

Revision Topics for AQA GCSE Music

Understanding Music

Musical Elements: DR P SMITH

You must know your basic elements and all of the associated words and vocabulary as all of the questions in the exam will refer to these in one way or another.

Areas of Study

AoS1: Western Classical Tradition 1650 - 1910

AoS2: Popular Music

AoS3: Traditional Music

AoS4: Western Classical Tradition since 1910

AoS1: Western Classical Tradition 1650 - 1910

1. Coronation Anthems and Oratorios
2. Orchestral Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven
3. Piano music of Chopin and Schumann
4. The Requiem of the late Romantic Period

Set Work (Study Piece)

Haydn, Symphony No. 101 in D Major 'The Clock'

AoS2: Popular Music

1. The music of Broadway 1950s to 1990's
2. Rock Music of the 1960's and 1970's
3. Film and Computer Gaming Music from 1990 to present
4. Popular music from the 1990's to the present

Set Work (Study Piece)

The Beatles, 3 Tracks from Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band

- With a Little Help From My Friends
- Within You, Without You
- Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds

AoS3: Traditional Music

1. Blues Music 1920 - 1950
2. Fusion Music Incorporating African and / or Caribbean Music (Reggae)
3. Contemporary Latin Music
4. Contemporary Folk Music of the British Isles

THE ELEMENTS OF MUSIC		
Elements of Music		Description
D	Dynamics + Articulation	How loud or soft a note or sound is.
R	Rhythm + Tempo	Pattern of sounds based on the 'beat' or 'pulse' of the music. Durations.
P.	Pitch	How high or low a note sounds. Range.
S	Structure	Overall plan for the music. How the different parts of a song are put together
M	Melody	The 'tune' of a piece or song. Usually the memorable part.
I	Instruments + Timbre	The instruments used.
T	Texture	How thick or thin the music is. How many 'layered' parts
H	Harmony + Tonality	Notes played at the same time together. Sits underneath the melody. Character of the sound

AoS4: Western Classical Tradition since 1910

1. The orchestral music of Aaron Copland
2. British music of Arnold, Britten, Maxwell Davies and Tavener
3. The orchestral music of Zoltan Kodaly and Bela Bartok
4. Minimalist music of John Adams

What to Expect from the Exam Paper

There will be 2 sections to the exam paper

Section A

In section A of the exam you will have to listen to unfamiliar music from the previous genres and styles. You will be asked to identify and describe accurately the musical elements, musical language and context of the music you hear

Section B (Extended answers)

You will be asked questions on the set works / study pieces: AoS1 (Haydn) is compulsory and The Beatles tracks from Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.

Additional Revision Resources

FocusOnSound

Username: First initial followed by surname e.g. JBloggs

Password: 2018

(Unless changed since)

There are lots of interactive lessons with interactive features and audio examples for you to listen to. There are also **AQA specific revision resources on FocusOnSound**, there is information about how to approach the questions, particularly section B!

Google Drive and Classroom

Keep checking the Google drive for additional revision resources on the set works and areas of study. There are already some really useful revision videos for you to watch!

Youtube

There is a wealth of educational and instructional content on Youtube for you to find and use to help you build your knowledge about music. Use it!

Spotify / Apple Music / Youtube

Create playlists to listen to specific pieces of music in different styles for the exam. Music is about listening! The better you know the pieces and styles, the better you will be able to answer the questions!

BBC Bitesize

BBC Bitesize also offers some fantastic GCSE music revision content <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zfwv7nb>