

Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School

Year 12 A Level Music Transition Work

To prepare yourself for yourself for the A Level Music course we suggest that you complete some of the following tasks prior to the start of your course. To ensure you don't spend too long on this, a **maximum** suggested completion time has been included for each task. You are not required to complete all tasks, focus on the ones that you think will help you the most. If you don't understand something, don't worry, we will revise all of this material briefly at the start of the course.

Unit 1 Performing

1. Select a piece of music that you would be willing to share with the rest of the class within the first few weeks. Rehearse and focus on developing both your accuracy and interpretation. Where possible try to work on a piece of grade 5 standard or above. (1-2 hours)
2. Watch a YouTube video of at least 3 outstanding performers on the instrument of your choice. Observe their technique, musicality, stage presence, posture. (15 minutes)

Extension

Record yourself then, using a photocopy of the score (if available), highlight any mistakes or areas that you need to work on in your next rehearsal. (15 minutes)

Unit 2 Composition

1. Compose ideas for a 16 bar chord progression. You could write it down using tab, staff notation or chord symbols in boxes as below). Try to be creative. (45 minutes)

C	F	Dm/F	

Extension

Increase the complexity of your chord progression by adding 7ths, 9ths, suspensions or a modulation to a closely related key. Try to make it sound like the music of a particular style/genre e.g. Classical, Romantic, Jazz or Rock.

Unit 3 Listening and Appraising

1. Revise the elements of music. If you do not recognise a key term, look it up online **Appendix 1**
2. Revise the information on staff notation and the keyboard **Appendix 2**. If any components are unfamiliar the YouTube channel 'Music Theory Guy' has some excellent videos that will recap this content as well as introducing some more advanced content.

Extension

Listen to 'Clara Schumann: Piano Trio in G minor - LSO Discovery A-level Seminar 2016' on YouTube then read the revision notes. You will be studying this at the start of the course. If you come across key terms/concepts that you have not covered, look them up or ask your teacher in September (1 hour).

Other

Consider going to the [BBC proms](https://www.bbc.co.uk/proms) to listen to a wide range of music at a very good price.