

Music

A Level Preparation Work

Welcome to A Level Music! The tasks below are designed to support and prepare you to start the course.

A huge part of Music A-Level is about analysing a music score. This bridging work is going to help ensure you are ready to start the course with confidence.

Activity 1

In September you need to be able to read both treble and bass clef with fluency. Here are some resources which you may find helpful. You need to print off manuscript paper and write down the notes - it's the best way to learn.

Youtube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le10tF_3YWg Learning to read treble clef

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMk-q5LCiAs> Learning to read bass clef

Online lessons and tests

<https://www.musictheory.net/lessons/10> Online lesson.

<https://www.musictheory.net/exercises/note> (This is a brilliant test, you can spend hours on this!)

Activity 2

Learning your key signatures. Understanding how key signatures work is going to be essential for both analysis and composition. Therefore you need to be familiar with the Circle of Fifths by September. This video will teach you how to work out the circle of fifths. We would recommend that you practise writing out the circle of 5ths. Whilst the video is brilliant, you won't just watch it once and immediately get it! It will take practice. You might find it helpful to attempt some of the scales on a keyboard, or instrument of your choice. You will find this challenging but it's worth the effort!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHv5WN4SiU> Music Theory – Understand the Circle of Fifths

If you are currently a Wellsway student, lessons on key signatures can be found on Focus on Sound, which you can access via RM Unify, or by clicking on the links below. If you're joining us from another school you can be assured we will set you up with an account in September. You may find YouTube a source of superb help!

<https://fosuk.server1.apps.focusonsound.com/lessons/aqa-gcse/#aqa--key-signatures-lesson-1>

<https://fosuk.server1.apps.focusonsound.com/lessons/aqa-gcse/#aqa--key-signatures-lesson-2>

<https://fosuk.server1.apps.focusonsound.com/lessons/aqa-gcse/#aqa--key-signatures-lesson-3>

<https://fosuk.server1.apps.focusonsound.com/lessons/aqa-gcse/#aqa--key-signatures-lesson-4>

<https://fosuk.server1.apps.focusonsound.com/lessons/aqa-gcse/#aqa--key-signatures-lesson-5>

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Activity 3

Following the A-Level session you had, you are going to compose a diatonic melody in a major key. You can compose on flat.io, soundtrap or simply record the melody. The melody needs to be 16 bars long, made up of four phrases.

1. Use one of the following structures:
 - A A B B
 - A A1 B B1.
 - A B A B1
 - A B C A
2. Use one of the following time signatures:
 - $\frac{3}{4}$
 - $\frac{4}{4}$
3. Use at least three of the following rhythms
 - Minims
 - Crotchets
 - Dotted crotchets then a quaver
 - Triplets
 - Dotted quaver then a semiquaver

Keep your melody simple and singable. If you are a vocalist and wish to put lyrics to it, you may!

If you want further challenge, feel free to harmonise your melody.