



# Music Technology

## Advanced Level



**Exam Board:** Edexcel

### Entry Requirements:

GCSE C/5 grade in music or equivalent qualification or by interview.

*To be successful in Music Technology you will be required to develop skills in electronic composition, recording / mixing technology and midi programming. Ideally you should bring previous experience, a musical qualification and bundles of enthusiasm and commitment. Successful students typically go on to further their careers in the music industry either in composition work, studio recording or self - promotion.*

William Brookes do not offer A Level Music. As an alternative, we do offer the opportunity to study Associated Board Theory Grades 5—8. Weekly 1 hour classes are scheduled for each grade level.

There are three examination sessions—November/March/June. Students will be asked to make your own arrangements to attend an Associated Board Centre (in Shrewsbury) to sit the examinations.

Grade 6—8 have UCAS points associated with them (2017 levels)

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Pass	4	5	6
Merit	6	7	8
Distinction	8	9	10

Lessons are agreed and scheduled with the Music Department.

Music Technology students are encouraged to take Grade 5 Theory as most colleges/universities ask for this as a minimum music requirement for their courses.

## Music Technology

### Advanced A2 Level Music Technology—9MTO

#### Content and assessment overview

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Music Technology consists of two externally-examined papers and two non-examined assessment components.

Students must submit their non-examined assessment (NEA) and complete the examinations in May/June in the year of certification.

#### Component 1: Recording (\*component code: 9MTO/01)

*Non-examined assessment: externally assessed 20% of the qualification  
60 marks*

#### Content overview

Production tools and techniques to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording.

#### Assessment overview

One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs, consisting of a minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments.

- Keyboard tracks may be sequenced.
- Total time must be between 3 minutes and 3½ minutes.
- Logbook and authentication form must be completed.

#### Component 2: Technology-based composition (\*component code: 9MTO/02)

*Non-examined assessment: externally assessed 20% of the qualification—60 marks*

#### Content overview

Creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition.

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# Music Technology

## Assessment overview

- One technology-based composition chosen from three briefs set by the exam board.
- Synthesis and sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects use must be included.
- Total time must be 3 minutes.
- Logbook and authentication form must be completed.

## Component 3: Listening and analysing (\*component code: 9MTO/03)

*Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 25% of the qualification—75 marks*

### Content overview

- Knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles, in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings.
- Application of knowledge related to all three areas of study:
  - ◇ recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
  - ◇ Principles of sound and audio technology
  - ◇ The development of recording and production technology.

### Assessment overview

- This paper comprises two sections: A and B and all questions are compulsory.
- One audio CD with the unfamiliar commercial recordings to accompany questions on the paper will be provided per student.
- Section A: Listening and analysing (40 marks) - four questions, each based on unfamiliar commercial recordings (10 marks each).
- Section B: Extended written responses (35 marks) - two essay questions. One comparison question, which uses two unfamiliar commercial recordings from the CD (15 marks). The second essay uses the final unfamiliar commercial recording on the CD (20 marks).

## Component 4: Producing and analysing (component code: 9MTO/04)

*Written/practical examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (plus 10 minutes setting-up time)*

*35% of the qualification—60 marks*

*105 marks*

### Content overview

- Knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied to unfamiliar materials in the examination.
- Application of knowledge related to two of the areas of study:
  - ◇ recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes.
  - ◇ principles of sound and audio technology.

### Assessment overview

- This paper comprises two sections: A and B and all questions are compulsory.
- Each student will be provided with a set of audio/MIDI materials for the practical element of the examination, to include:
  - ◇ Audio files relating to three instrumental/vocal parts.
  - ◇ A single MIDI file from which a fourth instrumental part will be created or synthesised.
- Students will correct and then combine the audio and MIDI materials to form a completed mix, which may include creating new tracks or parts from the materials provided.
- Section A: Producing and analysing (85 marks) - five questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided that include both written responses and practical tasks.
- Section B: Extended written response (20 marks) - one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit



# Music Technology

Component 4: Producing and analysing (component code: 9MT0/04)

*Written/practical examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (plus 10 minutes setting-up time)*

*35% of the qualification—60 marks*

*105 marks*

## Content overview

- Knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied to unfamiliar materials in the examination.
- Application of knowledge related to two of the areas of study:
  - ◇ recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes.
  - ◇ principles of sound and audio technology.

## Assessment overview

- This paper comprises two sections: A and B and all questions are compulsory.
- Each student will be provided with a set of audio/MIDI materials for the practical element of the examination, to include;
  - ◇ Audio files relating to three instrumental/vocal parts.
  - ◇ A single MIDI file from which a fourth instrumental part will be created or synthesised.
- Students will correct and then combine the audio and MIDI materials to form a completed mix, which may include creating new tracks or parts from the materials provided.
- Section A: Producing and analysing (85 marks) - five questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided that include both written responses and practical tasks.
- Section B: Extended written response (20 marks) - one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit.