



MUSIC TECHNOLOGY STUDIES A LEVEL – SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

GENERAL

Now is the perfect time to get online and read magazine articles about music technology, the music industry and music in general. Use 'juke box' specialist internet radio stations to explore different and experimental music.

Take the opportunity over the summer months to get online and experience free concerts/gigs distributed by major artists and labels, the world's great concert venues and festivals. Watch complete concerts. Go beyond watching your favourite artists and experiment with new names and unfamiliar styles. Listen out for the quality of live sound, use of music technology and instruments as well as innovations in song-writing and song arrangement.

Develop your instrumental and vocal skills. too. Learn some basic piano, enough to pick out

chords and play chords for a singer: keyboard skills are vital, everyone must learn essential keyboard skills during the course. They are going to come in very useful with your coursework, your musical understanding, your studio work and your professional career - not to mention your sixth form music tech showcases. If you do not already play learn another instrument now, guitar/bass/drums/trumpet/sax.

Know your studio-essential music theory - visit www.musictheory.net or teoria.com and concentrate on the basics of rhythm, melody and harmony. There are a host of excellent free Smartphone apps out there just waiting to help you with every aspect of music tech, music, history and theory.

FOUR SPECIFIC TASKS TO COMPLETE

By week 1 - 3 of college: Presentation 1: Song appreciation

By week 4 of college: Musicianship test - keyboard skills and chords

By week 5 - 6: Presentation 2: Me and My Music

By week 7: Rhythm test - The Look of the Groove

Before your first Year 12 Music Technology lessons start you have a range of things to do by way of preparation, reflection and musical development. These tasks will take the first half of term to work through, but preparation begins now.

TASK 1: WEEK 1 - 3

Prepare a 10-minute presentation on a piece of music that you know very well (do NOT use material with consistently explicit lyrics). Work through this list:

- i) Make a list all the instruments you can hear (research them if they are not clear)
- ii) Outline the arrangement: verse, chorus, middle 8 etc (refer to precise times in the track)
- iii) Describe any effects you can hear (e.g. at 2'03" 'delay on snare)

iv) Name any samples used, if relevant, where they came from (whosampled.com)

It may be in any style, with or without vocals, but must be the work of an established artist, signed to a major label. You will have three/four minutes to play your track (from Spotify, an audio CD, memory stick or your phone – you may not use YouTube) and six minutes to talk about it. What do you like about the style, the arrangement and the production?

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TASK 2: WEEK 4

Revise your basic major and minor triads (three-note chords) at the piano keyboard - use an online keyboard if necessary. You will need to be able to play all major and minor triads to a teacher starting

on any of the twelve white and black notes C C# D Eb – G major/G minor, Bb major/Bb minor etc. Research basic chords and learn keys!

TASK 3: WEEK 5 – 6

Now you have met the other members of your music tech group, please introduce yourself to them formally in a personal choice presentation. When it comes to music what do you like? Who do you like? Why do you like what you like? And then... What do you play? What have you written? What have you recorded? Where and what have you

performed? And what are your musical ambitions? You will need to play short extracts (30" – 1') from FIVE different artists and you MUST include music from more than one genre. You have just 5 - 10 minutes to say 'hello' so get moving, let's hear what you are all about! Use flash cards.

TASK 4: WEEK 7

This test will use the College's music software and your knowledge of drum patterns and drum notation. You will have a listening test where you will identify drum patterns by ear and connect them with examples written in drum notation. You will replicate drum grooves using software. For this, you

need to listen carefully to drum parts in music. You will have to research drum notation and the drum kit. And you will need to revise your basic notes values from whole note/semibreve to sixteenth note/semiquaver.

An assessment of tasks 1 – 4 plus practical classwork leads to your first Year 12 report