

Your guide to the changes for 2021

Following an [Ofqual consultation](#), we have made changes to a number of our qualifications.

The changes are designed to reduce the pressure on teachers and students in the 2020/21 academic year, and to safeguard against ongoing public health concerns.

Please use the [specification on our website](#) alongside this document which shows how our qualifications will differ in summer 2021.

Overview of changes for AS Level Music (H143)

Ofqual have confirmed that students taking AS Level Music in summer 2021 will have a reduction in NEA requirements for performing and composing.

- Only **one performance piece** is required (instead of two) for Performing Component (01) so long as the minimum duration is met
- The externally set brief is being **removed** from **Composing** Component (02)
- The minimum durations are reduced for both performance and composition
- We are extending the set assessment window for the recording of all performances to provide more flexibility. We will communicate the updated assessment window to centres as soon as possible
- There will be no change to the written paper **Listening and Appraising**

AS Level Music (H143) for academic year 2020/21

Students must complete all components: 01, 02 and 03

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<p>Recital with a minimum duration of 2.5 minutes</p> <p>Choice of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • solo piece(s) on one or more instruments or voice • ensemble performance (including accompanying) • realisation using music technology 	<p>Performing (01)</p> <p><i>Recital</i></p> <p><i>Non-exam assessment – externally assessed via audio-visual recording</i></p>	<p>30% of total AS Level</p>
<p>Composition with a duration of at least 2.5 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One composition to a brief written by the learner 	<p>Composing (02)</p> <p><i>Compositions accompanied by a score, lead sheet or written description</i></p> <p><i>Non-exam assessment – externally assessed via audio recordings</i></p>	<p>30% of total A Level</p>
<p>Listening and appraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysing and evaluating music • Familiar and unfamiliar pieces • Prescribed works • Questions based on aural extracts 	<p>Listening and appraising (03)</p> <p><i>Written exam including aural extracts</i></p> <p><i>100 marks</i></p> <p><i>2 hour written exam</i></p>	<p>40% of total AS Level</p>

All NEA will continue to be externally assessed.

There will be no change to form of assessment and minimal changes to wording of marking criteria – please continue to refer to the criteria on the website and guidance in the main specification.

What has changed?

What has changed – Specification	Detail
<p>Performing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in minimum number of pieces Reduction in minimum duration 	<p>The minimum requirement is the performance of one piece (instead of two). The minimum duration is reduced to 2.5 minutes.</p> <p>Learners may still perform multiple pieces to meet the minimum performance duration.</p> <p>Learners must still meet these reduced minimum durations. (you are still able to submit performances that are longer than the stated minimum duration)</p> <p>Score/lead sheets must still be submitted for all required components.</p>
<p>Composing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of composition to OCR-set brief Reduction in minimum duration 	<p>The composition to an OCR-set brief is no longer required. Learners must still submit a composition to a learner-set brief.</p> <p>The minimum duration is reduced to 2.5 minutes.</p> <p>Learners must still meet these reduced minimum durations. (you are still able to submit performances that are longer than the stated minimum duration)</p> <p>Score/lead sheets must still be submitted for all required components</p>

What has changed - Forms	Detail
Candidate coversheets for Performing and Composing	The candidate coversheets for Performing and Composing will be updated to reflect the changes.

Support

OCR's team of expert Subject Advisors has created videos, webinars, and other resources to guide you through these changes and help you prepare your students for their exams in summer 2021.

These resources can be found [here](#).

Contact Us

If you would like to contact us, you can do so at:

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