

# GCSE Music Newsletter

## September 2023

We hope that you had a relaxing break over the Summer period and that you and your students are feeling excited for the new academic year. We have several updates and information that you may need as you begin this term.

### Latest GCSE Subject news

Please take the time to read the Principal Examiner's/Moderator's report on the recent summer examinations which can be found on the website [here](#). It contains extremely useful information to help you enable your students to achieve their full potential.

There is a WJEC GCSE Music: Feedback on summer assessments online session being held for FREE:

English Medium 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Online, 4-5.30pm

[Register here](#)

Welsh Medium 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Online 4-5.30pm

[Events for 10/10/2023 \(ticketsolve.com\)](#)

The session will highlight key points from the Principal Examiner's report, giving an overview of performance in the recent summer series, exploring marked candidates' assessments, and focussing on areas for improvement.

### Performing

Please familiarise yourself with the requirements for performing. The time requirement is 4'00" and all candidates must submit a suitable ensemble. One of the pieces must link to an Area of Study.

There are a range of resources to assist you with performances, available on the public WJEC website. New resources are to be added in the Autumn term to assist with Levels of Difficulty and ensemble.

If you have any queries regarding the level of difficulty of a piece or the suitability of an ensemble, please check the specification and resources in the first instance. If you are unable to find your answer, please contact [music@wjec.co.uk](mailto:music@wjec.co.uk).

## Composing

The composition briefs are released onto the secure website each year on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Please ensure you check that you have the correct WJEC GCSE document.

## Appraising

The set works will remain the same. There are free resources available on the [WJEC Educational Resources Website](#), including scores/lead sheets, analysis notes, performance packs and linked composing activities.

## NEA

Note that there is a requirement to give all candidates the chance to appeal their teacher assessed MARKS before you submit them, so you must factor in the time required for this according to your own school policy. This applies to all subjects and all exam boards.

More details on this are available via JCQ: Instructions for Conduction Coursework Section 13.5.

### 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (a Sunday!)

The final date for the submission of NEA marks and the upload of sampled candidates for GCSE Performing and Composing is **SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024**. We would like to remind centres that all non-examination assessment marks need to be input on the WJEC Internal Assessment Mark Input System (IAMIS) in sufficient time to generate the access codes for the sample. You should allow **at least 48 hours** for the access codes to be generated which means marks should be input by 3<sup>rd</sup> May **latest**. If you only wish to work during school hours, our suggestion would be to have all marks input on IAMIS by **1<sup>st</sup> May 2024**.

For further guidance on the NEA process, please look in the appropriate tab on the WJEC music website.

For performing, each candidate is required to submit:

- A suitable score/lead sheet for **each** performance
- A good quality recording of **each** performance
- A completed and authenticated marksheet
- A programme note
- Candidate Timings Sheet (with the first candidate in the sample **only**)

For composing, each candidate is required to submit:

- A completed and authenticated marksheet/composing log
- A suitable score/lead sheet/annotated screenshot for each composition
- Good quality audio of each composition
- An evaluation

Please ensure that you download the most recent marksheet from the website. This should have a GDPR section on the front.

## Resources

[WJEC Educational Resources Website](#)

Knowledge Organisers currently available:

- Music terms and signs
- Anitra's Dance - Greig
- Everything Must Go - Manic Street Preachers
- Musical forms and devices
- Music for ensemble
- Film Music
- Popular Music

Coming soon - GCSE Teacher Guide

We have created a CPD Exemplar Material spreadsheet to assist you in locating specific materials, which is now available under the resources section of the website. This includes exemplar material from centres in England that you can also access through [the WJEC secure website](#). It will be a working document that will be updated after each CPD event.

In addition to CPD material, you can also find the following on the [WJEC secure website](#):

- Past papers and mark schemes
- Circulars
- NEA tasks

- Pre-release materials

## Professional Learning 2023/2024

During the 2023/2024 academic year, our Professional Learning programme will be a mixture of face-to-face and online events. Both options will be expert-led, interactive workshops, designed for you to get all the latest information on qualifications. These will also provide an insight into teaching resources available, and a range of practical tips and strategies for the classroom.

Please ensure that you keep a look out for when the CPD events become available for booking. You can do this by ensuring that you subscribe to updates on the website.

## Post-Results Services

Following the publication of results for each examination series, WJEC offers a range of post-results services including:

- Clerical re-check - a re-check of clerical procedures leading to the issue of a result.
- Post-results review of marking - a review of the original marking to ensure that the agreed mark scheme has been applied correctly.
- Access to scripts - an electronic version of the script, either as a priority or non-priority service.
- Post-results review of moderation - a review of the original moderation to ensure that the assessment criteria have been fairly, reliably and consistently applied.

Applications for these services must come from the entering centre, and so candidates must speak to their school or college if they wish to apply for a post-results service.

Further advice and guidance can be found on our [post-results services](#) page.

## OER

The OER's for the 2023 Summer Examination will be coming soon.

## Contact Details

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