

Music Technology

Christian Turton



Course Aims

GCE A-level Music Technology is a challenging, creative and innovative subject that gives the student the skills needed to arrange, compose, produce and record music. Students gain an understanding of a wide range of popular musical styles, and learn how to use technology successfully in the field of contemporary music. The course requires good musicianship, an interest in technology, studio production, and an open mind for exploring very varied musical styles and genres.

Qualifications and qualities needed

Students should have a Grade 6 in GCSE Music or an equivalent (BTEC Level 2 Music Merit etc). It is recommended that you have a good grade in GCSE science (physics), a good knowledge of how to use computers and good written skills. If you have any questions about entry requirements, please speak to a member of the faculty.

Course Structure

Component 1 – Recording (9MT0/01) (20%)

- Students will learn audio production including capturing audio, mixing, editing and other audio based skills.
- Students will record, mix and master a multi-track recording of a commercial song containing a minimum of 5 compulsory instruments and at least 2 optional instruments which will be produced to a high standard.

Component 2 – Technology based composition (9MT0/02) 20%

- Students will learn to create, manipulate and structure sounds to produce a technology-based composition.
- Students will create a composition from one of three stimuli (including the option to create music for a given film clip) provided by the exam board containing synthesis, sampling and audio manipulation.

Component 3 – Listening and Analysing (9MT0/03) (25%)

- A 1 hour 30 minute examination assessing the principles and practice of music technology, and the development of popular music from 1930 to the present day.
- The paper has 2-parts in which, in Section A students will answer questions on pieces of technology based music and in Section B, answer longer essay-style questions involving a comparison between two different recordings.

Component 4 – Producing and analysing (9MT0/04) (35%)

- A 2 hour 15 minute examination assessing (via both a written component and practical editing and mixing tasks) knowledge of the development of technology based music, and a practical component that requires numerous audio files to be imported, manipulated/edited and then mixed.
- This paper tests the application of knowledge related to the areas of study.

Trips and Visits

Visits and workshops are arranged in order to support classroom studies. Students are encouraged to take an active role in the consortium schools' music ensembles.

Future Pathways

The A-level course naturally leads on to a variety of degree courses where students can specialise further in specific areas. Previous students have furthered their study and then gone on to work as composers, audio/studio engineers, producers, sound designers, music software developers, record label managers, technical directors, and music entertainment and industry managers.

