



West Park School

Music

GCSE Examination Summer 2026

In readiness for your GCSE examination in Music you must **LEARN** and **REVISE** the following content and skills:

Area of Study 2: The Concerto Through Time

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| <i>What is a concerto?</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Definition of a concerto• Instruments of the orchestra• The orchestra's development over time• The role of the soloist and how it changes over time• Relationship between orchestra and soloist• Musical characteristics of the Baroque, Classical and Romantic• Social and historical context• The changing nature of the audience• Names of composers and key works |
| <i>Baroque Concerto Grosso</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dates of the era• Concertino• Ripieno• Examples of composers and their works• Continuo part• Examples of composers and their works• Performance venue• MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Baroque Solo Concerto</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dates of the era• Tutti• Solo with continuo• Examples of composers and their works• Performance venue• MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Classical Concerto</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dates of the era• Range of dynamics• Change in orchestra• New instruments• Examples of composers and their works• Performance venue• MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Romantic Concerto</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dates of the era• Dramatic and emotional• Change in orchestra• More variety in dynamics, tempo and pitch range• Complex harmonies• Examples of composers and their works• Performance venue• MAD T SHIRT features |

Area of Study 3: Rhythms of the World

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| <i>African Drumming</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses of drumming • Aural tradition • Master Drummer • Purposes/roles of the different drums • “Chordophones” / “Aerophones” • Improvisation • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Samba</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aural tradition • Name of ensemble - “Bateria” • “Batucada” - Fast and repetitive • Purposes/roles of the different instruments • Master drummer/band leader • How pieces are structured • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Calypso</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where it originated • The purpose of the lyrics • Primary chords • The purpose/role of each steel pan • “Son Clave” rhythm • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Indian Classical Music</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposes and traditions of Indian Music • Aural tradition – “Master -student” • Improvisation • “Raga, Drone and Tala” • Ornamentation: glissando/meends, grace notes, pitch bends and trills • Features of “Alap”, “Jhor”, “Jhala” and “Gat (Bandish)” • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Bhangra</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origins and purpose • The role of each instrument, e.g., Dhol drum and the Tumbi • Features of Bhangra singing • “Chaal” rhythm • How technology impacted traditional Bhangra • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Israel & Palestinian Folk Music</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origins and influences • Key features of Palestinian music • Key terms: “Dabke” - a popular dance, “Wazn” - a rhythmic pattern, “Doum”, “Tek” and “Ka” - ways to hit a hand drum • Microtones • Improvisation • Key features of Israeli dance music • Ornaments: grace notes, pitch bends, tremolo, slides, melisma, hammer-on, pull-off • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Greek Folk Music</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposes of Greek folk music • “Irregular” time signatures • Common folk instruments • Ornaments: grace notes, pitch bends, tremolo, slides and melisma • Adding a “third” interval to a melody • MAD T SHIRT features |

Area of Study 4: Film and Video Game Music

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| <i>History of Film Music</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Silent Era • Key actors/directors (Charlie Chaplin/Buster Keaton) • How was music added to film? Why? • How music links to the actions on screen • Timeline of Film music from 1890s-Present day |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Golden Age</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates of era • Leitmotif – definition and use • Key composers and films • Instruments/ensembles used • Golden Age Revival – John Williams • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Video Game Music</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiptune and the development of technology • The various purposes of Music in video games (e.g. Giving information to the player) • How music reflects the type/style/genre of video game • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Mickey Mousing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of Mickey Mousing • Key Mickey Mousing techniques • How actions are connected to music • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Use of technology</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology of the silent era • Development of recording in Golden Age and beyond • Development of video game technology – from cartridge, to CD and beyond • Use of electronic instruments • Use of modern-day recording studios/software • Methods of recording live music/musicians |
| <i>Creating a soundtrack</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline of events • How can each element of MAD T SHIRT be used to suit the scene? • Melodic direction • Major or Minor tonality • Instrument choices and their associations • The effect of texture |

Area of Study 5: Conventions of Pop

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| <i>Rock and Roll</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates of the era • Heavily based around Blues • Acoustic instruments • Examples of artists and their songs • Performance venues • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Rock Anthems</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates of the era • Use of effects • Electronic and amplified instruments • Power chords • Examples of artists and their songs • Performance venues • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Pop Ballads</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates of the era • Simple accompaniment • Accompaniment styles, e.g., block chords, broken chords, etc. • Sentimental/romantic songs that tell a story • Examples of artists and their songs • Performance venues • MAD T SHIRT features |
| <i>Solo Artists</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates of the era • Electronic instruments • Effects added in the editing process • Examples of artists and their songs • Performance venues • MAD T SHIRT features |

General skills:

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| <i>Note Values</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know each note value from “semibreve” to “semi quaver,” what they look like and how many beats they are worth • Be able to recognise these notes when analysing music |
| <i>Time Signatures</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know what each number means (Top= amount / Bottom = type of beat) • Simple: 2/4, 3 /4, 4/4, • Compound: 6/8, 9/8, 12/8 • Be able to write out/tap out the pulse in each time signature |
| <i>Key Signatures</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the order of sharps (F#, C#, G#) • Know the order of flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) • Know the key signature for the major keys: C, G, D, A, F, Bb, Eb • How to work out the relative minor of the above keys |
| <i>Cadences</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the roman numeral progression for the following cadences: <u>Perfect, Plagal, Imperfect, Interrupted (also know the names)</u> • Be able to write out these cadences in different keys • Be able to recognise these when listening and in a score |
| <i>Basic rhythmic patterns</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise a written rhythmic pattern through listening • Have a strong sense of pulse when counting the beat • Know note values • Know how note values can be grouped |
| <i>Dictation</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise the direction of a given phrase through listening • Knowledge of intervals • Knowledge of pitches on the stave |

9- mark question:

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| <i>MAD T SHIRT</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be able to write about the MAD T-Shirt words below when describing music in the 9-mark question • Melody – The main tune • Articulation – How a note is played • Dynamics – The volume of the piece/note • Texture – How many layers there are • Structure – How the music is organised • Harmony – The basis of the music (major, minor, atonal, chromatic, diatonic) • Instrumentation – The instruments used • Rhythm and Metre – How many beats in a bar and different note durations • Tempo – The speed of the music |
| <i>Reference the question</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each point you make should refer to the question |
| <i>Concise points</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose your MAD T SHIRT feature, make your point, and refer to the question – NO WAFFLE! • Make sure you read the work back to ensure it makes sense • The examiner who marks the work, will not know you. Your teachers know you and know you might have made a simple mistake. The examiners won't, so be clear and concise and make the answers obvious |