



A LEVEL MUSIC SUMMER WORK BOOKLET

TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE FIRST LESSON IN SEPTEMBER

This work will help you get a head start and make the most of your A Level Music course.

You should attempt this work but you will be supported throughout the course. If you do not know about anything mentioned on this sheet, it will be explained when you start the course.



SUBMISSION

Bring a completed booklet (digital or printed) to your first Music lesson.



1 MUSICAL BACKGROUND 10 MARKS

Write a short musical autobiography (approx. 300–500 words).

Include:

- Instruments you play or have played
- Singing experience
- Musical genres you enjoy
- Concerts or performances you have attended
- Any composing or music technology experience
- Your musical strengths
- Areas you would like to improve during A Level Music



2 LISTENING LOG



30 MARKS

Listen to the following compulsory AQA set works:

- ★ **Purcell:** Sonata for Trumpet and Strings in D Major (3 movements)

▶ <https://youtu.be/xxb5NyWyU2g?si=vBsjvFNkv5GaXWjZ>

- ★ **Vivaldi:** Flute Concerto in D Major (3 movements)

▶ Movement 1: <https://youtu.be/b5dNg6Flh6fU?si=V2V2Htc2UsyAQ4Hy>

▶ Movement 2: <https://youtu.be/2Yj-B0EkX34?si=K-EaRgunJoS2lrnh>

▶ Movement 3: https://youtu.be/_v3a_6dNsdM?si=AC0CFgR2Py645N4G

- ★ **Bach:** Violin Concerto in A Minor (3 movements)

▶ <https://youtu.be/ulnUkHEIPYM?si=u9FBdgEenXwSBvXU>

For each piece, complete a listening sheet:

A. First Impressions

- Immediate reaction?
- Mood or atmosphere?
- Which instruments?

B. Baroque Features

Use your knowledge of Baroque music to identify any of the following:

- Concertino
- Ripieno
- Basso Continuo
- Ritornello Form
- Rondo Form
- Binary Form
- Sequence
- Imitation
- Episode

C. Use DR T SMITH

to analyse the musical features of each piece.

- D** – Dynamics
- R** – Rhythm, Metre, Tempo
- T** – Texture
- S** – Structure
- M** – Melody
- I** – Instrumentation
- T** – Tonality
- H** – Harmony

D. Personal Evaluation

- What did you enjoy?
- What challenged you?
- Which piece was your favourite and why?

3 COMPOSER RESEARCH 20 MARKS

Choose ONE of the following composers:



Henry Purcell



Antonio Vivaldi



Johann Sebastian Bach



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Create a two-page profile including:

1. Brief biography
2. Historical period
3. Major works
4. Musical style
5. Influence on later composers
6. Five interesting facts

★ Include at least two images and a bibliography.



4 OPERA CONTEXT STUDY 15 MARKS

Watch or listen to parts of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and research the story.

▶ Watch the full opera here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lugFH6PxeMQ>

A CHARACTER MAP



WRITTEN TASK

Answer the following questions (approx. 300 words):

1. Why was the opera controversial when it was first written?
2. What are the main themes of the opera?
3. How does Mozart use music to portray different characters?



5 PERFORMANCE PREPARATION 15 MARKS



Prepare ONE performance piece that you could perform during the first half-term.

REQUIREMENTS

- Approximately 2–4 minutes in length
- Appropriate to your current ability
- Bring music and accompaniment if needed

REFLECTION – Answer the following:

- Why did you choose this piece?
- What technical challenges does it contain?
- What are your performance targets?

★ Students using music technology may instead prepare a recorded performance or production.



6 COMPOSITION CHALLENGE 10 MARKS

Compose a short piece (minimum 16 bars).

OPTION A

BAROQUE STYLE

Compose a melody using:

- Sequences
- Imitation
- Clear cadences



SUBMIT:

- Notated score OR
- DAW screenshot and audio export

OPTION B

FREE COMPOSITION

Compose in any style you enjoy!



COMMENTARY (approx. 150 words)

Explain:

- ✓ Your intentions
- ✓ Musical influences
- ✓ Techniques used



★ STRETCH & CHALLENGE (OPTIONAL)

Listen to ONE additional work by each composer and complete the comparison table.

Composer	Style Features	Favourite Moment
Purcell		
Vivaldi		
Bach		
Mozart		



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

1	Musical Background	10
2	Listening Log	30
3	Composer Research	20
4	Opera Context Study	15
5	Performance Preparation	15
6	Composition Challenge	10
TOTAL		100



TOP TIP!

Be curious, be creative and most importantly, enjoy the music!

