

An introduction to the Level 3 Extended Certificate in Music

Everything you need to know about the course



A quick summary of the course:

- The Level 3 Extended Certificate in Music is a two-year course
 - There are four units. Two units will be completed in year 12 and three in year 13
 - The course is designed to give you the opportunity to develop your skills as a musician and a performer and in a range of environments
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Year 12

Unit 1 – Practical Music Theory and Harmony

Music theory and harmony relates to all forms of music. It is about how the music we make and listen to is constructed and how it works. This unit will develop your knowledge and understanding of fundamental musical theory and how it's applied in practical musical activities. You will develop and apply theoretical knowledge in a relevant, useful and meaningful way.

Unit 3 – Ensemble Performance

In this unit, you will develop your skills as a musician in a range of different genres, such as pop, rock, soul, R&B, folk, etc. You will be assessed on your ability to play your instrument or sing in a range of different circumstances. These include a live concert, a jamming session, and a recording session

The two units lead to the final concert at Woodville Halls which you will organise as a class.



Year 13



Unit 2 – Professional Practice in the Music Industry

In this unit, you will gain an understanding of what is meant by the term 'professional practice' as well as what it means to be a freelancer working in the music industry. You will understand the professional skills that are important in the industry and learn the importance of financial management, effective interpersonal skills and working with others.

Unit 6 – Solo Performance

In this unit, you will explore and practise the specific skills associated with performing as a soloist. These will include: how to engage your audience, stagecraft, as well as musical practice and rehearsal required. There are many hours of preparation and practice involved and you will develop the process – that all successful musicians undertake – of creative reflection in order to improve. This unit prepares you for studying performance as a soloist as well as for performing live.

Overall this is a fantastic course for any musicians looking to develop as a performer and a song writer and gain a better understanding of the music industry and what it takes to be a successful musician in the 21st century.

Bridging Work – To be completed over the summer...

Unit 1 – Practical Music Theory and Harmony

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Music

Task 1

Research the following features, demonstrating and explaining the signs and symbols used in various types of music:

- **Rhythm and Pitch in staff notation** (this should include clefs, names and values of notes, rests, accidentals, time signatures, key signatures and intervals)
- **Rhythm and Pitch in alternative forms of notation** (such as tab, drum notation, chord charts, lead sheet, graphic scores and tonic sol-fa)
- **How tempo, dynamics and expression can be notated** (metronome markings, dynamic markings, articulation and instrumental techniques)

You should include explanations of these features, and also include examples from notation and assess the function of each of them from a practical perspective.

See the example on the next page as a starting point. However, this is just an example. Please make sure you cover all the topics listed in the bullet points above.

Your assignment must be a minimum of 1200 words

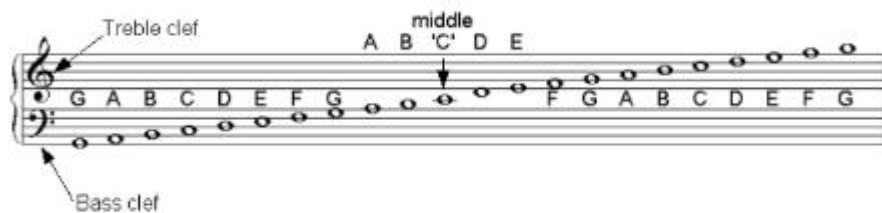
Please email your completed assignment to sfarrelly@stj.kent.sch.uk

Example Work

Learner Work

Within music, there has always been the theory behind it. Musicians have to be able to follow scores they have possibly never studied before and be able to recognise musical techniques that are used in different pieces of music. The following article will help you to spot these techniques and have a better understanding of music theory. The ones mentioned may not come up in the work you do but it's a good idea to have it there for referencing and making a connection to musicians or other clients.

Let's start with standard **notation**. Every note sits in a line or a space on what is called a staff, where it's written depends on how high or low the notes are played, here is an example showing just the notes which fit on the staff, any notes which are higher or lower have their own section called the ledger lines which can be counted down or up to.



Ledger Lines



The two main clefs in music are the treble and bass clef, written on a piano or voice part the treble is usually the leading clef and is the most commonly read, the bass on a piano is the left hand and plays much lower. Middle C is the central point of the piano.

Pitch also comes into notation on the staff, the higher up the staff the higher the note and the same on the way down.

There are many alternative forms of notation including guitar tab, drum tab and graphic score.

On a guitar you have the six strings of the notes EADBE and these are situated on a board known as the fret, this is what the fingers press onto, the other hand strums of the base of the guitar. Instead of reading a manuscript like classical instruments, the player follows a score called TAB shown here in Passenger's song 'Let her Go'.