

New A Level Music

H142 and H542 replacing 3872 and 7872

Information for OCR centres transferring to **new specifications for first teaching in September 2008**

This document maps the current A Level Music specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and Teachers involved in the teaching of Music

The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit www.ocr.org.uk/14-19alevels

Current specification – mapping the changes page 2

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QCA have stipulated that:

- The number of units required to achieve GCE A level can remain at 6 for the Music specifications; and
- Stretch and Challenge style questions are to be introduced into A2 assessment.



Mapping the changes to the A Level Music specification for first teaching September 2008

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Candidates must complete six units; three mandatory units at AS and three mandatory units at A2.

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
AS Performing	2550 Mandatory 33.3% (AS) 16.7% (A Level) 12mins recital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the specification content. • Visiting examination for the Performance units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short discussion will be added to Unit 2550. • Provision for improvised performances will be introduced to Units 2550 and 2553. • The weighting of the Performance units will be increased slightly. • New unit codes G351, G352 and G353. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare candidates for the <i>viva voce</i> in the equivalent A2 unit • To encompass the growing number of candidates who play in improvised styles. • To accommodate Centre demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Events. • Teacher support documents. • Schemes of Work. • Sample assessment material. • Publisher support.
AS Composing 1	2551 Mandatory 33.3% (AS) 16.7% (A Level) Centre assessed portfolio				
AS Introduction to Historical Study	2552 Mandatory 33.3% (AS) 16.7% (A Level) 2hr examination				
A2 Performing: Interpretation	2553 Mandatory 16.7% (A Level) 15mins recital Two thousand five hundred word investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the specification content. • Visiting examination for the Performance units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Performance Investigation element of Unit 2553 will be replaced by a <i>viva voce</i>. • Provision for improvised performances will be introduced to Units 2550 and 2553. • Unit 2554 will be Centre Assessed. • The weighting of the Performance units will be increased slightly. • New unit codes G354, G355 and G356. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To secure a single assessment method for each unit. • To encompass the growing number of candidates who play in improvised styles. • To align the assessment methods of both Composing units and to remove externally assessed coursework as an examining tool. • To accommodate Centre demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Events. • Teacher support documents. • Schemes of Work. • Sample assessment material. • Publisher support.
A2 Composing 2	2554 Mandatory 16.7% (A Level) OCR assessed portfolio				
A2 Historical and Analytical Studies	2555 Mandatory 16.7% (A Level) 2.5hr examination				

Candidates must complete six units; three mandatory units at AS and three mandatory units at A2.

	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
AS	Performing Music 1	G351 Mandatory 40% (AS) 20% (A Level) 12min recital, 5min discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This specification retains visiting examination for the performance units in recognition of the fact that candidates need to perform in a 'live' context. The combined percentage weighting for the two performance units has increased from 33% to 40% in recognition of centre preferences and the fact that performing lies at the very core of this subject. The popular synoptic element provided by the Performance Investigation in the A2 Performance unit has been retained in spirit by substituting a <i>viva voce</i>, for which the candidates will prepare by completing the OCR pro-forma found in Appendix C of the new specification. Those candidates whose performing preferences require an element of improvisation have been catered for in the assessment criteria for the two Performance units and by the inclusion of an improvisation option in Section B of the AS Performing unit. The composing option in Section B of the AS Performing unit has been retained for the benefit of those performers who are also strong composers. The assessment of the A2 Composing unit will now align with that of the AS Composing unit – by teacher assessed portfolio. These two will be moderated together, bringing a closer focus to the developing talents of composers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCR is currently developing teacher support, programmes of INSET and working closely with publishers to deliver support to accompany the new specification. More information on support will appear after QCA accreditation.
AS	Composing 1	G352 Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) Centre assessed portfolio		
AS	Introduction to Historical Study in Music	G353 Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 2hr exam		
A2	Performing Music 2 (Interpretation)	G354 Mandatory 20% (A Level) 15min recital, 5min <i>viva voce</i>		
A2	Composing 2	G355 Mandatory 15% (A Level) Centre assessed portfolio		
A2	Historical and Analytical Studies in Music	G356 Mandatory 15% (A Level) 2hr exam		