

Music pre-A level work

1. Performing

Performing is a major part of the AS and A level courses. The standard expected for AS is a minimum of Grade 5 (or equivalent) and for A level it is a minimum of Grade 6 (or equivalent). You should take the opportunity of having time away from school to really PRACTISE (every day if you can!) Ensure that your practice includes preparation of a solo piece which you can perform to the rest of the group early in the course (ideally of a minimum of Grade 5 standard, or equivalent).

2. A short history of music

Use the following website to familiarise yourself with a basic history of classical music, making sure that you read the notes and listen to the sample tracks (click the links to navigate to the different periods!)

<https://alevelmusic.com/4-short-history-of-music/>

There will be a short (friendly!) quiz on this topic at some point...

3. Composing

Composing is another major part of the AS and A level courses. It would be really useful to make sure that you are familiar with the Sibelius software. A free version (Sibelius First) is available to download from the Avid website. Then spend some time 'doodling' with ideas on both your instrument and the software. The best way to become a better composer is to compose! No one need see your work, so you needn't worry about making mistakes!

4. Enjoy listening to some music!

Listen to a concert, gig or festival, listen to the BBC Proms on Radio 3, find some great film scores and get familiar with them, watch a musical... Push yourself out of your comfort zone, and try to really listen, without just 'having music on in the background'!