

# A Level Music Technology



## Introduction

The Edexcel A Level Music Technology course is designed for students who are interested in the technical side of music production. It provides an in-depth exploration of music technology and how it is used in the creation, production, and manipulation of music in a variety of contexts. The qualification is split into two main components: Theory and Practical Application. The course focuses on both understanding the technical side of music and applying that knowledge creatively.

## What will I learn?

You will:

**Component 1: Recording Techniques:** This section is all about understanding how to record music in a studio environment. Students will learn how to set up equipment, use microphones, mix multiple tracks, and work with different genres of music. Key Skills Covered: Use of digital audio workstations (DAWs) like Pro Tools, Logic Pro, Ableton, or Cubase. Multi-track recording techniques. Microphone selection and placement.

**Component 2: Music Production and Editing:** Students will explore different music production methods and learn how to manipulate recorded sound. Key Skills Covered: Editing and arranging audio using a DAW. Applying effects such as EQ, reverb, compression, and panning. Automation techniques.

**Component 3: Sound Creation and Synthesis:** In this section, students explore how to design and manipulate sounds using synthesizers, samplers, and other sound-creation tools. Key Skills Covered: Synthesizer programming (e.g. sound creation with oscillators, filters, envelopes). Sampling techniques and sound manipulation.

**Component 4: The Music Industry and Technology in Context:** This part of the course involves studying the history and development of music technology, the role of music technology in the music industry, and its influence on different genres. Students also examine how technology has impacted music production, distribution, and performance.

## How will I be assessed?

Component	Type	Weight
Listening and analysis (9MTO/3)	Exam	25%
Production (9MTO/4)	Exam	35%
Composition (9MTO/2)	NEA	20%
Recording (9MTO/1)	NEA	20%

Key Information:

All components are externally assessed.

Assessment includes a mix of:

- Short-answer questions
- Two produced tracks
- Longer essay questions
- Candidates must study technology through the ages.

## Opportunities

We regularly visit recording establishments like The Abbey Road Institute and Air Studios. There are also lots of practical opportunities to mix live bands at concerts or go on the annual European music tour.

## Other subjects?

Many students find the lack of essays and practical tasks are complementary to History, English Literature, Politics and Philosophy while for others, it is a pleasing contrast to Science and Maths.

## Future Careers

This course is an excellent foundation for anyone looking to go into studio recording, live sound management, event promotion, software development, composing music for media and even music journalism. It is well regarded by Universities, showing a broad spectrum of skills.

## Course Information

Course Code - 9MTO

Examination Board - OCR