
GCSE MUSIC

ACHIEVING A 4/5 GRADE



PERFORMANCE (30%)

The specification says for a 5 you need to “*perform music with some technical challenges broadly fluently with some sensitivity*”.

1. Choose a piece that is within your capabilities but has some variety.
2. Practise it regularly; focus on the more tricky sections and do not just keep playing/singing it all the way through.
3. Focus on expression; where is the loudest part? Where do you need to hold back? Is your articulation appropriate?

COMPOSITION (30%)

The specification says for a 5 you need to “compose using a range of musical elements with coherence, creating musical ideas and developing interest with some success”.

1. Be very clear on what **KEY** you are in and ensure the notes you use fit this key; if in doubt ask your teacher who will help you with this.
2. Plan the **STRUCTURE** of your piece and stick to this; ensure you have at least one contrasting section in the middle (e.g. A B A).
3. Vary the **TEXTURE** of your piece
4. If you are repeating ideas or sections make sure there is always some **DEVELOPMENT** (something added or different about them).
5. Include **MELODY** rather than just repeating ostinatos; if unsure of the notes to use or how to fit this with your chords, ask your teacher for help.

Listening Paper (40%)

The specification says for a 5 you need to “*demonstrate accurate knowledge of a range of musical elements*” and be able to use “*musical terminology appropriately*” to describe music.

1. You must know what each **MUSICAL ELEMENT** is (Texture, dynamics, tempo, etc) and know some appropriate terminology to describe it
2. You need to be able to recognise music from each of the **COUNTRIES** we have studied and name the instruments used
3. You need to know the features of **Baroque. Classical and Romantic** music and tell them apart
4. When writing longer, descriptive answers you should a) make **bullet points** first b) focus on including all the **vocabulary** related to that style you can remember c) try and write about a range of **different elements** of the music (e.g. the tempo, the instruments used, the dynamics, etc)

Revision Resource....

You are being given a pack which has less information in than the full Music Knowledge Maps. In these packs is the key information you will need to secure at least a Grade 4 on the Listening Paper so please use these to aid your revision. If there is anything you do not understand, please discuss with your teacher.