

## 5 hours in... Music

Research shows that the most successful students (i.e., those that make the most progress and get the highest grades) are doing between 20 and 25 hours of independent study per week by the end of Year 13. That may seem a lot, but it's something that you would build up to over the course of your A-Levels. In Year 12, we're talking something more like 15 hours per week. This equates to roughly 5 hours of independent study per A-Level per subject.

Remember that your independent study is divided into three types – Consolidation, Reactive and Proactive.

### Consolidation

The evening following a Music lesson, you should spend 12-15 minutes (24-30 minutes for a double) rereading your notes, writing the summary section and making relevant flashcards e.g. composer facts, contextual information, wider listening links, DR SMITH cards.

### Reactive

This is your 'homework'. You will get at least an hour a week from staff. If they don't – ask them for some! If you find this takes more than 1 hour, that's fine, you can take this from the proactive phase (not from the consolidation phase though). Equally, if you find you finish your reactive work quickly, spend more time on your proactive work. The homework will normally be to write essay plans, essays, complete listening questions etc.

### Proactive

This is the section that will broaden and deepen your overall understanding of the subject you are studying. It will not necessarily involve work that has been set by your teacher, but instead it is about you doing the extra practice questions, reading articles, watching videos, TED talks etc. In Music, this might contain some of the following:

- Complete a set of practice past paper questions – available on SDrive (1 hour)
- Use websites to complete and add to class notes (30 minutes)
- Use the specification checklist to evaluate your understanding (10 mins)
- Write essays based on wider listening tracks that you watch on youtube (30 mins)
- Listen to a radio station/youtube pieces that you wouldn't normally so you can widen your understanding (30 mins)
- "Read, Cover, Write and Check" sections of Knowledge organisers (30 mins)
- Watch a tiny desk concert (20 mins)
- Watch a TED talk on a Music topic (20 mins)
- Complete some aural dictation questions on good-ear, teoria or youtube (30 mins)
- Complete independent composition work (unlimited)
- Practice your instrument (at least 30 minutes per day)

## Useful links

- SDrive
- Edexcel music pages - [Edexcel A level Music \(2016\) | Pearson qualifications](#)
- Radio 3 - [Radio 3 - Listen Live - BBC Sounds](#)
- TED talks - [music | Search Results | TED](#)
- Good ear - [Good Ear - Online Ear Training Site](#)
- Teoria - [teoria : Music Theory Web](#)

# 5 hours in... Music: Your weekly review

Week beginning: \_\_\_\_\_

What have I been learning with Mr Lee? \_\_\_\_\_

What have I been learning with Mr Stimpson? \_\_\_\_\_

Consolidation (tick when complete)		Reactive 1	Reactive 2	Proactive 1	Proactive 2	Proactive 3
Lesson 1						
Lesson 2						
Lesson 3						
Lesson 4						
Lesson 5						
Time spent						

Total time spent on independent learning in Music this week: \_\_\_\_\_

Areas that require further review	Things I need to ask Mr Less/Mr Stimpson

Checked by: \_\_\_\_\_ (teacher)

# 5 hours in... Music: Your weekly review example

Week beginning: 3/2/2025

What have I been learning with Mr Lee? Analysis of Batman

What have I been learning with Mr Stimpson? Analysis of Bach

Consolidation (tick when complete)		Reactive 1	Reactive 2	Proactive 1	Proactive 2	Proactive 3
Lesson 1	✓	Identify how Elfman develops the batman motif across the set work - MIL	Analyse the use of melody across the three movements - MUS	Complete an extra 20 seconds of composition work	Listen to composer of the week on Radio 3 and write a short summary to share with the class	Listen to an unfamiliar piece and write 15 bullet points about the piece
Lesson 2	✓					
Lesson 3	✓					
Lesson 4	✓					
Lesson 5	✓					
Time spent	1 hour	40 minutes	1 hour	1 hour 20 minutes	35 minutes	20 minutes

**Total time spent on independent learning in Music this week: 4 hours 55 minutes**

Areas that require further review	Things I need to ask Mr Less/Mr Stimpson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rhythmical development of Batman motifs</li> <li>How the melodies link in the Bach</li> <li>How atmosphere is created in film music</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can I further develop my composition?</li> <li>Who else was writing music at the same time as Bach?</li> <li>What is a false relation?</li> </ul>

Checked by: \_\_\_\_\_ (teacher)