

## **AS Level Music – AQA Specification 7271**

### **Outline of the course**

The AS Music listening paper will be split into three sections. 2 hour paper, 40% of AS Level.

### ***Area of study 1 Western classical tradition 1650–1910 is compulsory***

You will then study one other Area of Study, which you will be told when you begin in September.

### **Section A (49 marks):**

Part I: Questions based on unheard listening from the Western Classical Tradition (1650-1910), focussing specifically on the following genres:

- Baroque Solo Concerto
- The Operas of Mozart

Part II: Four questions based on music from the other Area of Study (can also be unheard music).

### **Section B (17 marks):**

Listening Questions based on set works within Area of Study 1: Western Classical Music. More analytical and requiring deeper understanding of set works.

### **Section C (30 marks):**

Choice of one essay questions based on the other Area of Study (which you will be told in September).

**TOTAL: 96 marks**

For the summer task see over the page

## **The operas of Mozart**

Throughout the AS course you will study excerpts from *Le Nozze di Figaro* (*The Marriage of Figaro*), composed by W.A Mozart.

This was the first opera composed during what is commonly known as Mozart's *Vienna Period*. During time spent in Vienna Mozart collaborated with a librettist called Lorenzo Da Ponte.

Research the following information:

1. During what dates did Mozart live?
2. When was he in Vienna and compose the three Da Ponte operas?
3. What are the three Da Ponte operas called and in what order were they composed?
4. Put *Le Nozze di Figaro* in to its historical context:
  - a. What was going on in Europe during this time? Wars/conflict?
  - b. Was *Le Nozze di Figaro* composed for a particular event? If so, what?
  - c. When and where did it premiere? (where was the first performance)

Research regarding the Set Work itself:

1. Summarise the story of *Le Nozze di Figaro* as best as you can – opera synopses can sometimes be confusing.
2. Who are and what type of VOICE type (Soprano, Mezzo Soprano, Tenor, Bass) are the following characters:
  - a. Figaro
  - b. Susanna
  - c. Bartolo
  - d. Marcellina
  - e. Cherubino

It will benefit you to include how each character is related to each other.

3. Listen to the extract at this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Spt\\_3Q\\_gPAs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Spt_3Q_gPAs) and comment on the following:
  - a. How are the melodies of Figaro and Susanna different at the beginning?
  - b. Does the vocal melody that Figaro sings change in style throughout the extract?
  - c. Are there different instruments of the orchestra that accompany the different characters? If so, state track timings where they might differ.