

Exam Success



Brookvale Groby
Learning Campus

AQA GCSE Music

AQA
Realising potential

GCSE
MUSIC
(8271)

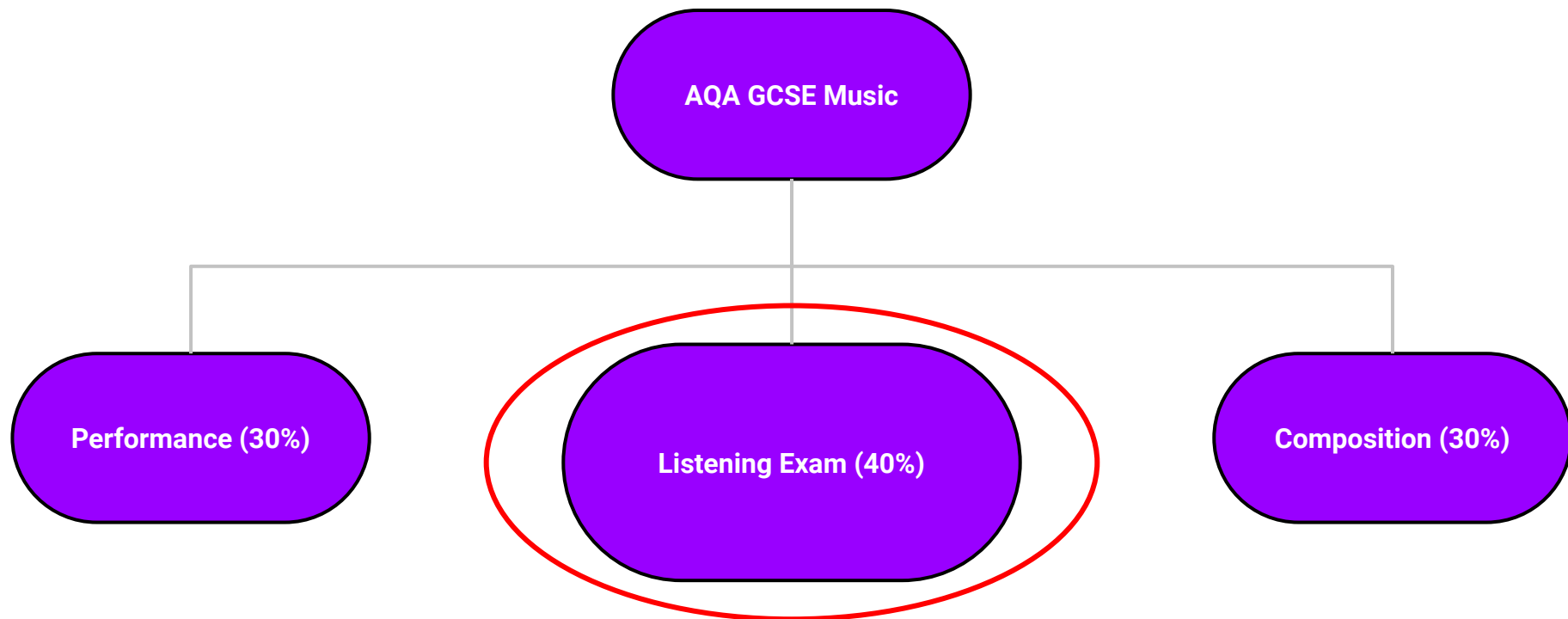
Specification
For teaching from September 2016 onwards
For exams in 2018 onwards

Version 1.7 20 May 2020





AQA GCSE Music 2021





The Exam: Understanding Music

How long? 1 Hour 30 Minutes

How many marks? 96 marks (roughly 1 minute a mark)

What's Assessed?

Listening (ability to listen critically)

Contextual Understanding (wider understanding)

Questions

Section A: Listening - unfamiliar music (68 marks)

Section B: Study Pieces (28 marks)



Component 1: Understanding music

What's assessed

- Listening
- Contextual understanding

How it's assessed

Exam paper with listening exercises and written questions using excerpts of music.

Questions

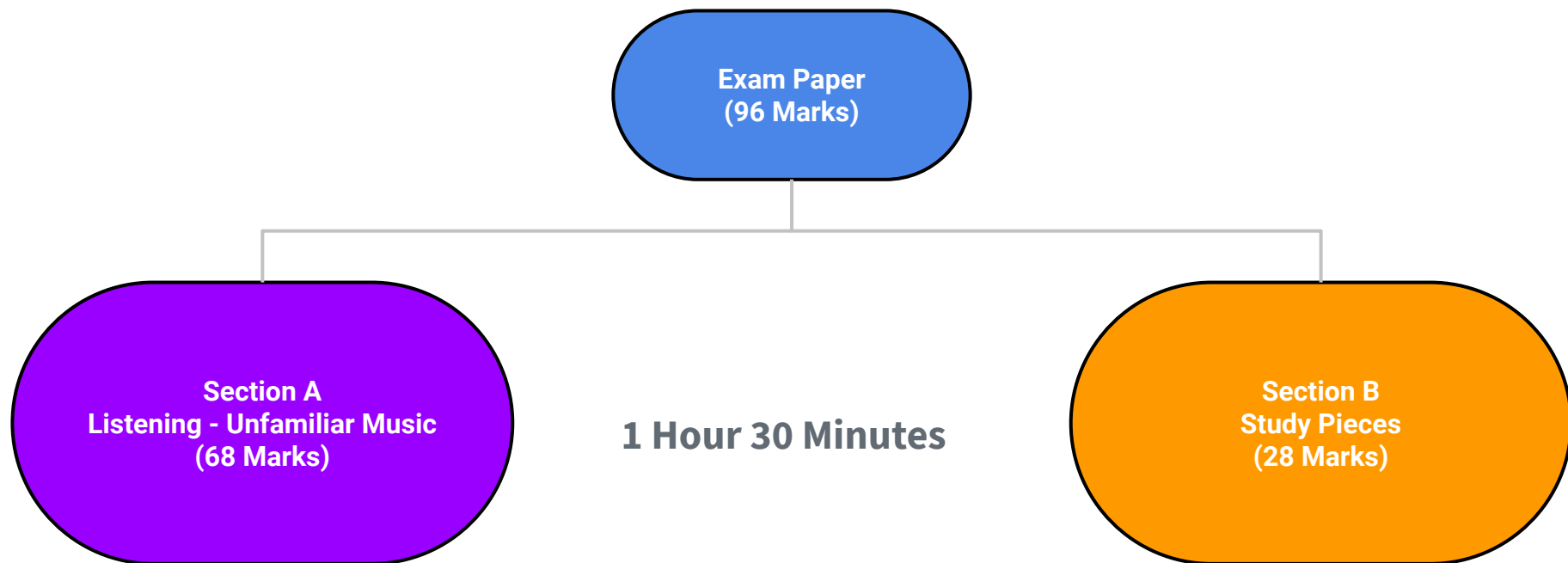
- Section A: Listening – unfamiliar music (68 marks)
- Section B: Study pieces (28 marks).

The exam is 1 hour and 30 minutes.

This component is worth 40 % of GCSE marks (96 marks).



AQA Exam Paper





Section A: Listening Unfamiliar Music



8 Questions: 68 Marks

Played music in a number of different styles.
Students are played the excerpts a set
number of times based on the question

Linked to the 4 'Areas of Study'

1. AOS 1: Western Classical Music
2. AOS 2: Popular Music
3. AOS 3: Traditional Music and Fusion
4. AOS 4: Western Classical Tradition since 1910



Section B: Study Pieces

2 questions: 28 Marks.

Based on 'set works', these are pieces we study in more depth. Mix of short contextual and extended element based questions. Students are tested on their ability to analyse and evaluate music in written form.

AOS 1: The Classical Tradition:

Haydn Symphony 101 "The Clock Symphony"

AOS 3: Popular Music:

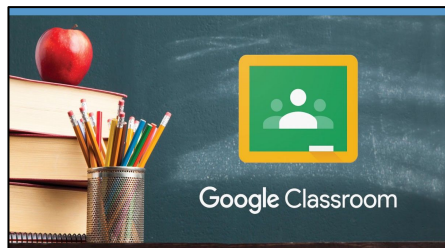
The Beatles - Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band

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

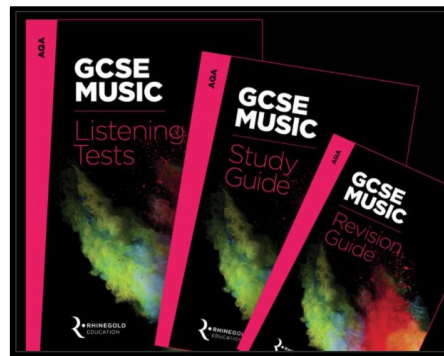




Resources



Google Classroom



Revision Guides

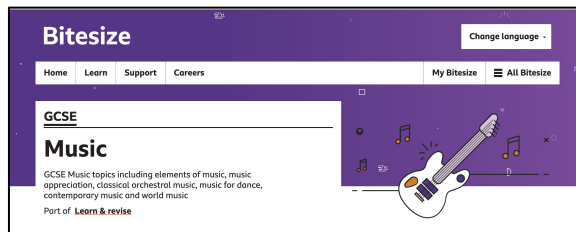


'Exam Buster' Videos

THE ELEMENTS OF MUSIC		Harmonised Triad Formulas		BROOKVALE GROBY LEARNING CAMPUS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: MUSIC	
	Major	Minor			
D Dynamics	How loud or soft a note or sound is	I Min ii Min	I Min ii Min	KEY TERMS	
R Rhythm & Tempo	Pattern of rhythm and the speed of the music	III Min IV Min	III Min IV Min	Intervals	A measure of distance between 2 notes, simple and compound.
P Pitch	How high or low a note is	V Min VI Min	V Min VI Min	Chord Progression	A pattern or succession of chords put together.
S Structure	Overall plan for the music. Has the different parts of a song and sub-plans	VII Min VIII Min	VII Min VIII Min	Simple Time	Time signature where beats can be divided into 2. Ex: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4
M Melody	The 'tune' of a piece. Usually the most memorable part			Compound Time	Time signature where beats are subdivided into 3 rather than 2.
I Instruments	The instruments used			Time Signature	Numbers at the beginning of a piece of music that tell you how many beats it is and how long they are divided up. 4/4 = 4 or four times over in the same time. How notes are combined to create the overall sound. Usually 4/4 and 3/4. Can contrast to any multiple that is an odd.
T Texture	How thick or thin the music is. How many 'layers' of parts			Harmony	
H Harmony	Notes played at the same time together. It is the 'backing' of a piece of music			Tonality	
				Diatonic Harmony	Harmony which uses chords from within a key.
				Chromatic Harmony	Harmony which borrows or uses chords from other keys or outside of the established key. E.g. 2/4, 3/4, 4/4



Knowledge Organisers



BBC Bitesize

GCSE Music Personalised Learning Checklist

Name: _____

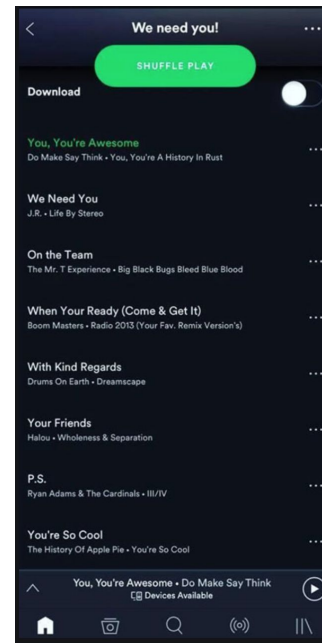
Exam Board	My target grade is
Topic/Module	My predicted grade is
Year Group: 11	Group

Use this checklist before your assessment to focus your work and after to check the effectiveness of your work.

Grade	Description
G	I am confident about this topic and I know what I need to do.
A	I am not too sure about this topic. I may need to check with my teacher and spend more time working on this topic.
R	I am not confident I could answer a question on this topic. I need to check with my teacher and ensure I have what I need to do it.

Week	Topic/Unit Focus	R	A	G
Component 1: Understanding Music	Section 1: You must study Haydn: Symphony 101 in D major 'The Clock', movt. 2 and one of the following options: The Beatles, Santana or Aaron Copland.			
	Haydn: Symphony 101 in D Major 'The Clock', movt. 2			
	Identify Haydn's use of musical elements with some reference to subject terminology.			
	Explain relevant comments on Haydn's use of musical elements with some relevant use of subject terminology.			
	Give clear explanations of Haydn's use of musical elements with appropriate use of relevant subject terminology.			

PLC's




Playlists



Focus On Sound

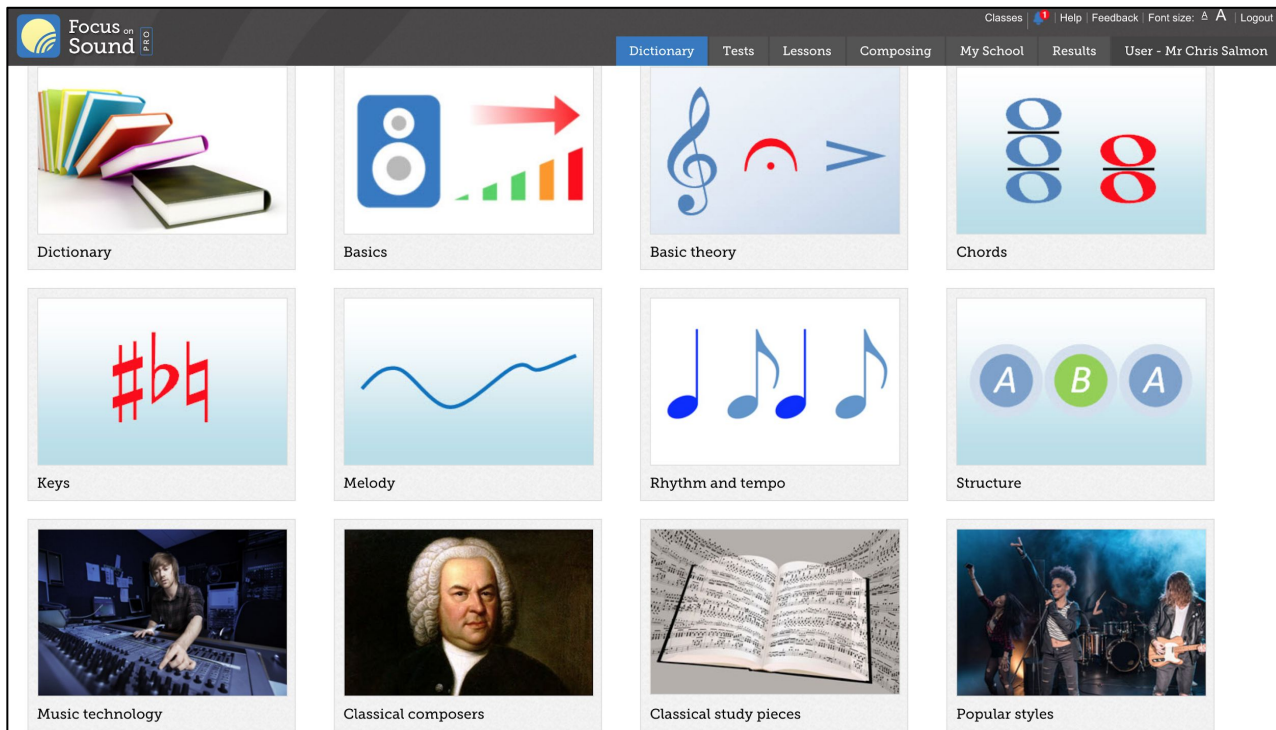
1  Sign in with Google Classroom

 **Google Classroom**
Use your school Google account if the music teacher has set up a Google Classroom log-in to Focus on Sound.

Interactive,
Cloud-based,
Educational Software

Students can develop
their listening skills,
test themselves and
learn about all
aspects of music
through interactive
exercises.

Exam board specific
lessons and tests.



Focus On Sound PRO

Classes 1 Help Feedback Font size: A A Logout

Dictionary Tests Lessons Composing My School Results User - Mr Chris Salmon

Dictionary

Basics

Basic theory

Chords

Keys

Melody

Rhythm and tempo

Structure

Music technology

Classical composers

Classical study pieces

Popular styles



Approaching Exam Questions

- Read the question in full - **what** is the question asking for?
- Pay attention to and highlight the **command words**
- Consider which **elements** the question is focusing on
- How many **marks** are on offer?
- Keep **time** in mind

EXAM HELP!!

0 3 . 6

Identify **three** features of **melody**, **harmony** and / or **texture** used in this excerpt typical of Blues music from 1920 – 1950.

[3 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____



Types of Question

0 1 . 1 Name the brass instruments heard during the instrumental introduction.

[1 mark]

Which of the following best matches the form of the melody in lines 5–8?

[1 mark]

Circle your answer.

AAA¹A¹

AA¹ AA¹

AABB

ABAC

0 2 . 3 Different chords are played in bars 1, 2 and 4. The first chord is major. Describe the chords played in bars 2 and 4 as 'major', 'minor' or 'dominant seventh'.

[2 marks]

bar 2: _____

bar 4: _____

0 8 . 1 Which of the following best matches the pattern of notes played at the beginning of this excerpt?

[1 mark]

Tick your choice.

A

B

C

D



Questions Continued

0 3 . 1 On the score, fill in the missing notes in **bars 3–4** using the given rhythm. [4 marks]

0 5 . 2 On the score, fill in the missing notes in **bars 6 – 7** using the given rhythm. [5 marks]

Andantino

0 1 . 7 Identify **three** features of **melody, harmony** and/or **structure** used in this excerpt typical of contemporary folk music of the British Isles. [3 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

0 4 . 2 Identify **five** features of **melody, harmony, tempo, texture** and/or **instrumentation** used in this excerpt typical of Rock music of the 1960s and 1970s. [5 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____



General Exam Tips!

- Know your elements of music inside and out
- Practice - you can get better at exam questions and better at exams with practice
- Use effective revision techniques - be active - quiz / test yourself etc, rephrase / reword and summarise
- Use the right tools
- Get better at 'active' critical listening
- Play and listen to different styles of music. Use different instruments if you can. Practice reading and writing music.
- Look after yourself - eat well, stay hydrated and have plenty of rest
- Don't Cram!!



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