

AQA GCSE Music Subject Content – Revision Checklist

AOS 1 - Rhythm & Metre

- pulse
- simple & compound time
- regular, irregular, free
- augmentation, diminution, hemiola, cross-rhythm
- dotted rhythms, triplets, syncopation
- tempo, rubato
- polyrhythm, bi-rhythm
- drum fills

AOS 2 - Harmony & Tonality

Harmony

- diatonic, chromatic
- consonant, dissonant
- pedal, drone
- cadences: perfect, plagal, imperfect, interrupted, Tierce de Picardie
- identification of major, minor and dominant seventh chords using Roman numerals/chord symbols

Tonality

- tonal, major, minor, modal
- use and identification of key up to 4 sharps and 4 flats
- modulation:
- to dominant/subdominant in major or minor key
- to relative major or minor

AOS 3 - Texture & Melody

Texture

- harmonic/homophonic, polyphonic/contrapuntal
- imitative, canonic, layered
- unison, octaves, single melody line, melody with accompaniment, antiphonal

Melody

- intervals within the octave
- conjunct, disjunct, triadic, broken chords, scalar, arpeggio
- passing notes, acciaccaturas, appoggiaturas
- blue notes
- diatonic, chromatic, pentatonic, whole tone, modal
- augmentation, diminution, sequence, inversion
- slide/glissando/portamento, ornamentation
- ostinato, riff
- phrasing, articulation
- pitch bend
- improvisation

AOS 4 Timbre & Dynamics

Timbre

- instruments and voices singly and in combination as found in music for solo instruments, concertos, chamber groups, pop and vocal music
- generic families of instruments as found in world music
- timbre, including the use of technology, synthesised and

computer-generated sounds, sampling, and use of techniques such as reverb., distortion and chorus

- instrumental techniques including con arco/with a bow, pizzicato/plucked, con sordino/muted, double-stopping, tremolo/tremolando
- vocal techniques such as falsetto and vibrato

Dynamics

- gradation of dynamics as follows:
- pp, p, mp, mf, f, ff
- cresc., crescendo, dim., diminuendo
- sfz, sforzando
- 'hairpins'
- common signs, terms & symbols

AOS5 - Structure & Form

- binary, ternary, call & response
- rondo, theme & variations, arch-shape
- sonata, minuet & trio, scherzo & trio
- strophic, through-composed, da capo aria, cyclic
- popular song forms
- ground bass, continuo, cadenza

You should also study the following styles for the listening exam (unit 1)

a) The Western Classical Tradition

- Baroque orchestral music
- The concerto
- Music for voices
- Chamber music
- The sonata

b) Popular Music of the 20th & 21st centuries

- Blues
- Popular music of the 1960s
- Rock music, R'n'B, Hip-Hop
- Music Theatre
- Film music

c) World Music

- Music of the Caribbean
- Music of Africa
- Music of India

Unit 2 only: (the Appraisal)

Composer, Performer & Audience

- intention, use, purpose
- commission, patronage
- technical/emotional demands
- amateur/professional performance
- performance practice, interpretation, improvisation

Occasion, Time & Place

- sacred, secular, utility
- private, public, concert
- live, recorded, media
- internet
- performing conventions