



GCSE and A-Level Consultation - MUSIC

Response in relation to the subject of music to:

- Department for Education *Reformed GCSE and A level subject content* consultation
- Ofqual *Developing new GCSE, A level and AS qualifications for first teaching in 2016* consultation

WHO WE ARE

The UK Association for Music Education – Music Mark leads, represents and supports the highest quality music education for all children and young people.

With membership, representation and support for Music Services alongside over 12,000 instrumental and classroom music teachers, tutors, consultants, advisers, inspectors and lecturers in Initial Teacher Education Music Mark constitutes the authoritative and authentic heart of music education nationwide.

Music Mark works in partnership with its members and a range of national, regional and local organisations to improve the learning and personal outcomes in and through music for children and young people in and out of schools. Music Mark is the principal music subject association.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Music Mark and its members were part of the sector wide group which worked on a proposal for the new GCSE, and we endorse the co-ordinated response to the proposed GCSE and GCE AS and A level subject content and assessment through the Music Education Council.

We are keen to see a qualification which meets the aim to 'support students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music'. In order to have a qualification which is attractive and relevant to more young people we believe the specifications need to find a better way to ensure the breadth of study which all young musicians should have together with the opportunity for young musicians to develop their own musical voice.

Having one mandatory area of study as western classical music from 1700 – 1900 is likely to have an unbalanced effect, either students will have two areas of study within western classical music and have limited study of other music areas or not study classical music outside the 1700 to 1900 range.

Music as an art form has value when a musician communicates. GCSE and GCE music should reflect this. The non-exam assessments of composing and performing should not be reduced to 60% (In Art and Design it is proposed as 100%). This, together with a fourth assessment option of knowledge and understanding risks a written exam testing theoretical knowledge which is unrelated to musical communication.

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