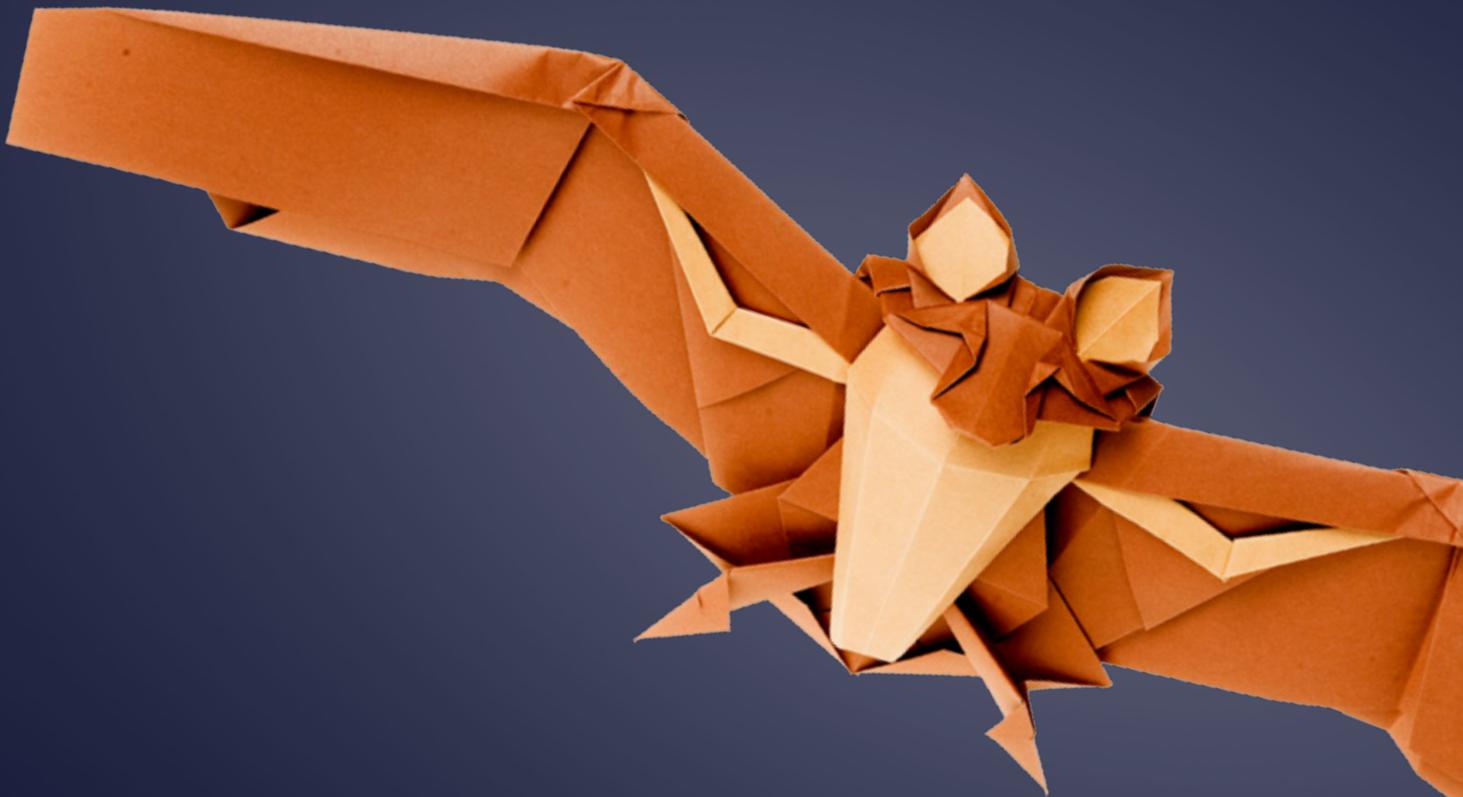


# AS and A level **Music Technology**

**Engaging minds through sound**

Discover our new qualifications for 2017



Pearson

# Edexcel AS and A level Music Technology 2017

This guide provides an overview of the specifications for our new Edexcel AS and A level Music Technology qualifications for first teaching September 2017. We'll outline how our specifications will inspire your students and address changes to the qualifications. We'll also outline the high-quality support you can expect.

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## Engaging minds through sound

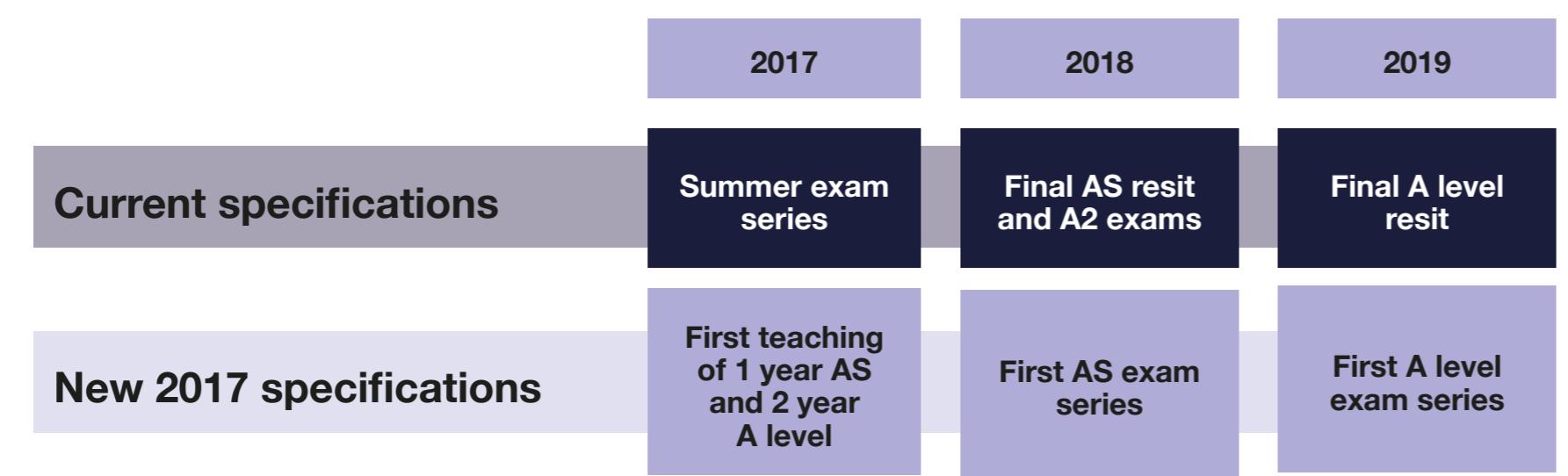
Our new Edexcel AS and A level qualifications will inspire a broad range of students with both practical application and demonstration of knowledge and understanding. The content is separated into 3 sections:

- Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes.
- Principles of sound and audio technology – including the new content on theory of sound.
- Development of recording and production technology – covering the understanding of how technology has developed over time and had an impact on music production and styles.

### Working with you

We've worked with teachers, the DfE, music associations including NAHME (National Association for Music in Higher Education) JAMES (Joint Audio Media Education Support), MEC (Music Education Council) and universities. As the only awarding body offering these qualifications, we've made sure our Edexcel AS and A level Music Technology specifications for first teaching in 2017 have been shaped by you, for your music technology students, to help them achieve their full potential.

## What's happening and when?



### Next steps ...

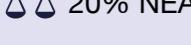
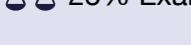
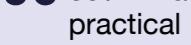
Once you've read through this guide, turn to the back page for details of how to:

1. Sign up to teach, get specification updates and **free support**.
2. Book on to a **free Getting Ready to Teach** event.

# Qualifications at a glance

## AS Music Technology

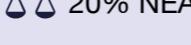
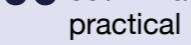
Our Edexcel AS in Music Technology consists of two externally examined papers and two non-examined assessment components. Students must submit their non-examined assessment (NEA) and complete the examinations in May/June in the year of certification.

Component	Overview	Assessment
<b>Component 1</b> <b>Recording</b>  20% NEA	One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs or artists consisting of a minimum of three compulsory instruments and two additional instruments. Keyboard tracks may be sequenced. Total time must be between 2–2½ minutes. Logbook and authentication form must be supplied.	1 recording Total of <b>60 marks</b>
<b>Component 2</b> <b>Technology-based composition</b>  20% NEA	One technology-based composition. Synthesis, sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects use must be included. Total time must be 2½ minutes. Logbook and authentication form must be supplied.	1 recording of composition Total of <b>60 marks</b>
<b>Component 3</b> <b>Listening and analysing</b>  25% Exam	Comprises two sections: A and B, all questions are compulsory. One audio CD with the unfamiliar commercial recordings to accompany questions on the paper will be provided per student.	Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes Section A: Listening and Analysing (44 marks) Section B: Extended written response (16 marks) Total of <b>60 marks</b>
<b>Component 4</b> <b>Producing and analysing</b>  35% Exam/practical	Comprises two sections: A and B, all questions are compulsory. Students will correct and then combine audio and MIDI materials (provided) to form a completed mix.	Written/practical examination: 1 hour 45 minutes (plus 10 minutes setting-up time) Section A: Analysing and producing (68 marks) Section B: Extended written response (16 marks) Total of <b>84 marks</b>

See full details in our Edexcel AS Music Technology specification pages 4-5.

## A level Music Technology

Our Edexcel A level in Music Technology consists of two externally examined papers and two non-examined assessment components. Students must submit their non-examined assessment (NEA) and complete the examinations in May/June in the year of certification.

Component	Overview	Assessment
<b>Component 1</b> <b>Recording</b>  20% NEA	One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs consisting of a minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments. Keyboard tracks may be sequenced. Total time must be between 3 minutes and 3½ minutes. Logbook and authentication form must be supplied.	1 recording Total of <b>60 marks</b>
<b>Component 2</b> <b>Technology-based composition</b>  20% NEA	One technology-based composition. Synthesis and sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects use must be included. Total time must be 3 minutes. Logbook and authentication form must be supplied.	1 recording of composition Total of <b>60 marks</b>
<b>Component 3</b> <b>Listening and analysing</b>  25% Exam	Comprises two sections: A and B, all questions are compulsory. One audio CD with the unfamiliar commercial recordings to accompany questions on the paper will be provided per student.	Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes Section A: Listening and analysing (40 marks) Section B: Extended written responses (35 marks) Total of <b>75 marks</b>
<b>Component 4</b> <b>Producing and analysing</b>  35% Exam/practical	Comprises two sections: A and B and all questions are compulsory. Students will correct and then combine audio and MIDI materials (provided) to form a completed mix, which may include creating new tracks or parts from the materials provided.	Written/practical examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (plus 10 minutes setting-up time) Section A: Producing and analysing (85 marks) responses and practical tasks. Section B: Extended written response (20 marks) Total of <b>105 marks</b>

See full details in our Edexcel A level Music Technology specification pages 4-5.



# Clear emphasis on music technology, without the emphasis on music theory

We've retained the practical and theoretical elements of music technology that motivates your students, and reduced the emphasis on music theory, which we know some students have struggled with.

- Supports the teaching of music technology practical application – recording and production.
- Students will use technology to explore a range of techniques for capturing, editing and manipulating sound.
- Includes sound theory and the maths and physics of sound waves.

Full details of the areas of study are in our specification at:  
[quals.pearson.com/alevelmusictec17](http://quals.pearson.com/alevelmusictec17)

## Keeping the engaging practical content your students love

We know it's important that content is relevant to your students and that they can see its practical application. We've retained the practical tasks they love and ensured the theory is relevant to the technology they are using.

- **Area of Study 1:** Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes.
- **Area of Study 2:** Principles of sound and audio technology.
- **Area of Study 3:** The development of recording and production technology.

The table below identifies the Components covered in each Area of Study.

Area of Study	Components
<b>1</b> Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes	<b>1</b> Recording <b>2</b> Technology-based composition <b>3</b> Listening and analysing <b>4</b> Producing and analysing
<b>2</b> Principles of sound and audio technology	<b>3</b> Listening and analysing <b>4</b> Producing and analysing
<b>3</b> The development of recording and production technology	<b>3</b> Listening and analysing

# Equipping students with skills for higher education and beyond

Our content is designed to develop a broad range of skills including project management, appraising and analysis, creativity and imagination. Students will be able to progress to undergraduate study in music technology, sound production, sound engineering and many other courses requiring a similar skill set.

- ⦿ Students will develop finely tuned listening ears.
- ⦿ The study of music technology eras and styles will enrich their listening and broaden their understanding.
- ⦿ Assessing production skills in an exam emulates real world contexts and skills.
- ⦿ The maths and scientific elements complement the creative and technical.



## Clearly defined and accessible assessments

Despite an increased exam content, we've kept a lot of practical elements in the course and given higher weighting to the exam containing practical elements. We've also clearly defined the skills required in each of the coursework assessments to help you focus on the demands and outcomes of the tasks.

- ⦿ Clear structure and clarity of teaching requirements at first glance.
- ⦿ Straightforward mark schemes will help you to understand the required standard.
- ⦿ The practical production and recording tasks will inspire students to demonstrate their technical and creative skills, as well as their innovation.

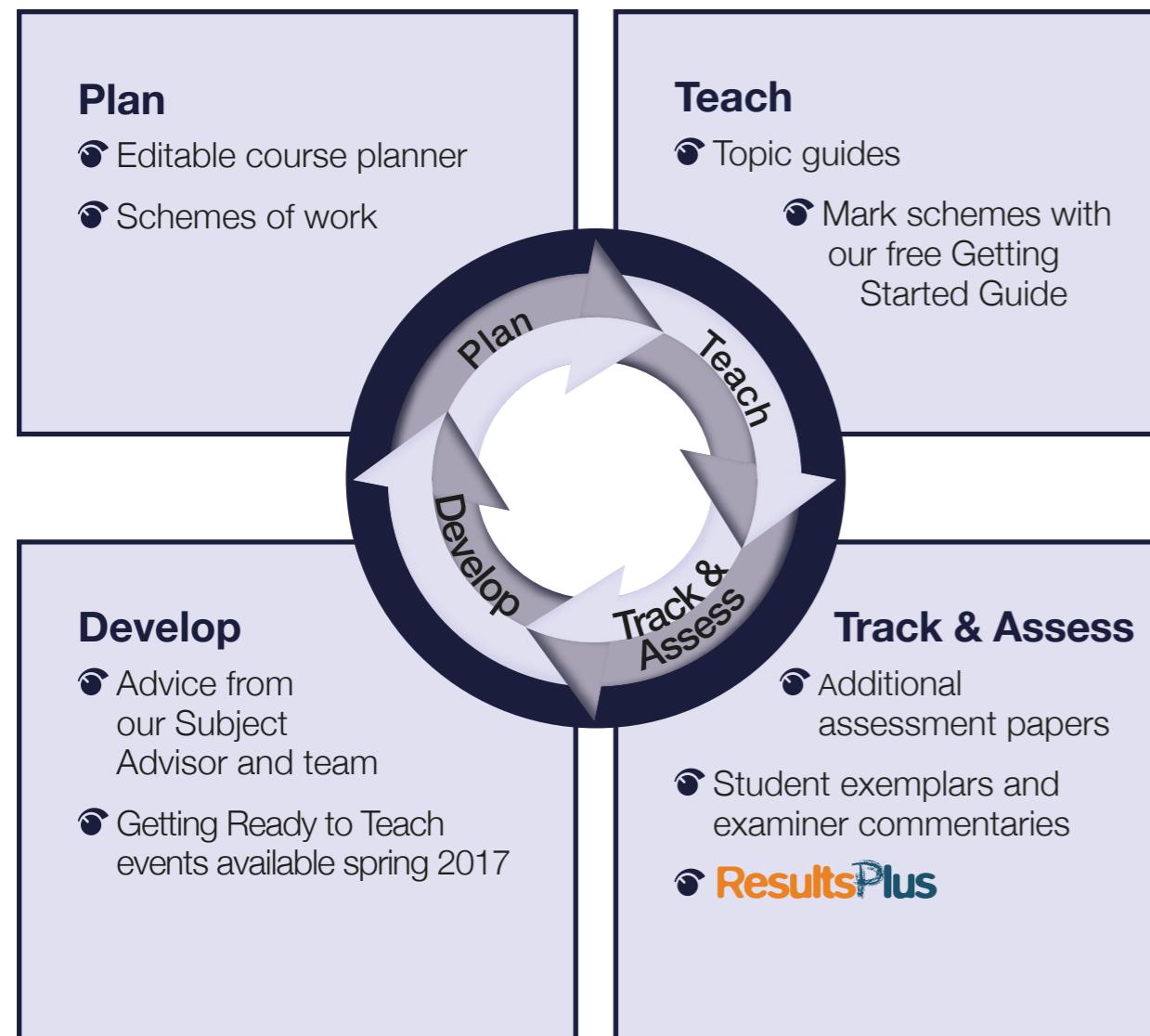
### Example: A level Component 1: Recording – assessment grid 1

	Drum kit	Vocals	Other parts	Capture Use of microphones and DI to capture live performance.
	0	0	0	No rewardable material; no live capture using microphones or DI
<b>Level 1</b>	1	1	1	Limited success of capture; misjudgements detract from the clarity throughout
<b>Level 2</b>	2	2	2	Inconsistent capture; misjudgements occasionally detract from clarity
<b>Level 3</b>	3	3	3	Competent capture; misjudgements do not impact significantly on clarity
<b>Level 4</b>	4	4	4	Excellent capture throughout
<b>Total for Capture – 12 Marks</b>				

See our **Edexcel AS and A level Music Technology** specifications for all our Recording assessment grids.

# Trusted expert support when you need it

We've put together a package of **free support** to help you **plan** and **teach** our new qualifications, **track and assess** students' progress, and **develop** your own professional knowledge and skills.



## Key facts: AS and A level Music Technology

The following changes from the DfE will apply to the new specifications.

### Assessment changes

- NEA is now only 40%, down from 60%.
- The coursework tasks will be separated into separate components rather than being submitted and assessed together.

### Content changes

- The subject criteria are no longer shared with music; the music content has been removed.
- There will be an increase in the amount of sound theory and more technical aspects of music technology.

### Subject support

We are delighted to introduce you to **Jeffery Hole**, our new Music and Music Technology Subject Advisor, who is on hand to help you with any questions.

You can also sign up to receive emails to be kept up to date about training events, news and government announcements, deadlines and much more.

020 7010 2176

TeachingMusic@pearson.com

Follow Jeffery on Twitter: @PearsonMusic1

[quals.pearson.com/alevelmusictec17](http://quals.pearson.com/alevelmusictec17)



**Jeffery Hole**  
Music Subject Advisor

# Next steps...

## Sign up to teach

### **Edexcel AS and A level Music Technology**

If you're interested in teaching our qualifications, be sure to let us know so you receive important specification updates and support.

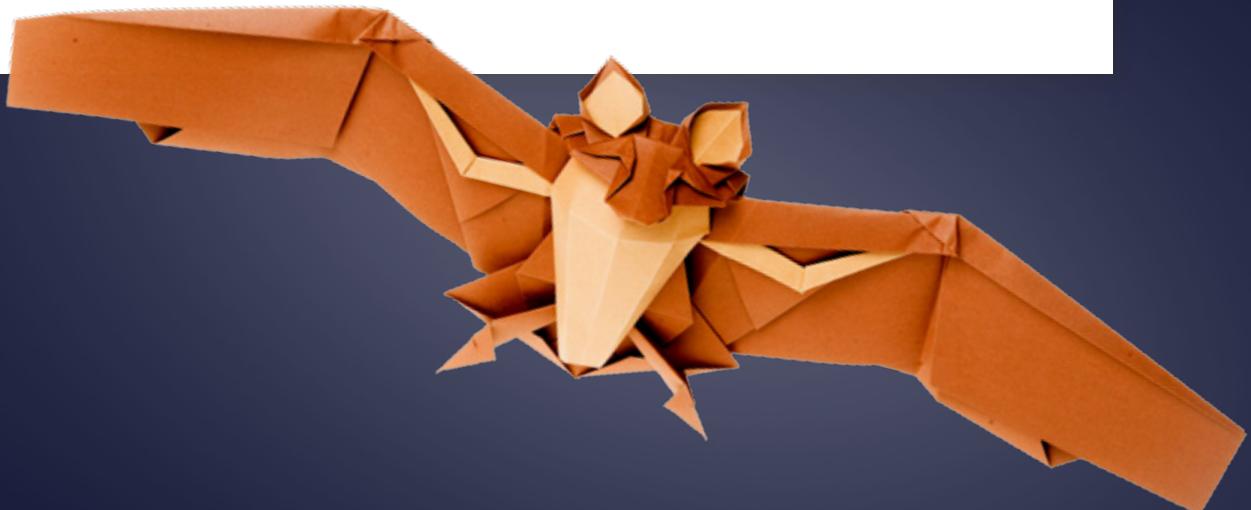
**Sign up to teach at:**

**[quals.pearson.com/TeachingMusicTec17](https://quals.pearson.com/TeachingMusicTec17)**

### **Look out for free Get Ready to Teach events**

We'll be running free **Getting Ready to Teach** events during spring 2017. Book your place at:

**[quals.pearson.com/MusicTecGRTT](https://quals.pearson.com/MusicTecGRTT)**



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