AS Level Music (2016)

Component 1: Performing

First assessment 2017
30% of the qualification
Externally assessed out of 60 marks

- Minimum time of 6 minutes
- Performances under the minimum timing will receive no marks
- Performed after 1 March and all material submitted by 15 May in year of certification
- A public performance (2 or more people, one being the teacher) of one or more pieces as a recital
- It can be solo/ensemble/improvisation/realisation using music technology or any combination
- Live and uninterrupted
- Can be re-performed and re-recorded before submission

Solo performance
- Student's part takes a significant role
- Any instrument or voice
- Any style or genre
- If written with accompaniment it must be performed with the accompaniment
- Backing track can be used but assessed part cannot be audible on the backing track

Ensemble performance
- 2 or more undoubled, simultaneously sounding, independent parts.
- Any instrument or voice
- Any style or genre
- Student's should consider balance of other parts
- Backing track can be used but 2 live performers are needed and assessed part cannot be audible

Improvisation
- Stimulus should be learnt accurately
- Student's part should then exploit and develop the potential
- Improvisation should suit the style of the piece

Music Technology
- Can involve synthesisers, virtual instruments, audio samples and amplified instruments
- Students perform a live solo line
- Pre-recorded or sequenced backing tracks may be used

Submission and administration
- Candidates introduce themselves (Name, candidate number, instrument and role)
- Teacher to sign Performance authentication sheet
- Recordings submitted on CD or USB stick
- Separate track for each student
- Individually labelled with centre number, candidate number and title
- Score or lead sheet submitted for each piece
- Guitar tab with no indication of rhythm is unacceptable
- For realisations using music technology a detailed commentary or professional reference recording to be submitted

Assessment grids
- 3 assessment grids
- Marked out of 16 each (total 48)
- Scaled to 60 depending on difficulty level using the difficulty levels grid
- The assessment grids are: Technical control (technique), Technical control (accuracy) and Expressive control (fluency) and Expressive control, style and context

Difficulty Levels
- Less Difficult, Standard and More Difficult
- Level 6 is standard
- Level 7 and above More Difficult
- Level 1-5 is Less Difficult
- Descriptors for LoD for Rapping and Beatboxing