




AQA Music A-level transition work - Summer 2023

A-level Music is a brilliant course, encompassing listening and appraising, performing and composing. The work below is designed to build on the knowledge you have gained studying GCSE Music (or equivalent). If you have not studied GCSE Music and require any further support, please do contact me.

1. Music theory and understanding

- 1) It is helpful at A-level to have a solid understanding of music theory at at least a Grade 5 standard. We will do a short assessment at the beginning of the course for me to establish your current understanding of music theory. Over the summer, you should do some preparatory work.
 - As a minimum, make sure you are confident with the content covered in <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/music/an-introduction-music-theory/content-section-0?intro=1>. 
 - Then work through this content <https://www.mymusictheory.com/grade-5-music-theory-resources/14-grade-5-online-course> 
 - If you have already taken your Grade 5 (or higher) music theory exam, then look at some materials for Grade 6 and above. You can find free materials here. <https://www.mymusictheory.com/learn-music-theory/for-students> 
 - If you do not like using online resources, you could purchase a theory book. The Discovering Music Theory series is good.
- 2) In your GCSE Music course, you will have done some appraising work. Complete the attached worksheet, using technical vocabulary. Bring it to your first lesson. The DR T Smith sheet attached will help you.

2. Performing

There are two tasks here.

- 1) Make sure you keep practising your instrument/voice over the summer. Choose a piece of music that you feel confident playing – at least at the standard that you did your GCSE performance. If possible, perform it with the accompaniment (recorded or live), but do not worry if this is impossible. Record your performance, and take a photo/PDF copy of your sheet music.
- 2) Write a paragraph explaining about your instrumental/vocal experience so far. Here is an example:

I started playing the drum kit when I was in Year 5. I have weekly lessons with Mr John Smith and I have my own kit at home to practise on. I enjoyed playing drum kit for my secondary school jazz band and I still play for the Comberton Town Band. I have recently taken my Grade 6 Trinity Rock and Pop exam which I passed with Merit. I also play the piano. I don't have lessons but I enjoy playing in my own time, and I am working through the ABRSM books. At secondary school I was a member of the choir, where I sang bass, and the brass group as well where I played percussion. We have given many performances including at Ely Cathedral where we sang in a performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah.

- 3) Email me with your work for tasks 1 and 2. cwilson@ccc.tela.org.uk

3. Composing

- 1) For GCSE Music you will have likely created a composition. On your own device, see if you can download Musescore (free of charge) and also open your own free Soundtrap account (soundtrap.com). Both of these will be useful to have on the device you bring to sixth form. If you have access to an Apple device you may prefer to use GarageBand. Use one of these programmes and/or your own instruments/voice to compose a piece of music as follows:

Compose a piece of music that is titled 'A New Day'

It could be an instrumental work, vocal, electronic or a combination. The music should be 1.5 minutes long minimum. Other than that – the choice is yours. Use the skills you have learnt from GCSE Music.

- 2) Email me an mp3 of your work and your score or screenshots from Soundtrap/GarageBand. cwilson@ccc.tela.org.uk

If you have any questions, please do email me either directly or via Mr Bowles and Mr Mepham. I look forward to working with you in September!