**Music A Level Taster Work** **Summer 2023**

**Summary of Tasks:**

When we start the A level course, we begin by reviewing basic theory through some simple tasks. We will go over keys, triads, dissonance etc. but I do presume some basic knowledge. On the following website page, you should be familiar with the topics in the following sections:

[**Musictheory.net**](https://www.musictheory.net/lessons)

* The Basics – all sections
* Rhythm and Metre – all sections
* Scales and Key Signatures – all sections
* Intervals – all sections
* The first two lessons from Chords, Diatonic Chords and the first from Chord Progressions would be a bonus

**Music History**

Read through and listen to the material on the [**Short History of Music**](https://alevelmusic.com/4-short-history-of-music/) pages and then complete the worksheet below. You can either print it off and complete by hand or fill it in as a word documents and then print them off:

[**Short History of Music Worksheet (Word)**](https://alevelmusic.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/03-short-history-of-music-task-1.doc)[**Download**](https://kingedsmusic.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/03-short-history-of-music-task-1.doc)

**Listening and describing**

As in GCSE we will need to get really good at describing music using appropriate technical terms.

I would like you to review all the terms in the [**GCSE Glossary**](https://alevelmusic.com/9-gcse-revision-ridgewood/), which should be familiar from GCSE. Make sure you understand them, follow all the links, and listen to the examples before completing this listening exercise.

**Exercise 1 – Western Classical**

Listen to this Beethoven String Quartet extract and answer the questions in the worksheet. You will need to print out the worksheet and then listen play the video so you can see to which parts of the music the questions refer. You can watch the video as many times as you wish and pause it where you need to do so. You should also refer back to the [**GCSE Glossary**](https://alevelmusic.com/9-gcse-revision-ridgewood/) to make sure you are talking about the right things and using correct language.

[**Exercise 1 Worksheet**](https://alevelmusic.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/listening-exercise-1.pdf)[**Download**](https://kingedsmusic.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/listening-exercise-1.pdf)

**Performance**

Make sure you don’t neglect your playing during this break. If you are having lessons with your teacher, then that will obviously keep you going. If you are not, I suggest you do at least some of the tasks below to keep yourself in practice.

* Polish up a piece you are already working on and video it. You could then share it with your friends and family. In due course, I will ask you to email me a video of you playing a short extract. If you want to get ahead of the game send it to me at **ejudges@opgs.org** - You might find a recorded accompaniment on YouTube for pieces that are very regularly played for grades etc.
* Resurrect an older piece that you really enjoyed. You will be able to play it better now you are a bit more advanced. Listen to some performances of the piece on Apple Music/Spotify/YouTube. What do you like about these performances? Is there anything you can incorporate. Again, you could video your performance.
* Look at the graded lists for the level at which you are currently playing. Listen to the pieces and choose one to learn from scratch. You can use recorded performances to help you learn the piece and decide how to play it.

**Extension Tasks**

If you are looking for other things to keep you busy, pick a selection from the following tasks.

**Reading**

* Sion, Colborne, Gardiner, Pankhurst et al (2017) Eduqas AS and A Level Music Study Guide, London: Rhinegold ([Amazon link](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Eduqas-Level-Music-Study-Guide/dp/1785583476/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=39AKJ6CTEAF1C&dchild=1&keywords=eduqas+a+level+music&qid=1586726001&sprefix=eduqas+a+level%2Caps%2C615&sr=8-1)) [covers the background information needed for the course – useful but not essential to read before the A level starts]
* Tarrant and Wild (2022)*The Symphony: From Mannheim to Mahler: A guide to the development of the symphony through the 18th and 19th centuries,* London:Faber Music
* Winterson and Harris (2014) Music Theory: The Essential Guide London: Faber ([Amazon link](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Music-Theory-Essential-Guide-Faber/dp/0571536328/ref%3Dsr_1_19?dchild=1&keywords=music+theory+basic&qid=1586726502&sr=8-19)) [ if your basic theory is a bit ropy then this is good for making sure you know up to Grade 5 theory stuff]
* Landon (1966) *Haydn Symphonies*: BBC Music Guides
* Clark (2001) *The Cambridge Companion to Haydn*: Cambridge University Press
* Horton (2013) *The Cambridge Companion to the Symphony*: Cambridge (Amazon)
* Steinberg (1998) *The Symphony: A Listener’s Guide*: OUP (USA) – this is also available as e-download (ISBM: 978 01951 26655)
* Steen (2004) *Mendelssohn: The Great Composers*: Icon Books Ltd

**Stuff to watch on YouTube**

Some really simple explanations of basic music theory building blocks at [12tone](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMvVESrbjBWplAcg3pG0TesncGT7qvO06), Starts with some ludicrously basic stuff but moves on to go over basics that you might be rusty on.

* Good basic introduction to [the symphony by Howard Goodall](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLlz6m-9uHo) from the BBC
* A much [longer video on the symphony](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VS3MRLCrx8)by Howard Goodall (this is the first of a series)
* [Unwrap the music from the Auckland Philharmonia](https://www.apo.co.nz/community-education/schools/unwrap-the-music-resources/?fbclid=IwAR3oHqu1T8Ulqt-DjtOHQnX_SljfNEKoFzPgAYwK-aAKmN3rc8Nn2R01gBE) – sessions on a range of pieces, including Mendelssohn 4, which is a wider listening work at A level.
* An [introduction to Debussy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKwRQh94toA&list=PLcvEcrsF_9zJzbN2GjOQbMXlzBh2VSJXe&index=10), again from Howard Goodall at the BBC
* Anything on the [LSO YouTube Playlist](https://www.youtube.com/user/Lso/playlists)
* During the COVID 19 lockdown you can access [archived Berlin Philharmonic concerts](https://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/home) – amazing!

**Composition** **1**

Can you write an eight-bar melody in the Classical style that is like the extract below. Either write it for string quartet in Musescore or on paper or write it for a melody instrument with piano chords. Notice that the harmony is quite simple, the melody sticks closely to the chords with just simple decorations, bar 3-4 and 7-8 are cadences. You can look at the [notes here](https://alevelmusic.com/alevelcompositionhelp/wct-composing-hub/)if you want some technical tips:

[**Audio for the above notation**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKOZddZT4is) (this is the whole movement)

**Composition 2**

Can you write a pentatonic piece, taking the extract below as inspiration? You can read the [**notes here**](https://alevelmusic.com/alevelcompositionhelp/3-composition-into-the-c20/new-scales/)to help you if you wish. Write for any combination of instruments.

**Listening Tasks**

* Work on your listening skills by completing some aural exercise. Here are some suggested websites to help you [Teoria](http://www.teoria.com), [Dolmetsch](http://www.dolmetsch.com/musictheory43.html), [Auralia](http://www.risingsoftware.com/auralia), [Philharmonia](http://www.philharmonia.co.uk/thesoundexchange/), [Music Maestro](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cmroregan%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5C73F71Y3P%5Ce-musicmaestro.com%5Cauraltests) and [Music Trainer](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cmroregan%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5C73F71Y3P%5Ctrainer.thetamusic.com).
* Listen to music as much as possible whilst trying to identify musical features, below is a recommended playlist. Note that this includes works from all areas of study, although the development of the symphony is compulsory, so it would be worth looking at these in more depth.

**Development of the Symphony:**

* Johann Stamitz No. 2 Op.3 in D
* Haydn, No. 26 in D minor
* Haydn, No 104 in D ‘London’
* Mozart, No. 38 in D ’Prague’
* Beethoven, No 3 in Eb ‘Eroica’
* Beethoven, No. 6 in F ‘Pastoral’
* Beethoven, No 9 in D minor ‘Choral’
* Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique
* Schubert, No. 8 in B minor ‘Unfinished’
* Schumann, No. 4 in D minor
* Brahms, No. 2 in D
* Liszt, Faust Symphony
* Anton Bruckner, No 7 in E
* Dvorak, No 8 in G minor
* Tchaikovsky, No 5 in E minor
* Mahler, No1 in D minor ‘Titan’
* Mendelssohn, No 4 in A ‘Italian’
* Mozart, No 40 in G minor
* Haydn, No 45 in F# minor ‘Farwell’
* Schubert, No 9 in C ‘The Great’
* Brahms, No. 3 in F
* Tchaikovsky, No6 in B minor ‘Pathetique’
* Beethoven, No. 5 in C minor
* Mahler, No. 2 in C minor – E Flat
* Schumann, No.1 in Bb ‘Spring’
* Bach, Op.18 No. 4 in D
* Mozart, No1 in Eb
* Bruckner, No.9 in D minor
* Mendelssohn, No.3 in A minor ‘Scottish’
* Dvorak, No.9 in E minor ‘New World’

**Rock and Pop 1960-2000**

Students should listen to music from the following genres/artists/groups:

* Pop
* Rock (including progressive rock, heavy metal, folk-rock and punk rock)
* Soul
* Funk (and disco)
* Folk (and country)
* 60’s- Beatles, Shadows, Kinks, Who, Led Zeppelin, Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, Sam Cooke, Otis Reading, Aretha Franklin, Four Tops
* 70’s- Abba, Bee Gees, Queen, Beach Boys, Deep Purple, Alice Cooper, Black Sabbath, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, Marin Gaye, Kool and the Gang, Diana Ross, Chaka Khan Pink Floyd, ELO, Kate Bush, Billy Joel, Elton John
* 80’s – Culture Club, Police, Spandau Ballet, Duran Duran, Guns n Roses, AC/DC, Bon Jovi, Journey, Luther Vandross, Prince, Michael Jackson, Shalamar, Earth Wind and Fire
* 90’s Take That, Oasis, Blur, Stereophonics, Nirvana, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Mary J Blige, Whitney Houston, Bobby Brown, R. Kelly

**Into the Twentieth Century 1895-1935**

* Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, Movement II: Poulenc (Wilhelm Hansen Edition ISBN: 978-87598-0392-9)
* Three Nocturnes, Number 1, Nuages: Debussy (Eulenberg Miniature Score ISBN: 979-0-2002-1057-6)
* Works from the following composers: Debussy, Ravel, Schoenberg, Berg, Webern, Stravinsky, Poulenc and Prokofiev
* Especially look at the following genres: Impressionism, Expressionism (including Serialism), Neo-classicism. If it helps, look to the list below.

**Impressionism**

* Debussy [- La Mer [Gergiev/LSO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlR9rDJMEiQ)]
* Debussy – [Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FcYd3bC3usc) [Josep Pons/Spanish National Orchestra]
* Debussy – [Images](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8v0LGIuhOsU) (for orchestra) [Abbado/LSO]
* Debussy – [Nocturnes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfUtUNL2MKk) [Prêtres]
* Debussy – [String Quartet](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJJiUeBx-IM)
* Debussy – [La Cathédrale engolutie](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVMGwPDP-Yk) – with [Harmonic analysis](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTwvtwlSh5U)
* Debussy – [Estampes (1. Pagodes; 2. La soirée dans Grenade; 3. Jardins sous la pluie)](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cmroregan%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5C73F71Y3P%5C-%20https%3A%5Cwww.youtube.com%5Cwatch%3Fv%3DC5JuUJ77LHo) [Anna Zassimova]
* Ravel – [Ma Mère l’oye](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFVu8TP77Tw) (Complete ballet version) [Myung-Whun Chung/Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France]
* Ravel – [String Quartet](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jt_Tc0DXcFQ)
* Ravel – [Daphnis et Chloé](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYNlYMvFA5U) [Dutoit/Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal]
* Poulenc – [Flute Sonata](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2dXTfjYPbE) [Michel Debost/Jacques Février]
* Poulenc – [Oboe Sonata](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hgiP3XLKQ8) [Maurice Bourgue/Jacques Février]
* Poulenc – [Clarinet Sonata](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7r-5NXj2DJA) [Michel Portal/Jacques Février]
* Poulenc – [Sonata for Oboe, bassoon and piano](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YagYhg2SnT4) (2nd movement) –Weiger/Coelho/Huckelberry
* [Complete Trio (live performance)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jSpvrnK2JQ) – Sigfridsson/Bullen/Boudreault
* Poulenc – [Sonata for Horn trumpet and trombone](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Akvy39OrWAm) [Civil/Iveson/Wilbraham]

**Neoclassicism**

* Prokofiev – [Classical Symphony](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLT55kPIFCo)
* Stravinsky – [Pulchinella](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVEcJnlHUMM) (Complete) [Ansermet/Orchestre de la Suisse Romande] – piano reduction
* Stravinsky – [Octet for Wind Instruments](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pIzCeYhvWI)
* Stravinsky – [Dumbarton Oaks](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baTaWqLRcZY) [Rattle/BerlinPO]
* Prokofiev [– Symphony No.1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLT55kPIFCo&nohtml5=False) (Classical)
* Hindemith – [String Quartet No.2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yr0a3mXVmzA) [Kocian Quartet]
* Hindemith – [Symphony, Mathis der Maler](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsyOuyNh6ossionism) [Horenstein/LSO]

**Expressionism**

* Bernstein on Schoenberg – [Lecture – Part 1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olwVvbWdtg): (Parts 2-4 deal with later 12-tone style)
* Schoenberg – [Mondenstrunken](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbTn7Y9XAhA) (from Pierrot Lunaire)
* Schoenberg – Five Pieces for Orchestra, Op.16 – [Dohnanyi/Cleveland Orchestra] [- [Pieces 1-3]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olwVvbWd-tg) - [[Pieces 4-5]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehhRCtrHAx8)
* Schoenberg – [6 Little Piano Pieces, Op.19](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGLcUfbVF3k) [Lee]
* Schoenberg – [Erwartung](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4pwMSll5kE&nohtml5=False) [Rattle/CBSO]
* Berg [– Altenberg Lieder](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6g9zzPhkOU) [Abbado/LSO]
* Webern [– Five Movements for String Quartet, Op.5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELAKF8ZxDmg)
* Webern – [Five Pieces for orchestra, Op.10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reqqQ-kBJQ0)

**Research Tasks**

* Research the life and music Franz Josef Haydn. You can use the [Oxford Music Online](https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/grovemusic/view/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.001.0001/omo-9781561592630-e-0000044593) [Haydn](https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/grovemusic/view/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.001.0001/omo-9781561592630-e-0000044593), [Haydn Wikipedia article](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Haydn), [Classic FM](https://www.classicfm.com/composers/haydn/), [Philharmonia Haydn introduction](https://philharmonia.org/learn-and-listen/baroque-composers/franz-joseph-haydn/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw-Mr0BRDyARIsAKEFbeeNjqd2aZOxfXVjJSlFdJCjExZdtF2KflefSfcQqqtLFDknTaFJs_caAh24EALw_wcB" \t "_blank), [Naxos](https://www.naxos.com/person/Franz_Joseph_Haydn/24410.htm), [BBC introduction](https://www.bbc.co.uk/music/artists/c130b0fb-5dce-449d-9f40-1437f889f7fe), [BBC Composer of the Week](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01ms3w8) and [Howard Goodall on Haydn](https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/music-gcse-haydn-symphonies-and-melodic-writing/z7vygwx). You can then present your work in any way you like. Online, as a poster, a booklet or a leaflet.
* Research the biographies and key works of any of the following rock and pop artists/bands (see the list above for the works you should focus on).

\*Note that some the resources have been used with the permission of Tom Pankhurst from King Edward VI College.