

A Level Music

Summer Independent Learning Year 11-12 2021

Compulsory tasks

Task 1 - Performance

1. Be prepared to play or sing a piece of music in the early lessons at college. This can be in any style or for any instrument or voice. Your task is to perform it to the very best of your ability. You can use a backing track to accompany you or bring a piano accompaniment to the lesson.
2. The important thing to remember is that it is better to play an easier piece well rather than a more difficult piece poorly. Make sure you perform it musically, paying attention to dynamics, tempo markings and phrasing.

Task 2 - Music Theory

When we start the A level course, we begin by reviewing basic theory through some simple composition tasks. We will go over keys, triads, dissonance etc. but we do presume some basic knowledge. You should be familiar with the topics in the following sections:

[Musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net)

- *The Basics* – all sections
- *Rhythm and Metre* – all sections
- *Scales and Key Signatures* – all sections
- *Intervals* – all sections
- The first two lessons from *Chords, Diatonic Chords* and the first from *Chord Progressions* would be a bonus.

Please make sure you have written notes about all these areas. You can download manuscript paper from here:

http://www.musictheory.org.uk/manuscript_paper.php

There are tests to help you grasp key signatures, scales etc. here:

<https://www.musictheory.net/exercises>

Task 3 - The Symphony

Watch the following videos and make detailed notes from them:

1. Good basic introduction to the symphony by Howard Goodall from the BBC
2. A much longer video on the symphony by Howard Goodall (this is the first of a series)

Read about how the symphony developed and answer the questions below in detail:

1. What is a symphony?
2. How did the symphony develop?
3. Describe each movement of the symphony, think about the speed, character, structure.

Task 4 – Music Theatre

We will be studying Music Theatre 1940 – 2005.

Choose a musical and prepare a PowerPoint which you will present to the class in the first 2-3 weeks of college in September. Include the following:

1. General information about the musical and its composer
2. Characteristics of its musical style
3. Choose 2 or 3 songs from the musical and describe/analyse them. You may want to talk about the key of the music, the texture, the style, where it fits into the musical, the voices used, the accompaniment etc.
4. Links to the songs you analyse so we can hear them.

Recommended additional task

Task 5 - Haydn's Symphony 104 "London"

Print a copy of the score of Haydn's London Symphony (Movement 1 only) from the link below:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Symphony_No.104_in_D_major%2C_Hob.I:104_\(Haydn%2C_Joseph\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Symphony_No.104_in_D_major%2C_Hob.I:104_(Haydn%2C_Joseph))

Follow the score and listen to the music using the link below. This is one of the set works and you must know it well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OitPLIowJ70&list=PLViZJfW4UpefGYPxlmdm-CasOqgvqrSWks&index=3&t=1026s>

