

# How to Succeed in Music

## Course Information

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| <b>Exam Board</b>                   | <b>Eduqas</b>  |
| <b>Exam Structure</b>               | <p>Question 1 (12 marks): AoS1 Musical forms &amp; Devices: Prepared extract Bach Badinerie<br/>Question 2 (12 marks): AoS1 Musical forms &amp; Devices: Unfamiliar extract<br/>Question 3 (12 marks): AoS2 Ensemble Music: Unfamiliar extract<br/>Question 4 (12 marks): AoS2 Ensemble Music: Unfamiliar extract<br/>Question 5 (12 marks): AoS3 Film Music: Unfamiliar extract<br/>Question 6 (12 marks): AoS3 Film Music: Unfamiliar extract<br/>Question 7 (12 marks): AoS4 Popular Music: Prepared extract Toto Africa<br/>Question 8 (12 marks): AoS4 Popular Music: Unfamiliar extract</p> <p>Of these questions, one of the unfamiliar extract will include a 10 mark essay style question, and a different question will include a dictation exercise worth approximately 5 marks</p> |
| <b>Specification weblink</b>        | <a href="https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/by5boopf/eduqas-gcse-music-spec-from-2016-d.pdf">https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/by5boopf/eduqas-gcse-music-spec-from-2016-d.pdf</a>  |
| <b>Practice exam papers weblink</b> | <a href="https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse/#tab_pastpapers">https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse/#tab_pastpapers</a><br>Note: Only the exam papers from 2022 onward cover the new Prepared extracts (Question 1 and 7), however the unfamiliar extracts are still appropriate for practice (Question 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8)  |

## Units/Topics studied

### **1. Musical Forms and Devices**

Historical Context: Study Baroque, Classical, and Romantic music (1650–1910).

Prepared extract: Badinerie by J.S. Bach (Flute, String Orchestra & Harpsichord).

Focus Topics:

Structural forms: binary, ternary, rondo, variation, minuet & trio, strophic forms.

Musical devices:

Repetition, contrast, sequence, imitation, ostinato, anacrusis, syncopation, dotted rhythms.

Drone, pedal, canon, conjunct/disjunct movement, ornamentation, broken chord/arpeggio.

Alberti bass, regular phrasing, melodic and rhythmic motifs, cadences, and modulations.

### **2. Music for Ensemble**

Genres Studied: Chamber music, musical theatre, jazz, and blues.

Focus Topics:

Textures: Monophonic, homophonic, polyphonic, unison, chordal, layered, melody and accompaniment, round, canon, countermelody.

Instrumental and Vocal Groupings:

Vocal ensembles (solos, duets, trios, backing vocals).

Jazz/blues trio, rhythm section, string quartet, basso continuo, sonatas.

### **3. Film Music**

Understanding Film Music:

The use of timbre, tone colour, and dynamics for emotional and dramatic effect.

Leitmotifs and thematic transformation.

Responding to commissions using words, images, or ideas.

Focus Topics:

Creating mood through instrumentation and vocal timbres

The names and sounds of a wide range of orchestral instruments

Dynamics and contrast for special effects.

Use of minimalistic techniques.

How technology enhances sonority (e.g., software, samplers, sound amplification).

#### **4. Popular Music**

Genres Studied: Pop, Rock & Pop, Bhangra, and Fusion.

Prepared extract: Africa by Toto (1982).

Focus Topics:

Instrumental and synthesised sounds.

Original music modification and vocal techniques.

Combining voices/instruments and using technology (e.g., loops, panning, samples).

Musical features:

32-bar song form, strophic, 12-bar blues, verse, chorus, middle 8, bridge, riffs, fills, instrumental breaks.

Syncopation, driving rhythms, improvisation, melismatic/syllabic writing.

Primary/secondary chords, cadences, lead/backing vocals, backing tracks.

#### **Key Skills to Master**

Musical Elements: Melody, harmony, tonality, form and structure, dynamics, texture, rhythm, tempo, sonority, and metre.

Musical Contexts:

Purpose and intention of composers/performers.

Effect of occasion, audience, and venue on music.

Social, historical, and cultural context of compositions.

Musical Language:

Read/write treble and bass clef notation (simple and compound time).

Roman numerals for chords (I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi).

Chord symbols (C, Dm, G7).

Key signatures (up to 4 sharps/flats). **The exception to this is the Toto Africa prepared extract which uses a key signature of 5 sharps.**

#### **Revision strategies and materials**

##### **Revision Strategies**

##### **Create a Study Schedule**

- Break topics into manageable chunks (e.g., one area of study per week).
- Allocate time for listening, theory, and practice questions.

##### **Active Listening**

- Use the set works as a foundation. Actively analyse features like texture, melody, rhythm, and instrumentation.
- Practice identifying musical elements and devices in unfamiliar pieces.

##### **Mind Maps and Flashcards**

- Create mind maps for each area of study to link key concepts.
- Use flashcards for musical terms, chord symbols, and definitions.

##### **Practice Notation Skills**

- Regularly practice writing notation, including key signatures, chords, and time signatures.
- Use past exam questions to sharpen reading and writing notation accuracy.
- Use of MuseScore or similar software to practise writing and reading of notation.

##### **Past Papers & Practice Questions**

- Time yourself using past papers to build familiarity with the exam format.
- Reflect on your answers with mark schemes to identify areas for improvement.

##### **Group Study and Discussions**

- Revise in groups to discuss musical features and test each other.
- Share interpretations of set works and quiz each other on musical terms.

##### **Interactive Practice**

- Use apps and online games to practice identifying intervals, chords, and rhythms.
- Record yourself playing or singing set works to reinforce memory and understanding.

## **Resources**

### **Set Works Resources**

- **Badinerie** by J.S. Bach: Listen on YouTube and follow with a score for analysis.
- **Africa** by Toto: Analyse lyrics, instrumentation, and song structure with official audio.

### **Eduqas Resources**

- Official Specification: Eduqas GCSE Music Specification
- [Eduqas recommended resources](#)
- Past Papers: Eduqas Past Papers and Mark Schemes

### **Music Theory Practice**

- **Musictheory.net**: Free lessons and exercises on notation, intervals, and chords.
- **Teoria.com**: Interactive exercises for ear training and theory.
- **ABRSM Music Theory Resources**: [ABRSM Resources](#)

### **Apps for Revision**

- **Tenuto**: Practice notation, intervals, and key signatures interactively (app version of musictheory.net)
- **Quizlet**: Create or find flashcards for musical terms and definitions: search “Eduqas Music” or specific set works
- **Practice Perfect Ear App**: Ear training for intervals, chords, and scales.

### **YouTube Channels**

- **Inside the Score**: Analysis of classical works and compositional techniques.
- **Youtube playlists that cover Eduqas Content**: These are varied, but here is a good starting point [:Youtube Playlist - Eduqas Music](#)

### **Books**

- **GCSE Music Revision Guide**: Available from publishers like CGP and Rhinegold, ensure that any guides are for the Eduqas Music Revised specification, as they must cover the new set works.
- **ABRSM Theory Workbooks**: Practice books for improving notation and theory knowledge.