



St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School Sixth Form

Year 11 Into Year 12 Transition Task

Subject: Music (Eduqas)

SMRT Sixth Form takes students from a wide range of schools who have studied a variety of GCSE syllabuses. We want to ensure that everybody is equally able to access the content of the A Level and so the following tasks give you a chance to ensure you are fully prepared.

There are four types of skill you need to have for A Level Music and often students know a lot about, or are good at, one or two of these but have not developed the others at this stage. These areas are performing, composing, music theory and writing about music.

To ensure you are ready to fully access the A Level Syllabus you should attempt these tasks:

Performing Students need to be able to perform to a high standard of accuracy, fluency and with good communication of style. The technical difficulty of the music you play needs to be of about grade 6 standard or above by Term 3 of Year 13.

You should prepare a piece to perform in Term 1. As you practice this you should assess your own strengths and weaknesses in terms of accuracy, fluency, communication of style and the technical ability that enables you to achieve this.

Composing Students need to be able to understand the concepts introduced in the Listening and Appraising section below and be able to listen to music with precision and understanding.

Listening and Appraising: Music theory Students need to be able to analyse a variety of pieces of music to see how they work and how and why various styles sound different from each other.

Use these websites to help you assess and improve your music theory knowledge and understanding for both Listening and Appraising and Composing:

<http://www.musictheory.net/lessons> and <https://www.teoria.com/>

Listening and Appraising: Writing about Music Students need to be able to order their thoughts logically and express themselves clearly with a good written style in terms of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

To ensure you are ready to fully access the A Level Syllabus you should attempt this task before the start of the Autumn term:

Prepare a five to ten-minute presentation on a piece of music that you like. You may use PowerPoint and should either perform or play a recording of part or all of your piece. You

should try and focus on musical aspects of your piece rather than talking too much about who the composer(s) is/are (or only talking about the lyrics, if it's a song). If you have an emotional reaction to the music, try to explain how the music provokes this by analysing it. Use technical terms where you can (major/minor, modulation, ostinato etc).

To get more into what this subject is about at a higher level you might find this website helpful: <https://www.theguardian.com/profile/tomservice>

If you fancy buying a book you should read: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Rest_Is_Noise

If you want to listen to a podcast, try 'Key Changes' on BBC Sounds:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002tdbv>

This is worth watching: BBC Howard Goodall's Story of Music
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0Y6NPahIDE>