



## A LEVEL MUSIC TECHNOLOGY A LEVEL SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

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 out and see live as well as online concerts/gigs promoted by major artists and labels at 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. Learn some basic piano, enough to pick out chords and play chords for a singer: keyboard skills are great for musicians, and everyone must learn essential keyboard skills during the course. These will 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 something, then learn an instrument now, guitar/bass/uke/drums/trumpet/sax etc.

Know your studio-essential music theory - visit [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net) or [teoria.com](http://teoria.com) and concentrate on the basics of rhythm, melody and harmony, including drum notation. 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.



## A LEVEL MUSIC TECHNOLOGY A LEVEL SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

THREE SPECIFIC TASKS TO 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 **COMPLETE**

- From week 1 of college: Presentation 1: Song appreciation
- In week 2 of college: Musicianship test - keyboard skills and chords
- From week 3 of college: Presentation 2: Me and My Music

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 may take several weeks to work through to be ready for the start of term.



# A LEVEL MUSIC TECHNOLOGY A LEVEL SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

## 1. **Week 1 Presentation 1: Song Appreciation**

Prepare a 6 – 10 minute presentation on a piece of music that you know very well (please 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, stating 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 up to minutes to talk about it. Please tell us what do you like about the style, the arrangement and the production as well as proving your analysis.



# A LEVEL MUSIC TECHNOLOGY A LEVEL SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

## **2. Week 2 Musicianship Test**

Revise your essential 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 the white notes C D E F G A and B. C major/Cminor, D major/Dminor etc. Research basic chords and learn keys!

## **3. Week 3 Presentation 2: Me and My Music**

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 get moving, let's hear what you are all about! Use flash cards.

A preliminary assessment will be made with a review of your summer bridging tasks and test. The next task will require you to programme drums and interpret drum notation