



Performance Skills

A level Music

Performance Skills

Learning Purpose

Context: Performance

The purpose of this component is to assess your performing skills in a solo and/or ensemble context. You will be given the opportunity to rehearse and refine performances on your chosen instrument or voice, developing technical control, expression and interpretative skills.

Prior Learning:

- Development of technical control of an instrument/voice.
- Development of accuracy and fluency in performance on an instrument/voice
- Perform in a variety of musical styles.

We are Learning To.....

Develop creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity, critical awareness, self-confidence, self-motivation, musical interests and skills.

Develop performing skills to demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation and expression

Perform with control, using phrasing and dynamics appropriate to their chosen styles and moods of music.

For September, please prepare the following to perform to your teacher:

- one piece of solo music on your chosen instrument (accompanied or unaccompanied).

You are preparing for:

Performance is assessed against AO1: Interpret musical ideas through performing, with technical and expressive control and an understanding of style and context.

- Performance assessment grid 1: Technical control of the instrument.
- Performance assessment grid 2: Technical control (Accuracy) and Expressive control (Fluency)
- Performance assessment grid 3: Expressive control, style and context assesses your ability to communicate through the use of musical elements and interpret ideas with expressive control and an understanding of style and context.



Aims, and work in progress

Aims

- Set your performing aims for a two-four week block of practice

Work in Progress

- Set your targets for improvement for each week of practice

Performance Task: Prepare a solo piece for performance to your teacher in September. Practice your chosen piece regularly throughout the summer, using the practice diary as your guide and log throughout.



Establishing a Practice Routine

Look at this sample practice plan, and then devise your own that works for you

Sample practice plan

Aim to play for 1 hour per day. This might consist of:

- 10 mins warm up: etude or other technical work
- 20 mins work on your chosen main piece for the session
- 10 mins spot practice to tackle technical or expressive difficulties
- 15 mins work on a contrasting piece
- 5 mins sight reading (do not skip this stage; it will really benefit your playing)
- 10 mins easy playing: choose a favourite piece and concentrate on your sound production

Also complete further listening work each week. This could be, for example:

- 15 mins study of your score and piano score (if not a pianist)
- 15 mins study of an additional work by the same composer in order to build your knowledge of that composer and musical style
- After your practice, keep a record of your work to help you revise your progress.



Daily log

Complete a daily log to help you structure your practice. You will find these in the A level practise diary.

- **Technical Warm Up:**
- **Focus Repertoire:**
- **Useful Strategies**

This will create a regular dialogue between you and your teacher(s). Make sure that you fill it in truthfully.

DAY OF LESSON	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7