**MUSIC A LEVEL EXAM**

**2 hours to complete:**

* 3x listening tests on ANY of your set works (14 marks each or average of this)
* 1x dictation (8 marks)
* 1x essay on an unstudied piece (20 marks)
* 1x set work essay (30 marks) – A choice of three essay titles will be give, you just write one.

[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiqv7-NqZbbAhXG0RQKHQceDhQQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dreamstime.com%2Froyalty-free-stock-images-four-leaves-clover-good-luck-image23128109&psig=AOvVaw283jI0jNmIU2_amgceBFC9&ust=1526975474493496)*The three essay titles could concern* ***ANY*** *of your set works, but you should only answer a title on Vivaldi, Schumann, Berlioz, Mozart, Bach, Vaughan Williams, Portman, Elfman, Herrmann, Bush, Pine or The Beatles.*

***TOTAL MARKS: 100***

**Suggested timings:**

* 30 mins on set works listening tests (10 mins each)
* 10 mins on the dictation
* 30 mins on Q5 essay
* 40 mins on Q6 essay
* 10 mins checking through paper

**You will have control over the audio tracks during the exam.**

**I would suggest writing the essays first if you think you could run out of time.**

**Listening test tips:**

* Read the listening test questions carefully. If something in the music **changes** then make sure you indicate the order in which the features occur. If you are asked to **compare** features over two sets of bars, make it obvious which sets of bars you are referring to.
* When asked to identify intervals, give a word and a number e.g. ‘perfect 4th’ or ‘minor 3rd’
* Don’t write lengthy sentences or paragraphs – just list key terms
* If you have to guess an answer, think about the essay features we have prepared on the piece and guess one of these features as it could be right!
* Never leave an answer blank
* Look at how many marks a question is worth and make sure you make that number of points in your answer (ideally make more!)

**Question 5 tips:**

* It will link to a set work. At the top of the question it will say which area of study it links to. Work out which of the three set works it is. Use this set work and its wider listening (plus any other pieces you know) as WL links.
* Make a plan.
* Explain the context of the style/genre in the introduction – what the aims of the composers?
* Cover all the elements of music (structure might be hard). It doesn’t matter if some paragraphs are bigger than others.
* Aim for **around an average of 4 points per element of music/paragraph** in total. Make more if you can. Think about **why** this piece has been selected. (A03)
* Always explain WHY a feature was used REFERRING BACK TO the context. DON’T just say ‘it’s typical of the time’. Say WHY it was typical of the time. Refer BACK TO THE ESSAY QUESTION!! (A04)
* Link to as many WL pieces as possible. Aim for at least one link per paragraph. Two or more links in a bigger paragraph. Try to cover around 5 different pieces. Always give composer AND title of piece. Say WHY you are making the link. It should back up your A04 reason. (It’s fine to mention the related set work a couple of times as WL, but don’t do it too often).

**Question 6 tips:**

* Make a plan.
* Make sure the introduction explains the **context** of the piece (where, when, why it was written)
* Each paragraph should have **5/6 absolutely key points** about the piece. The important features. The features which saw this piece get into the A level syllabus. Feel free to make more points per paragraph if you can. Give as much **detail** as you can in every description. Show off as much **terminology** as you can. (A03)
* Every point should contain a reason **WHY** it was used. Refer back to the composers intentions. The more **detail** you can give, the higher the band you will be in. Repeatedly saying a feature is typical of the style = basic reason. (A04)
* Aim to make at least 3 WL links per paragraph. Aim to cover 5/6 WL pieces in total. Try to always refer to pieces of the same genre and same era. These are the best links to make. Say **WHY** you are making the link. It should back up your A04 reason.
* Follow this pattern as much as possible:

A03 🡪 A04 🡪 WL or A04 🡪 A03 🡪 WL

* **BEWARE:** If your AO3 point is not credited, the AO4 and WL connected to it are also not credited.

ESSAYS = Quality not quantity.

Show off detail, use of terminology, understanding of the context in which pieces were written in, your knowledge of related works.

**Revision tips:**

**Listening tests –** Listen to the set works and follow the annotated scores. This way you’ll hear the features as you see them. Use Auralia software to practise dictation and interval recognition. Practise listening tests are on GOL.

**Essay questions** – fill out the big revision grid. Look through revision packs. Practise writing out essays in timed conditions. Practise making essay plans quickly. Read through exemplar essay paragraphs and other resources on GOL.

You can still contact Ceilidh in the lead up to the exam: [CHB@godalming.ac.uk](mailto:CHB@godalming.ac.uk)

Good luck! ☺