

Weald of Kent Grammar School

A-Level Music | Bridging Work

Performance

In A-Level music, performing is an integral part of the course which will either constitute 25% or 35% of your overall grade depending on what you choose to major in.

Task

Prepare a 10-minute recital of 3-4 contrasting pieces on your chosen instrument or voice. Consider the different styles and genres you can combine.

Consider whether you require an accompanist or an ensemble of musicians. Take time to rehearse and perform your pieces in a variety of different contexts to gain confidence in your repertoire.

It is useful to record your performances, you can do this via video or audio, but please note that your final performance(s) will be videoed.

The minimum standard to be able to access the top band of marks is Grade 6.

Composition

Composition is a creative craft with invention at its heart. It reflects something of the uniqueness of you, the composer. The process of composition will also help you to learn a number of disciplines and skills.

You will need to combine technical understanding with carefully considered, well-informed musical judgement in order to compose music.

Task

Prepare compositional ideas such as melodies, chord progressions and development of instrument knowledge.

Research - Develop an understanding of the possibilities of the human voice.

Research - Develop knowledge of how various instruments are played – their range, timbre, notation and other characteristics.

Listening and Appraising

You will need to listen and write about music to a high level of sophistication and clarity.

Task

Write a review(s) of a concert(s), event(s) or recording(s) you admire. You may want to compare and contrast performances or versions of the same piece, and comment on aspects such as the use of instrumentation, tempo, structure and other interpretative decisions.