
GCE Music Technology 2017: Content Mapping – Edexcel

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Information for current Edexcel centres

The information in this document is relevant if you are currently teaching the current Edexcel GCE A level (AS and A2) in Music Technology and you intend to teach the 2017 Edexcel GCE A level and/or AS level in Music Technology from September 2017.

Changing to the new specification(s) should be fairly straightforward.

The current GCE content has been reviewed and refreshed in the light of extensive research and of Ofqual and DfE's current requirements to form the new 2017 A level and AS specifications, but you will essentially be encouraging learners to develop the same range of skills in recording, composing, 'listening and analysing' and 'producing and analysing'.

The table below should enable tutors to see the main differences in structure and assessment between the two qualifications.

For additional detail concerning the 2017 Pearson Edexcel specification, see
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-Levels/music-technology-2017.html>

Mapping

	2008 Edexcel GCE Music Technology	2017 Pearson Edexcel GCE Music Technology	Notes
Titles	<p>Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Music Technology (8MT01): First examination 2009</p> <p>Edexcel 3 Advanced GCE in Music Technology (9MT01): First examination 2010</p>	<p>Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Music Technology (8MT0): First examination 2018</p> <p>Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Music Technology (9MT0): First examination 2019</p>	<p>The 2008 Edexcel AS level had to be taken before or at the same time as the 2008 Edexcel A2.</p> <p>The 2017 Pearson Edexcel AS and A level specifications are separate, but co-teachable.</p> <p>The areas of study are the same for both, with additional content at A level.</p>
AS overview	<p>The 2008 current Edexcel AS level is made up of 3 units:</p> <p>Unit 1: Portfolio 1 (70%) Partly internally and partly externally set and externally assessed.</p> <p>Unit 2: Listening and analysing (30%)</p>	<p>The 2017 Pearson Edexcel AS is made up of 4 components:</p> <p>Component 1: Recording (20%) Non-examined assessment (NEA) externally set and externally assessed.</p> <p>Component 2: Technology-</p>	<p>The new AS is a stand-alone qualification.</p> <p>There are now four components as opposed to two, and each NEA task now is a discrete component. There is no discrete sequencing task in the 2017 AS level. The</p>

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	Written exam (1hr 45min) is externally set and externally assessed.	<p>based composition (20%) NEA externally set and externally assessed.</p> <p>Component 3: Listening and analysing (25%) Written exam (1hr 15min) is externally set and externally assessed.</p> <p>Component 4: Producing and analysing (35%) Written exam (1hr 45min) is externally set and externally assessed.</p>	<p>arranging task has been replaced by a composition task.</p> <p>The Producing and analysing written/practical examination, previously A level only, is now also part of the AS level specification.</p>
A level overview	<p>The 2008 Edexcel A2 is made up of 2 units:</p> <p>Unit 3: Portfolio 2 (60%) Partly internally and partly externally set and externally assessed.</p> <p>Unit 4: Producing and analysing (40%) Written exam (2 hours) is externally set and externally</p>	<p>The 2017 Pearson Edexcel A level is made up of 4 components:</p> <p>Component 1: Recording (20%) Non-examined assessment (NEA) externally set and externally assessed.</p> <p>Component 2: Technology-based composition (20%)</p>	<p>The 2017 A level is a stand-alone qualification.</p> <p>There are now four components as opposed to two, and each NEA task has a discrete component.</p> <p>The Listening and analysing written examination,</p>

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A level overview	assessed.	<p>NEA externally set and externally assessed.</p> <p>Component 3: Listening and analysing (25%)</p> <p>Written exam (1hr 30min) is externally set and externally assessed.</p> <p>Component 4: Producing and analysing (35%)</p> <p>Written exam (2hr 15min) is externally set and externally assessed.</p>	previously AS level only, is now part of the A level specification.
Coursework units/NEA components	<p>AS Unit 1:</p> <p>Portfolio 1 comprises three tasks:</p> <p>1A – Sequenced Realised Performance</p> <p>1B – Multi-track Recording</p> <p>1C – Creative Sequenced Arrangement</p> <p>Students submit a logbook.</p>	<p>AS Component 1:</p> <p>Recording must be 2–2½ minutes long.</p> <p>Students must choose one song from a list of ten songs or artists supplied by Pearson.</p> <p>Instrumental requirements with compulsory and additional instruments are outlined in the specification.</p>	<p>The most significant change is that there is no discrete sequencing task in the 2017 AS level. The arranging task has been replaced by a composition task.</p> <p>Teachers are encouraged to read the conditions about recordings that are under- or over-length, outlined in the specification.</p>

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Coursework units/NEA components		<p>AS Component 2:</p> <p>Technology-based composition must be 2½ minutes long.</p> <p>It must contain at least six separate vocal, instrumental, sample-based parts. Two samples will be provided:</p> <p>(i) 10–15-second sample of a melody and/or harmony.</p> <p>(ii) 2–4-second sample of a vocal phrase, sound effect or percussion sound.</p> <p>Both samples must be used, and must appear at least once in their entirety in the technology-based composition.</p>	<p>The technology-based composition is based on provided samples as opposed to prescribed styles.</p> <p>Component 1 is based entirely on Assessment Objective AO1.</p> <p>Component 2 is based entirely on Assessment Objective AO2.</p>
Coursework units/NEA components	<p>A level Unit 3:</p> <p>Portfolio 2 comprises three tasks:</p> <p>3A – Sequenced Integrated Performance</p> <p>3B – Multi-track Recording</p> <p>3C – Composing Using Music</p>	<p>A level Component 1:</p> <p>Recording must be 3–3½ minutes long.</p> <p>Students must choose one song from a list of ten songs or artists supplied by Pearson.</p> <p>Instrumental requirements with compulsory and additional</p>	<p>The most significant change is that there is no integrated sequenced task in the 2017 A level.</p> <p>Teachers are encouraged to read the conditions about recordings that are under- or</p>

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	<p>Technology</p> <p>Students submit a logbook.</p>	<p>instruments are outlined in the specification.</p> <p>A level Component 2: Technology-based composition must be 3 minutes long. It must contain at least six separate vocal, instrumental, sample-based parts.</p> <p>Three briefs will be provided:</p> <p>(i) Film clip / computer game footage or a descriptive scenario such as an art installation supplied by Pearson.</p> <p>(ii) Text supplied by Pearson.</p> <p>(iii) Use 'sound bites' i.e. samples in a structured way concerning a topic set out by Pearson.</p>	<p>over-length, outlined in the specification.</p> <p>Component 2 is similar to the composition task in the 2008 A level.</p> <p>Component 1 is based entirely on Assessment Objective AO1.</p> <p>Component 2 is based entirely on Assessment Objective AO2.</p>
Examination units/components	<p>AS Unit 2: Section A</p> <p>Four questions that relate to extracts taken from any era or</p>	<p>Component 3 (AS): Section A</p> <p>Four questions, each based on unfamiliar commercial</p>	<p>There are 'no special focus styles' externally set, however for Components 3 and 4 students should have knowledge and understanding</p>

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	<p>style of popular music from 1910 onwards.</p> <p>Section B</p> <p>Two questions that relate to two externally set 'special focus styles'.</p>	<p>recordings supplied by Pearson. May include multiple-choice, gap-fill, diagrammatic, short-open and open-response questions.</p> <p>Section B</p> <p>One extended open-response question based on the two final unfamiliar commercial recordings.</p> <p>Component 3 (A level):</p> <p>Similar in format to AS Component 3.</p> <p>Section A</p> <p>Four questions, each based on unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied by Pearson. May include multiple-choice, gap-fill, diagrammatic, short-open and open-response questions.</p> <p>Section B</p> <p>Extended open-response</p>	<p>of a variety of music styles as listed in the specification.</p> <p>Component 3 has extended written-response questions, which have not previously been a part of Unit 2.</p> <p>AS and A level Component 3 is based entirely on Assessment Objectives AO3 and AO4.</p>

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		<p>questions:</p> <p>One comparison question, based on production techniques and effects-processing on two unfamiliar commercial recordings.</p> <p>One essay question, based on one recording, asking the student to consider the wider musical context.</p>	
	<p>A2 Unit 4:</p> <p>Section A</p> <p>Three questions with a variety of practical and written answers.</p> <p>One essay question based on the development of music technology.</p> <p>Section B</p> <p>One final practical task of finalising a stereo mix with the files provided.</p>	<p>Component 4 (AS):</p> <p>Section A</p> <p>Four questions with a selection of written and practical responses based on the audio/MIDI materials.</p> <p>One extended practical-response question asking students to create a finished stereo mix.</p> <p>Section B</p> <p>One essay question based on a specific recording or mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music-technology hardware</p>	<p>AS and A level Component 4 is based on Assessment Objectives AO1, AO3 and AO4.</p>

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		<p>unit.</p> <p>Component 4 (A level): Similar in format to AS Component 4.</p> <p>Section A Four questions with a selection of written and practical responses based on the audio/MIDI materials. One extended practical response question asking students to create a finished stereo mix.</p> <p>Section B One essay question based on a specific recording or mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit.</p>	
Assessment	<p>Unit 1 is worth 140 marks (140 UMS). There are 40 marks per task, and 20 marks for the logbook.</p>	<p>Component 1 (AS) is worth 60 marks. The recording is marked out of 60. A logbook and</p>	<p>The most significant changes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in marks for NEA tasks, from 40 to 60.

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	<p>Unit 2 is worth 80 marks (60 UMS).</p> <p>Section A 40 marks covering four questions.</p> <p>Section B 40 marks covering two 'special focus-style' questions.</p> <p>Unit 3 is worth 120 marks (120 UMS). There are 40 marks per task, with no marks allocated for the logbook.</p> <p>Unit 4 is worth 80 marks (80 UMS).</p> <p>Section A 62 related to audio and MIDI materials provided.</p> <p>Section B 18 for producing a final stereo</p>	<p>authentication form will be submitted by each student.</p> <p>Component 1 (A level) is worth 60 marks.</p> <p>The recording is marked out of 60. A logbook and authentication form will be submitted by each student.</p> <p>Component 2 (AS) is worth 60 marks.</p> <p>The technology-based composition is marked out of 60. A logbook and authentication form will be submitted by each student.</p> <p>Component 2 (A level) is worth 60 marks.</p> <p>The technology-based composition is marked out of 60. A logbook and authentication form will be submitted by each student.</p> <p>Component 3 (AS) is worth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of more extended response questions in Components 3 and 4. <p>There are no marks directly awarded to logbooks, however logbooks that are incomplete may result in examiners being unable to award marks in the Levels of the assessment grids.</p>

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	mix.	<p>60 marks.</p> <p>Section A 44 marks covering four questions.</p> <p>Section B 16 marks for extended written response.</p> <p>Component 3 (A level) is worth 75 marks.</p> <p>Section A 40 marks covering four questions.</p> <p>Section B 15 marks for comparison question in extended written response format. 20 marks for extended written response.</p> <p>Component 4 (AS) is worth 84 marks.</p> <p>Section A 50 marks related to audio and</p>	

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		<p>MIDI materials provided. 18 marks for extended practical response.</p> <p>Section B 16 marks for extended written response.</p> <p>Component 4 (A level) is worth 105 marks.</p> <p>Section A 61 marks related to audio and MIDI materials provided. 24 marks for extended practical response.</p> <p>Section B 20 marks for extended written response.</p>	