



AQA: A LEVEL MUSIC - 2025



Pre-learning

Summer tasks to help you prepare for your A Level music course...

Component 1: *Performing*

Choose a piece and prepare it to performance standard. The piece should be of a minimum of grade 5/6 standard (RSL/ABRSM/TRINITY ETC.).

Component 2: *Theory/Composition*

Revise your knowledge of the following topics. This should be up to a confident ABRSM grade V music theory standard. Complete the A Level music theory paper.

- Chords - major/minor, inversions
- Cadences
- Treble and Bass clef notation
- Key signatures and relative major/minors
- Time signatures, note lengths and rhythmic devices

Component 3: *Listening and Appraising*

Choose one of the following film music composers...

- Bernard Herrmann
- Hans Zimmer
- Michael Giacchino
- Thomas Newman

Watch a film for which they composed the soundtrack. As you watch pick out 5 key moments and describe the action and the music used. Ideally the scenes would be contrasting so something dramatic/tense, and action scene, a happy scene etc. When you describe the music, please use the elements of music below and try to comment on each one.

- Sonority - instruments/voices, playing techniques and technology/effects.
- Melody
- Harmony and Tonality
- Tempo, Metre & Rhythm
- Texture and Dynamics