



جُمَيْرَاةُ كُؤَلِجَة
JUMEIRAH COLLEGE

GCSE MUSIC – Frequently Asked Questions

What will I have to do in GCSE Music?

The three components are Performing (coursework, 30% of the total mark), Composing (coursework, 30% of the total mark), and an externally marked Listening and Appraising paper (40%).

I can't read music. Can I still take GCSE Music?

Like every subject, some people will find it easier than others, but it is accessible to everyone. Those people who have been learning an instrument for a number of years will enter the course at a distinct advantage. But it is highly enjoyable and it is still possible to do extremely well without being able to read music. We will help you develop your reading skills throughout the course.

I don't play an instrument, I'm a singer. Can I take GCSE Music?

Absolutely, yes! Your voice is your instrument!

Do I have to be taking private instrumental or vocal lessons?

Yes. You will need to perform music for your final assessment which will need to be technically as perfect as it can be. Your classroom Music teacher will not be covering this part of the course as they will not be an expert in every musical instrument. You will perform in front of your class and teacher on a regular basis and receive feedback on general musicianship.

I've heard that you have to be at Grade 5 (Trinity or ABRSM) or above to be considered for the course. Is this true?

No. You need to be able to perform music a minimum of a Grade 4 level in Year 11 for your final performance, preferably Grade 5, in order to be able to access the highest marks. You do not have to be at this level in Year 9!

How is it different to Music lessons at KS3?

The classes will be smaller and there will be less group composition work. There will be more analysing of different genres, style and music of different periods of history. We will become a tight group of like-minded creative people, keen to share our opinions and music with each other in a caring and friendly environment.

What jobs can GCSE Music get me?

As well as an array of jobs in the Performing Arts industry, a GCSE in Music can actually get you anywhere you want, due to the great array of transferrable skills it provides. Law, Medicine, Nuclear Science, Accountancy, Archaeology, Secret Agent – the skills learnt in Music lessons will help you in them all!

What will I get out of taking Music at GCSE?

Many, many, transferable skills. It enables creative learning; it allows communication in a unique language; it is a varied and interesting course and a journey of discovery; it is very well

respected by top universities; it is fulfilling and challenging. There is arguably no other subject that gives you such a wide range of skills, whilst also being extremely academically rigorous.