

BTEC Music Technology

Examination Board: Pearson

Course Specification: BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 Music Practice

What is BTEC Music Technology all about?

Music Technology is a fantastic course for those who love to be practical, to develop their skills at their own pace, working with the styles of music that interest them most as individuals.

Level 2 BTEC is equivalent to 1 GCSE (9-4 grade)

It doesn't matter whether you can play an instrument, or know anything about the subject yet, as long as you are creative and willing to explore new ways of doing things.

100% of the final qualification is gained through the practical demonstration of skills and production of coursework. There is no final exam as all coursework is generated during Year 10 and 11, assessed gradually in 3 components...

Course Structure:

The course is divided as follows:

1. Exploring Music Products & Styles 30%

You will learn to analyse music, and a bit about the background of 4 different genres, producing a portfolio demonstrating your research and findings. You will then demonstrate this knowledge through a series of short practical projects such as multitrack recordings, DAW projects (using Cubase/Bandlab), remixes and creating sound for TV adverts.

2. Musical Skills Development 30%

You will learn about how professionals working in the music industry manage a range of situations requiring different skills. Using this knowledge you will plan and develop longer projects – producing your own recordings of bands, creating your own full mixes or original songs.

3. Responding to a Music Brief 40%

Responding to a brief set by the exam board will put you in the shoes of a professional producer working in the music industry, requiring you to use the skills from component 1 and 2 to create a project in response to set requirements. Typically, this will require you to record some musicians then mix and master the track in a new style to match the set brief.

Curriculum Plan

Year 9 – Building practical skills and knowledge required for qualification

Year 10 –

September-January: Developing skills in listening/analysing, key terminology, practical skills in recording and mixing.

February-April: Component 1.

May-July: Professional Skills in the Industry, further development of practical skills

Year 11 –

September-December: Component 2

January-May: Component 3

What could I do next with BTEC Music Technology?

The Music Industry is a very wide field, encompassing an enormous number of different career paths, most of which are not that of the performing musician. Roles such as Producer, Studio Engineer, Studio Assistant, Arranger, Media Composer, DJ etc. all directly require the skills developed in Music Technology.

There are also many transferrable skills beneficial to other areas; teamwork, organisation, planning, logistics and attention to detail that you will develop will stand you in good stead for almost anything; it really is a very versatile subject!