



BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance.

Summer Independent Learning Year 11-12 for 2026

Compulsory tasks

Task 1 - Performance

- Rehearse, to a very good standard, a piece of music you are already working on and video it. You could then share it with your friends and family. You might find a recorded accompaniment on YouTube for pieces that are very regularly played for grades etc.
- Resurrect an older piece of music that you really enjoyed. You will be able to play it better now you are a bit more advanced. Listen to some performances of the piece on Apple Music/Spotify/YouTube. What do you like about these performances? Is there anything you can incorporate? Again, video or record your performance.
- The important thing to remember is that it is better to play an easier piece well rather than a more difficult piece poorly. Make sure you perform it musically, paying attention to dynamics, tempo markings and phrasing.
- You can use a backing track if you wish.

You will be asked to perform at least one of these pieces in front of your teacher during the first two weeks of college.

Task 2 - Music Theory

When we start the Music course, we will be studying 'Practical Music Theory and Harmony'. We will cover the basics of music notation and theory, but first of all, you need to have some basic knowledge. You should be familiar with the topics in the following sections:

Musictheory.net

- *The Basics* – all sections
- *Rhythm and Metre* – all sections
- *Scales and Key Signatures* – all sections
- The first two lessons from *Chords*, and *Diatonic Chords* sections

Please make sure you have written notes about all these areas. You can download manuscript paper from here:

http://www.musictheory.org.uk/manuscript_paper.php

There are tests to help you grasp key signatures, scales etc. here:

<https://www.musictheory.net/exercises>

You will be tested on these areas of music theory when you come to college, so it is vital that you fully understand and learn this material.

Task 3 - Tempo, Dynamics and Expression

Use the sites below to make notes on tempo markings, bpm (beats per minute), dynamics and expression. Make a music dictionary with these in.

https://courses.lumenlearning.com/musicappreciation_with_theory/chapter/tempo-markings-and-changes/

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zs9wk2p/revision/1>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zp4d97h/revision/1>

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Strongly Recommended Content:

Task 4 – Professional Practice in the Music Industry

The following notes should all be presented in a word-processed document.

- Think of all the possible jobs/roles in the Music Industry and make a list of these (aim for approximately 25-30).
- Now categorise these jobs into headings. You need to decide the main headings. An example would be *marketing and promotion*.
- Take each of the jobs/roles and explain what it consists of **and** the skills that are needed for each job/role.