

Music Technology AS/A level

Introduction

You will enjoy this course if you have a keen interest in recording/sequencing, enjoy creating and listening to different styles of music, and wish to extend your practical experience and understanding. It also involves composition and arrangement, so you should have ability in practical and theoretical aspects of music. The Music Technology course covers two main disciplines, Sequencing and Recording.

Year 1

You will produce an audio CD entitled 'Music Technology Portfolio 1', containing three pieces of work as specified in the three tasks below. You will also present a logbook.

Sequenced Realised performance.

Working from a skeleton score and using computer sequencing software, you will create an arrangement of a popular song specified by the exam board.

Multi-track recording.

Working in the recording studio you will record and mixdown a piece of music from a given area of study. This must consist of 8 live tracks, at least 4 of which must be captured using microphones.

Creative Sequenced Arrangement.

This will be based on one of two prescribed stimuli supplied by Edexcel. The work must show creative development and/or manipulation of the chosen stimulus, and extend to between two and three minutes.

You will also sit an exam:

Listening and Analysing

This will assess knowledge of *Area of Study 2: Popular Music Styles since 1910*, and an understanding of *Area of Study 1: The Principles and Practice of Music Technology*.

Year 2

You will produce an audio CD entitled 'Music Technology Portfolio 2', containing three tracks of work as specified in the three tasks below, plus a logbook.

Sequenced Integrated Performance.

This will be based on a recording of a piece of music selected from a choice of two specified by EDEXCEL, and must contain a live audio recording of vocals which must be integrated with the other sequenced tracks

Multi-track Recording

You will select one recording topic from a choice of two, and record a piece lasting between three and five minutes. Recordings must have between 12 and 24 live tracks (close-mic and direct-inject (DI) capture methods will be required). You will be assessed on the following areas: Capture, Processing, & Mixing.

Composing using Music Technology.

Based on one of three prescribed briefs you will compose a piece lasting between three and four minutes. You will be assessed on Quality of ideas and outcome, Coherence, Timbres and textures, and Music technology skills.

You will also sit an exam: **Analysing and Producing.**

Part 1 will test your musical understanding, your ability to manipulate and correct recorded music **Part 2** will be a practical test involving the production of a balanced stereo mix.

Assessment

The course is externally assessed by coursework and written and practical examination. Coursework is submitted in May, examinations are taken in June.

Specific Entry Criteria

Grade C in English Language. Some musical background is essential, preferably GCSE grade C.