

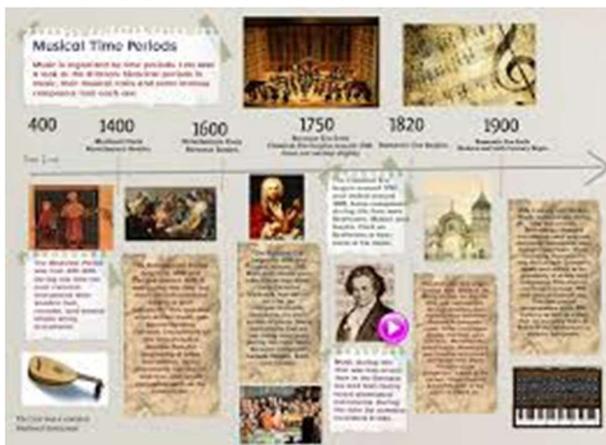
Preparation for AQA Music A Level

A Level Music is a very rewarding subject which requires skills in Listening & Appraising, Performing and Composing. I am really pleased you have chosen to study Music. In order to be fully prepared for the course, the following tasks must be completed and submitted in the first lesson back.

TASK 1:

Researching Area of Study 1: Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910

A Timeline of Musical Events



An example of a Music Timeline

Using the prompts below, create a historical musical timeline of the following three areas: 'Baroque Concerto', 'The Operas of Mozart' and 'The Piano Music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg'.

Use the following prompts to help you create the timeline. It is important that this is well presented as you will be using your timeline throughout the course.

1. Baroque solo concerto:

- When did the Baroque period start and end?
- Define 'Baroque concerto'. Include:
 - Instruments typically used and how the music is structured.
 - The number of movements and how contrast is achieved between movements.
- When did...
 - Purcell write his Sonata for trumpet and strings in D major Z.850?
 - Vivaldi write his Flute Concerto in D Major Op. 10 No3 'Il Gardellino' RV 428?
 - Bach write his Violin Concerto in A minor BWV1041?
- Listen to the first movement from one of the above concertos and notice how the composer writes more technically demanding passages for the soloist.
- Add at least two other Baroque composers who wrote concertos to your timeline. Include dates of composition.

2. The Operas of Mozart:

- When did the Classical period start and end?
- Why is Mozart such an important figure in the Classical period?
- Define 'Classical Opera'.
- When did Mozart write the Marriage of Figaro? List the movements he wrote in order (recitative etc.) and the type of voices he wrote for.
- Listen to the Overture and one other movement.

3. *The Piano Music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg:*

- When did the Romantic period start and end?
- Research the main stylistic features of Romantic Music in the 19th Century. Add these to the timeline.
- When did...
 - Chopin write his Nocturne in E minor Op.72 No1?
 - Brahms write his Intermezzo in A major op. 118 No2?
 - Grieg write his Lyric Pieces Op 54: Norwegian March No2 and Nocturne No4?
- Listen to one of the above pieces and pick out any stylistic features which are typical of the Romantic period.

TASK 2:

Researching Area of Study 2: Pop Music

Listen to the music of the following artists:

Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, Muse, Beyoncé, Daft Punk, Labrinth

- Write about the history of **one of the above artists** and provide information about their significant works. Written work needs to be in the form of a short essay.

How the work will be assessed:

The work will be assessed using the following structure:

9–10 A comprehensive and authoritative response which is consistently coherent and logically structured

7–8 A wide-ranging and confident response which is mostly coherent and well-structured

5–6 A relevant response despite some inaccuracy/omission and weaknesses in terms of coherency and structure

3–4 A limited response with some significant inaccuracy/omission and a lack of clarity

1–2 A rudimentary response

0 No work submitted or worthy of credit

TASK 3:

Performing

Ensure you are doing regular instrumental or vocal practice. It is important that you develop your stamina in performance and use a range of practice techniques in your daily practice.

- You will be asked to **perform a piece of your choice** in one of your first lessons in September. This will help us establish how best we can support you within the Performing component of the course. During the course, we will need to be able to liaise with your instrumental/vocal teacher to discuss suitable performance pieces and share assessment criteria so that we are working together to ensure that you are achieving the best possible grade.

Optional Task:

Write a composition for your instrument or voice. It can be in any style you wish, using a range of techniques specific to your instrument.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please get in touch via email: eshannon@gwacademy.co.uk