



**Welcome to GCSE Music**

**Subject Lead: Miss  
Hamilton**

**Exam Board: AQA**

**Specification: 8271**

# GCSE: WHY STUDY MUSIC?



## GCSE MUSIC HELPS PUPILS:

- TO DEVELOP SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING AND SKILLS THROUGH; LISTENING TO A VARIETY OF MUSIC, PLAYING MUSIC AND CREATING THEIR OWN MUSIC.
- IT OFFERS A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR PROGRESSION TO OTHER MUSICAL QUALIFICATIONS AND OFTEN TO A MUSIC-RELATED CAREER.
- THE COURSE PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUPILS TO DEVELOP TRANSFERABLE SKILLS SUCH AS SELF-CONFIDENCE, CREATIVITY, EVALUATION AND TEAM WORK.



## **Course Content**



### **Component 1: Understanding Music**



Candidates complete listening exercises using excerpts of music. Pupils are required to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical context and musical language. They will also critically appraise music from specified study pieces.



### **Component 2: Performing Music**



Candidates perform one solo and one group piece either as an instrumentalist and/or vocalist and/or via music technology.



### **Component 3: Composing Music**



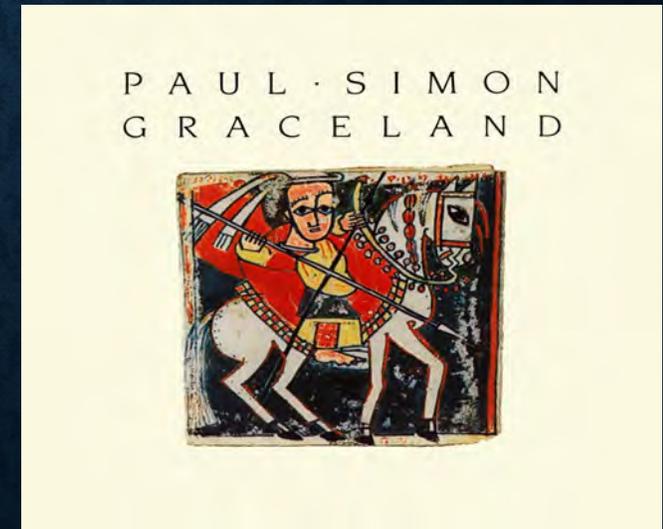
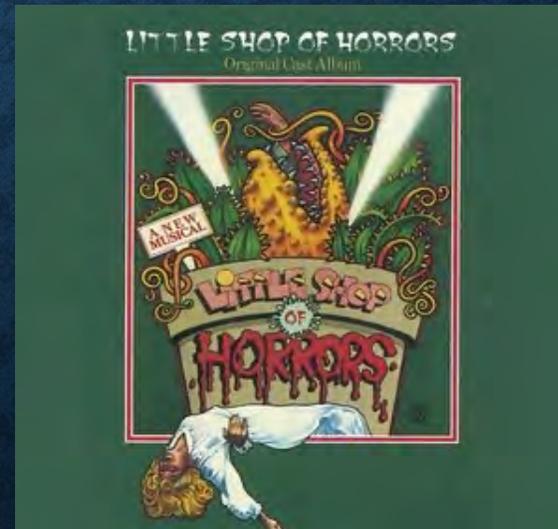
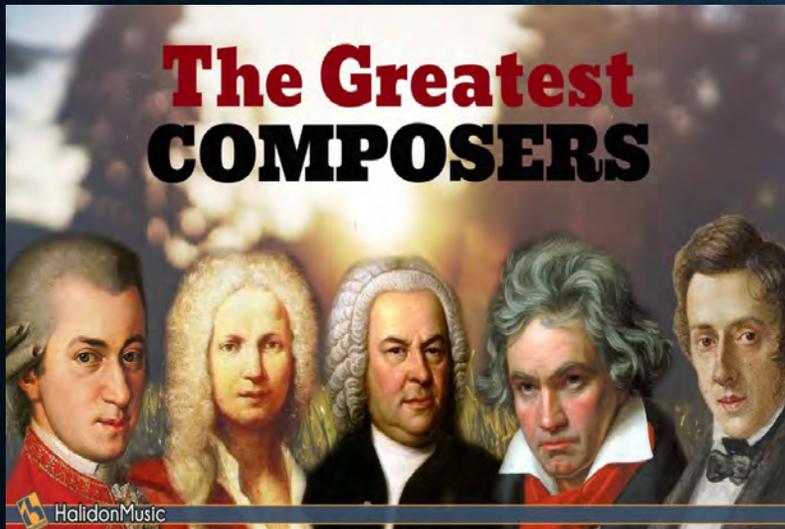
Candidates compose two pieces. One set to a brief, the other a free composition with a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 4.5 minutes of music in total.

# Assessment

**Component 1: Understanding Music** - Understanding music is assessed through an externally marked exam in two sections lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. It is marked out of a total of 96 marks and constitutes 40% of the total marks for the qualification (Externally marked by AQA).

**Component 2: Performing Music** - The performances are marked against a criteria set down by AQA (Internally marked and moderated by AQA).

**Component 3: Composing Music** - Each pupil must compose two pieces. One composition must be in response to an externally set brief and the other composition must be freely composed by the pupil (internally marked and moderated by AQA)



## **Progression**

This qualification leads onto A-level study and other courses based around Music and Music Technology

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Specification Code</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Percentage of the Final Mark</b>
<b>Component 1</b>	<b>8271</b>	<b>Understanding Music</b>	<b>40% of the total GCSE</b>
<b>Component 2</b>	<b>8271</b>	<b>Music Performance</b>	<b>30% of the total GCSE</b>
<b>Component 3</b>	<b>8271</b>	<b>Composing Music</b>	<b>30% of the total GCSE</b>