

**AQA MUSIC:** The A-Level course is designed on a tripartite model that focusses on (i) Music Appraisal (40%) (ii) Music Performance (35%) and (iii) Music Composition (35%)

In preparation for A-Level it is important to remember that assessment is fairly evenly weighted to all 3 factors as outlined above. Most students have a particular preference or strength before beginning A-Level and as such, I would like all prospective students to focus on their existing strengths as a beginning to starting the course. As such I have assigned THREE tasks but you only need to choose ONE of them-what are you best at right now? Performance? Music Theory and Analysis? Composition? Make sure you choose what you are best at and **please submit on the first day of term.**

**Task 1: Music Appreciation and Musicology:** Please write an essay on the following question: Music Drama is divided into the sub-genres 'opera' and 'musical'. How are these two art forms (i) similar and (ii) different? Your essay should be approximately 1000 words.

**Task 2: Music Performance:** If you are considering A-Level Music you will already be performing on your chosen instrument to a high standard. Your task is to prepare a solo piece on your chosen instrument (or voice) and to record it for submission. The piece (or part of the piece if you have just started learning it) should be a minimum of 2 mins long. Bear in mind that your A-Level performance will be 10 mins long and will consist of a (i) solo and (ii) an ensemble piece.

**Task 3: Music Composition:** for A-Level music you will need to produce 2 compositions totaling 4 mins 30 secs.. One of these is a 'free' composition and can be (i) a traditional notated score (usually rendered on Sibelius or similar notation program )or (ii) a digital composition (GarageBand/Logic or equivalent). Your task is to produce a composition lasting 2 mins. The composition can be handed in in any of the following formats: (i) MP3 or WAV (ii) GarageBand or Logic Project (iii) Digital Notated Score (iv) Hand Written score.