of effects. A total of 3 minutes long.

Component 3 – Written exam (25%)

A written exam answering questions on features of the production of some previously unheard music. Students listen to various segments of musical tracks in the exam and answer questions which focus on the development of recording and production technology, principles of sound and audio technology and recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes.

Component 4 – Written/practical exam (35%)

A practical exam in which students mix MIDI and audio tracks together to create a final mix. Each student will be provided with a set of audio/MIDI materials for the practical element of the examination, to include:

- o audio files relating to three instrumental/vocal parts.
- o a single MIDI file from which a fourth instrumental part will be created or synthesised.

Students will correct and then combine the audio and MIDI materials to form a completed mix, which may include creating new tracks or parts from the materials provided.

Course Pre-requisites

Although there is no performance component to this course as such, some piano/keyboard skills are also an advantage, as keyboard is the easiest way to play ideas into the software.

Overlap with other subjects: Music, Maths, Physics, Media Studies, Film Studies and Visual Arts

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