Your notes

GCSE Music: revision notes

Performing music

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What you perform

- Component 2, Performing music, is worth 30% of the GCSE.
- You perform at least one solo piece and one ensemble piece, lasting at least 4 minutes in total, with the ensemble piece at least 1 minute.
- You can perform on any instrument or voice, in any style, including music technology (such as sequencing).

How it is marked

- Performances are marked on accuracy (notes and rhythm), **technical control**, expression and **interpretation**, and, for ensembles, how well you work with others.
- The difficulty of the piece matters: a harder piece can score higher if played well.

Doing well

- Choose pieces that show your strengths and that you can play confidently.
- Practise regularly, record yourself, and perform to others to build confidence.
- In ensembles, listen to the other parts, keep in time and **balance** your sound.

Key terms

Solo performance	A performance of your own part, which may have an accompaniment.
Ensemble performance	A performance with others where you play a distinct part.
Interpretation	How you shape the music to express its character.
Technical control	Control of your instrument or voice, such as tone and tuning.
Balance	Making sure each part can be heard at the right level.

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Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. How much of AQA GCSE Music is performing worth? (AQA)
2. What must the performances include?
3. What is the minimum total length of the performances?
4. What is an ensemble performance?
5. How can difficulty affect marks?
6. Why record yourself practising?
7. What is interpretation?
8. What matters most in an ensemble besides your own part?

Answers

1. 30%
2. At least one solo and one ensemble piece
3. 4 minutes
4. A performance with others where you play a distinct part
5. A harder piece can score higher if played well
6. To hear and fix mistakes
7. How you shape the music to express its character
8. Listening to others and keeping in time

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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