

KS3 Music Depth of Understanding Grade Descriptors

YEAR 7	2	4	6	8
Appraising	Notice and describe musical contrasts using simple musical vocabulary	Recognise how musical elements can be used to create different moods/effects; improve own work.	Describe and compare different kinds of music	Comment on how music reflects time and place; analyse and compare musical features
Composing	Able to create sounds with a degree of musical organisation and intent.	Choose and order sounds within simple structures (e.g. beginning, middle, end)	Compose by developing ideas within musical structures	Explore different styles, using range of devices; sustain and develop ideas to achieve intended effects
Performing	Demonstrate how sounds are made on a range of instruments.	Perform simple patterns and accompaniments, keeping a steady pulse	Perform simple rhythms and tunes by ear/from notation; able to hold separate part within group. Performance level approx. Grade 2 ABRSM	Perform accurately significant parts from memory/notation. Performance level approx. Grade 3 ABRSM
Musical Literacy	Demonstrate understanding of the purpose of music notation	Represent sounds of different pitch or duration with symbols	Understand and compare notation systems	Able to perform from notations; use a variety of notations

Year 8	2	4	6	8
Appraising	Respond to different moods in music; identify simple repeated patterns	Make improvements to own work, commenting on the intended effect	Describe, compare and evaluate a variety of music; suggest improvements to work	Analyse, compare and evaluate how music reflects the contexts in which it is created, performed and heard
Composing	Create and choose sounds in response to given starting points	Recognise and explore the ways sounds can be combined and used expressively	Compose music for different occasions using a range musical devices	Extend and discard musical ideas within musical structures, styles and traditions
Performing	Perform with awareness of others; able to repeat short, simple patterns	Perform rhythmically simple parts using a limited range of notes by ear. Performance level approx Grade 1 ABRSM	Perform simple pieces by ear and from notation. Performance Level Grade 2-3 ABRSM	Able to adjust to others within a group performance; expressive performing. Performance level approx. Grade 4 ABRSM
Musical Literacy	Represent sounds with symbols	Read simple notations	Able to use appropriate vocabulary descriptively	Use relevant notations to plan, revise and refine material

Year 9	2	4	6	8
Appraising	Recognise how musical elements can be used to create different moods/effects; improve own work.	Describe and compare different kinds of music	Comment on how music reflects time and place; analyse and compare musical features	Discriminate, explore and critique a range of musical conventions and influences in own and others' work
Composing	Choose and order sounds within simple structures (e.g. beginning, middle, end)	Compose by developing ideas within musical structures	Explore different styles, using range of devices; sustain and develop ideas to achieve intended effects	Create coherent compositions drawing on internalised sounds and adapt, improvise and develop ideas
Performing	Perform simple patterns and accompaniments, keeping to a steady pulse	Perform simple rhythms and tunes by ear/from notation; able to hold separate part within group. Performance level approx. Grade 2 ABRSM	Perform accurately significant parts from memory/notation. Performance level approx. Grade 3 ABRSM	Apply a range of stylistic conventions when performing. Performance Level Approx Grade 4 ABRSM
Musical Literacy	Represent sounds of different pitch or duration with symbols	Read and compare notation systems	Able to perform from notations; use a variety of notations	Evaluate and discuss using appropriate musical vocabulary