



## A Level Music (Edexcel) Extended Summer Project

In order to prepare yourself for the course you need to complete the following tasks:

### **PREPARE AND RECORD A PERFORMANCE** (6 hours approx)

This can be on your instrument or voice or a realisation using music sequencing techniques – however in this case there needs to be a live part and it is on this part only that you are assessed. (Please contact me if you would like more information on this)

- Research your chosen piece and maintain a detailed practice diary to submit at the beginning of the course. (See page 2)
- Make a video recording of your performance to submit at the beginning of the course.
- Bring your score to submit with your recording.

### **MUSICAL ELEMENTS PRESENTATION** (4 hours approx)

It will be very important that you have a clear and thorough knowledge of the musical elements in order to be able to analyse and understand music in the detail required for A level.

- Create a presentation - PowerPoint or similar - about the musical elements.  
This will be submitted and used in lessons in September (You will not give your whole presentation to the class, but should be prepared to present a small section)
- In your presentation you must:
  - **Identify each musical element** – Dynamics / Rhythm + Metre (could include tempo) / Articulation / Structure / Melody (pitch) / Instrumentation (including timbre or sonority) / Texture / Tempo / Harmony + tonality
  - **Outline the concept of each musical element** – i.e. what it is/ what it refers to, i.e. dynamics is to do with how loud or quiet the music sounds
  - **Give a detailed explanation** of how each musical element can be used and manipulated to create and control music. You should use key musical language associated with each element, i.e. for dynamics you should explain the Italian terms; allegro, crescendo etc etc.
  - **Give some musical examples** – you could include images or YouTube links or your own live demonstrations.
- Some useful resources:
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slxRWu1FQaQ&t=202s>  
(This focuses on melody, but you can easily find linked videos in this series for other elements)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTnFvfqNX0TBHqJxxLHIKEQ/playlists>  
(Our music department YouTube Channel – a collection of helpful videos collated from YouTube)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY1yTli-DaxPbNtLCnwAM1g>  
(Look for LSO A Level revision shorts – some of the information will be at a higher level than you are expected to know at the moment, but it's good to get ahead!)



## Practise Diary

You should complete a minimum of 6 entries.

- If you practice more than 6 times (I hope you do!) you do not need to complete a diary entry for every session, just pick out some key sessions to write about so I see your progress.
- You may type into this template / print and hand write / complete the same information on paper or in your own book.
- Ensure you respond thoughtfully and in detail to the prompts under each heading.

<b>Instrument</b>	
<b>Piece / Song</b>	
<b>Accompaniment</b>	<b>Tick the statement which applies to your performance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> Composed to be unaccompanied</li><li><input type="radio"/> Composed with accompaniment, but I will perform without</li><li><input type="radio"/> Backing track or recorded accompaniment used</li><li><input type="radio"/> Live accompaniment used</li><li><input type="radio"/> Self-accompanied live</li></ul>

### **Context Of My Piece / Song**

When was it written? / Why? / Who first performed it? / Who was the intended audience – has that changed? / Where is it intended to be performed? / What is the intended effect? / Anything else of interest?

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**1. Aim for this practice session:**

Be specific and realistic – what can you really make progress on in the time you will use today?  
You can focus on **technique** and playing **accurately** *and/or* on playing musically and **expressively**.  
*Note - A good technique will enable you to play expressively and you are marked on both skills.*

**1a. Summary of THIS practice session**

What strategies did you use to achieve your aim? Which were the most and least effective strategies – why? Did you try anything new and will you use it again?

**1b. Target for next session**

What will you focus on? What practice techniques are you likely to use? Will you try out / research any new techniques?  
Tip – find videos of professionals playing your instrument, identify some of the things they do and be INSPIRED!

**2. Aim for this practice session:**

Be specific and realistic – what can you really make progress on in the time you will use today?  
You can focus on **technique** and playing **accurately** *and/or* on playing musically and **expressively**.  
*Note - A good technique will enable you to play expressively and you are marked on both skills.*

**2a. Summary of THIS practice session**

What strategies did you use to achieve your aim? Which were the most and least effective strategies – why? Did you try anything new and will you use it again?

**2b. Target for next session**

What will you focus on? What practice techniques are you likely to use? Will you try out / research any new techniques?  
Tip – find videos of professionals playing your instrument, identify some of the things they do and be **INSPIRED!**

**3. Aim for this practice session:**

Be specific and realistic – what can you really make progress on in the time you will use today?  
You can focus on **technique** and playing **accurately** *and/or* on playing musically and **expressively**.  
*Note - A good technique will enable you to play expressively and you are marked on both skills.*

**3a. Summary of THIS practice session**

What strategies did you use to achieve your aim? Which were the most and least effective strategies – why? Did you try anything new and will you use it again?

**3b. Target for next session**

What will you focus on? What practice techniques are you likely to use? Will you try out / research any new techniques?  
Tip – find videos of professionals playing your instrument, identify some of the things they do and be **INSPIRED!**

**4. Aim for this practice session:**

Be specific and realistic – what can you really make progress on in the time you will use today?  
You can focus on **technique** and playing **accurately** *and/or* on playing musically and **expressively**.  
*Note - A good technique will enable you to play expressively and you are marked on both skills.*

**4a. Summary of THIS practice session**

What strategies did you use to achieve your aim? Which were the most and least effective strategies – why? Did you try anything new and will you use it again?

**4b. Target for next session**

What will you focus on? What practice techniques are you likely to use? Will you try out / research any new techniques?  
Tip – find videos of professionals playing your instrument, identify some of the things they do and be **INSPIRED!**

**5. Aim for this practice session:**

Be specific and realistic – what can you really make progress on in the time you will use today?  
You can focus on **technique** and playing **accurately** *and/or* on playing musically and **expressively**.  
*Note - A good technique will enable you to play expressively and you are marked on both skills.*

**5a. Summary of THIS practice session**

What strategies did you use to achieve your aim? Which were the most and least effective strategies – why? Did you try anything new and will you use it again?

**5b. Target for next session**

What will you focus on? What practice techniques are you likely to use? Will you try out / research any new techniques?  
Tip – find videos of professionals playing your instrument, identify some of the things they do and be **INSPIRED!**

**6. Aim for this practice session:**

Be specific and realistic – what can you really make progress on in the time you will use today?  
You can focus on **technique** and playing **accurately** *and/or* on playing musically and **expressively**.  
*Note - A good technique will enable you to play expressively and you are marked on both skills.*

**6a. Summary of THIS practice session**

What strategies did you use to achieve your aim? Which were the most and least effective strategies – why? Did you try anything new and will you use it again?

**6b. Target for next session**

What will you focus on? What practice techniques are you likely to use? Will you try out / research any new techniques?  
Tip – find videos of professionals playing your instrument, identify some of the things they do and be **INSPIRED!**