

Mayflower High School

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

This course sets out to develop an appreciation and enjoyment of music through three musical elements: appraising, performing and composing. It includes learning about all styles of music from 1700 to the present day, so you should have an open mind to all styles of music. You should be able to play an instrument or sing well, before you start the course. You will be expected to perform by yourself and develop these skills to a higher standard during the course. This should ideally be through individual music lessons or this can be self-taught.

Examination Board: Educas/WJEC

Specification: 601/8131/X

CONTENT OF THE COURSE

Component 1: Performing – 30% of qualification, non-examined assessment

For this part of the course, you will learn how musicians bring pieces of music to life through performance techniques. For your assessment, you will need to perform as a soloist and also as part of a group for a total of at least 4 minutes. Your teacher will record your performances in Year 11. The performances can be instrument or vocal based, including beat boxing, rapping and technology based performances.

Component 2: Composing – 30% of qualification, non-examined assessment

For this part of the course, you will learn how to express creative musical ideas through two compositions. One of the compositions will be based on a brief given by WJEC whilst the other is a free composition brief that you design. Your compositions must last a combined length of at least 3 minutes. You will be able to finalise your compositions using music technology or through live performances. You will also need to produce a score or a written account of how to perform your work.

Component 3: Appraising – 40% of qualification, written examination lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes

You will need to answer questions based on the four areas of study.

Area of Study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Area of Study 2: Music for Ensemble

Area of Study 3: Film Music

Area of Study 4: Popular Music

As well as general musical study about the four areas of study, you will study two set works in depth.

- Badinerie by JS Bach for flute and string orchestra with harpsichord (final movement, orchestral suite No 2 in B minor, BWV 1067)
- Toto: Africa (released 1982)

The majority of questions in the examination will be either multiple choice or short answer questions. However, there will be one question which requires learners to write a longer response to a piece of music.

You cannot choose to study both GCSE Music and BTEC Music

GRADING

GCSE Music will be graded using the 9-1 scale.

CONTACT

Mr J Tuck, Head of Music