

*Thinking about choosing to study Music at Advanced level?*

**or**

*Already studying it and wondering what your next step might be?*

*This worksheet has been designed to help you consider how you can use what you learn from an Advanced level course in Music in your future career planning.*

## + What to study it with?

When choosing to study A level courses full time it is usual to study four subjects at AS level in the first year then three at A2 level in the second year. It is also possible to study some subjects via the vocationally related route (Applied A level double awards and BTEC Diplomas). Music would come under Performing Arts on this route. The other subjects you choose to combine with Music may have an influence upon what you can choose beyond Advanced level, so check out your choice. Although some Advanced level subjects require a good grade at GCSE as a foundation for study at the advanced level, others can be studied from scratch. It's a good idea to check this out before finalising your Advanced level course choices.

CAREER WARNING



# MUSIC

Studying any Advanced level course will give you two main things, knowledge about the content of the subject (the life and works of different composers, writing and performing music, etc.) and skills in how to deal with that content. Although you may not need to remember the content for very much longer than your course, the skills you develop can be built on and used throughout the rest of your life.

## MIX & MATCH +

Music can be combined with complementary subjects such as English, Modern Languages, History, Art, History of Art, Theatre Studies and a vocationally related course in Media or Performing Arts. It can also be combined with contrasting subjects such as Mathematics and Physics. The latter combination is quite popular with science and music students who wish to enter careers in Music Technology as some degree courses require these A2 levels for entry. Music can also be combined with a wide range of other subjects chosen from arts and social sciences.

The higher education and employment scenes are continually changing due to social, economic and political pressures. This worksheet, therefore, is not a definitive guide to your future career but is more of a prompt to get you thinking about making connections between your choice of Advanced level courses and higher education and career opportunities.

<b>Music Skills</b>		⊗Ways in which you might learn
<i>Research skills:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✱ researching a topic by finding and choosing the most appropriate sources to use</li> <li>✱ summarising that information either in writing or verbally</li> <li>✱ reading and interpreting musical compositions and musical scores</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✱ reading and analysing musical scores</li> <li>✱ studying the life and musical works of different composers</li> <li>✱ studying music theory</li> </ul>
<i>Communication skills - written and visual:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✱ putting across clear and relevant information when writing about a subject</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✱ writing musical notations</li> <li>✱ writing about the history and theory of music</li> </ul>
<i>Communication and performance skills:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✱ listening to and memorising detailed instructions</li> <li>✱ listening and responding to others and following cues</li> <li>✱ harmonizing performance with others</li> <li>✱ synchronizing music with other aspects of a performance</li> <li>✱ making value judgements and giving constructive criticism about your own and other's work</li> <li>✱ taking part in discussions and making relevant contributions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✱ listening to music to distinguish composition, style, rhythms, tempo, etc.</li> <li>✱ practising and rehearsing pieces with commitment and perseverance</li> <li>✱ performing solo, with small groups and in large groups</li> <li>✱ following instructions and cues from the conductor and other musicians</li> <li>✱ discussing how to interpret musical pieces</li> </ul>
<i>Creative skills:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✱ composing and writing musical pieces</li> <li>✱ performing with sensitivity and originality</li> <li>✱ demonstrating an awareness of emotional and spiritual needs and the role of music in meeting those needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✱ learning about music, your instrument and how to play and trying to develop your own performing abilities</li> <li>✱ developing an appreciation of and sensitivity to music</li> </ul>

## ⊗ Ways in which you might use

- ✿ writing articles or publicity materials about music for newspapers, journals or production companies
- ✿ organising musical events such as concerts and festivals
- ✿ purchasing and cataloguing music for loan to the public

- ✿ writing original music for orchestras, film and television soundtracks, other musicians
- ✿ publishing musical scores, textbooks and teaching materials

- ✿ working as part of a team
- ✿ playing music in a band or orchestra or at recording sessions
- ✿ using music as a form of therapy, to rehabilitate people with emotional, physical or mental problems
- ✿ teaching other people how to play musical instruments
- ✿ arranging work with orchestras, theatres and recording studios as an agent for other musicians

- ✿ composing music
- ✿ working as a musician
- ✿ working at a challenge, over an extended time period, with self discipline, commitment and perseverance

music

## 🔗 other skills

In addition to the specific skills you will develop whilst studying Music at Advanced level, you may also develop a number of other skills which will be extremely important, whether you go on to higher education or into employment.

### >Improving own learning and performance:

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- dealing with complex subjects
- checking understanding of work set and seeking clarification if unsur
- agreeing and setting targets and planning action
- following a plan to meet targets and making revisions to the plan as necessary
- checking progress with an appropriate person
- identifying any support needed and using it effectively

### >Working with others:

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- planning activities with others
- identifying and agreeing targets with others and checking understanding
- identifying and confirming responsibilities within the group
- agreeing working arrangements with those involved

### >Working with Information Technology:

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- deciding what, when and whether to use information technology
- selecting and using appropriate technological hardware and software to process data, prepare and present information
- identifying support needed and using it effectively

## Music

# C A R E E R c-o-n-n-e-c-t-i-o-n-s

There are a number of careers where having an Advanced level qualification in Music, and all the skills that you develop through studying it, will be very useful. You can find out more about these careers by looking up information in your careers library under the Connexions Resources Classification Index (CRCI) codes listed here. However, it can be useful to put careers related to music into two categories. Firstly, there are some careers which involve studying Music beyond Advanced level and taking a degree or diploma. These include:







CRCI code	Title
Q	Performing Arts
Q	Composing
Q	Conducting
PA	Sound Recording
F	Teaching
PA	Broadcasting and Film
JF	Music Therapy

Secondly, there are those careers which require an interest in Music and the entertainment business generally, but do not always require post Advanced level qualifications in the subject. This could also include some jobs listed above (e.g. Sound recording) as sometimes there are not any clear cut career routes.

D	Computing and IT
PD	Music Publishing
P	Music Agent
PB	Music Journalism
K	Arts Administration
G	Work in Recording Companies
PA	Sound Recording
Q	General information on careers

Although it is possible to enter some of these jobs after Advanced level studies, many of these areas recruit people with higher qualifications so you may need to seriously consider going on to higher education.

## 6 ways to check it out

Yes    No

3

**Remember:** Advanced level course grades can be converted into UCAS points which count towards admission to university so it is important to choose subjects which reflect your interests and abilities

A = 120 points  
 B = 100 points  
 C = 80 points  
 D = 60 points  
 E = 40 points

# Thinking of doing **a** degree?

Music can be studied at a wide variety of institutions. The summary below provides information on the main options.

## Specialist Music College Degrees/Diplomas

The 12 Conservatoires offering specialist diplomas and degrees concentrate exclusively on Music, with an emphasis on performance and composing skills. These institutions offer comprehensive facilities for both instrumental and vocal work. As well as academic qualifications at GCSE level/Advanced level, specific performance grade examination passes are normally required for entry along with an audition.

## Universities and Colleges

A number of universities offer degree courses. In addition to traditional Music degrees, Music can also be combined with other subjects. Entry requirements may include grade examinations and/or Advanced level Music. There are now also a number of specialist courses available focussing on music and digital technology. Course titles include:

- # Music
- # Applied Music
- # Digital Music
- # Music Composition
- # Creative Music Technology
- # Music with Digital Arts Practices
- # Music and Sonic Arts
- # Music Technology and Robotics
- # Music Production
- # Music Acoustics and Recording
- # Music with Entrepreneurship
- # Music and Arts Education
- # Performing Arts (Music)
- # Popular Music Studies
- # Creative Multimedia
- # Jazz & Popular Music
- # Music Industry Management & Marketing
- # Forensic Investigation with Music
- #
- # Acoustics (Engineering)
- # Media and Music Journalism
- # Creative Arts
- # Media Studies
- # Music with Instrumental/Vocal Teaching
- # Radio, Film and Television Studies
- # Performing Arts

Details of all the degrees available in these areas, and more, can be found on the University Central Admissions System website at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

There are many degrees where having an Advanced level qualification in Music may not be of direct relevance but will be useful, however, so you need not be restricted by this list.

## Music F A C T F I L E

### Opportunities for Graduates

- ✓ many graduates move into music related work ranging from performing to teaching, to administrative roles in music production and publishing, to working on the management side of orchestras and music venues, to marketing and promotion work for record companies and music retailers
- ✓ graduates with technical skills may aim for sound and film production or recording technician posts
- ✓ some graduates gain experience in related fields by first taking on clerical or administrative jobs or even sales jobs and then working their way up.
- ✓ this can be a very competitive field to get into and some graduates undertake unpaid work experience to gain the necessary experience and contacts
- ✓ it is important to remember that over 60% of graduate jobs are non degree specific so the skills gained from this degree would enable you to enter a whole range of fields, in addition to music related ones

## ...jobs

*These are some of the jobs that Music graduates have gone into in recent years ...*

- Assistant to Musical Director of
- Self employed Composer
- Record Shop Sales Assistant
- Marketing Manager
- TV Researcher
- Self employed Piano Tuner
- Air Steward/Stewardess
- Police Office
- Classroom Assistant
- Instrument Teacher for local



## need to find out more?

You might find these publications useful. Check to see if your Careers Library or local library have copies.

- > CRAC Degree Course Guide - Music, Drama and Dance  
*published by Trotman*
- > Questions and Answers - Music  
*published by Trotman*
- > How to make it in the Music Business  
*published by Virgin Books*
- > Performing Arts Uncovered  
*published by Trotman*
- > Working in the Music Industry  
*published by How to books*
- > Green Guide to Art, Design and Performing Arts Courses  
*published by Trotman*
- > Music Industry Uncovered  
*published by Trotman*

Free information is available from the following organisations. If writing please send a stamped addressed envelope to cover postage:

- ▷ Arts Council of England  
14 Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 3NQ  
0845 300 6200  
Email: [enquiries@artsCouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@artsCouncil.org.uk)  
[www.artsCouncil.org.uk](http://www.artsCouncil.org.uk)
- ▷ British Music Information Centre  
1st Floor, Lincoln House  
75 Westminster Bridge Road  
London SE1 7HS  
020 7928 1902  
Email: [info@bmic.co.uk](mailto:info@bmic.co.uk)  
[www.bmic.co.uk](http://www.bmic.co.uk)
- ▷ British Society for Music Therapy  
61 Church Hill Road  
East Barnet  
Herts EN4 8SY  
020 8441 6226  
Email: [info@bsmt.org](mailto:info@bsmt.org)  
[www.bsmt.org](http://www.bsmt.org)
- ▷ Incorporated Society of Musicians  
10 Stratford Place  
London W1C 1AA  
020 7629 4413  
[www.ism.org](http://www.ism.org)
- ▷ Music Publishers' Association  
6th Floor, British Music House  
26 Berners Street  
London W1T 3LR  
020 7580 0126  
Email: [info@mpaonline.org.uk](mailto:info@mpaonline.org.uk)  
[www.mpaonline.org.uk](http://www.mpaonline.org.uk)
- ▷ Music Industry Directory  
c/o BPI Music Education  
BPI, Riverside Building  
County Hall  
Westminster Bridge Road  
London SE1 7JA  
020 7803 1300  
Email: [general@bpi.co.uk](mailto:general@bpi.co.uk)  
[www.bpi.co.uk](http://www.bpi.co.uk)