

Year 11 into Year 12 Transition - Music Technology



We are looking forward to working with you in September. We have provided some transition materials that you may wish to look at in the coming weeks in preparation for the course starting. If you have any questions please get in touch.

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Starter Task

Get to know the specification! You can find it by googling 'Edexcel Music Technology 2017'. It is really important that you know the tasks you will have to undertake.

What coursework tasks will you have to complete?

Task 1 - Research

What do you understand by the term 'Music Technology'? How has this definition changed over the last 50 years? A useful starting point is thinking about music tech through the decades eg. 60's, 70's.

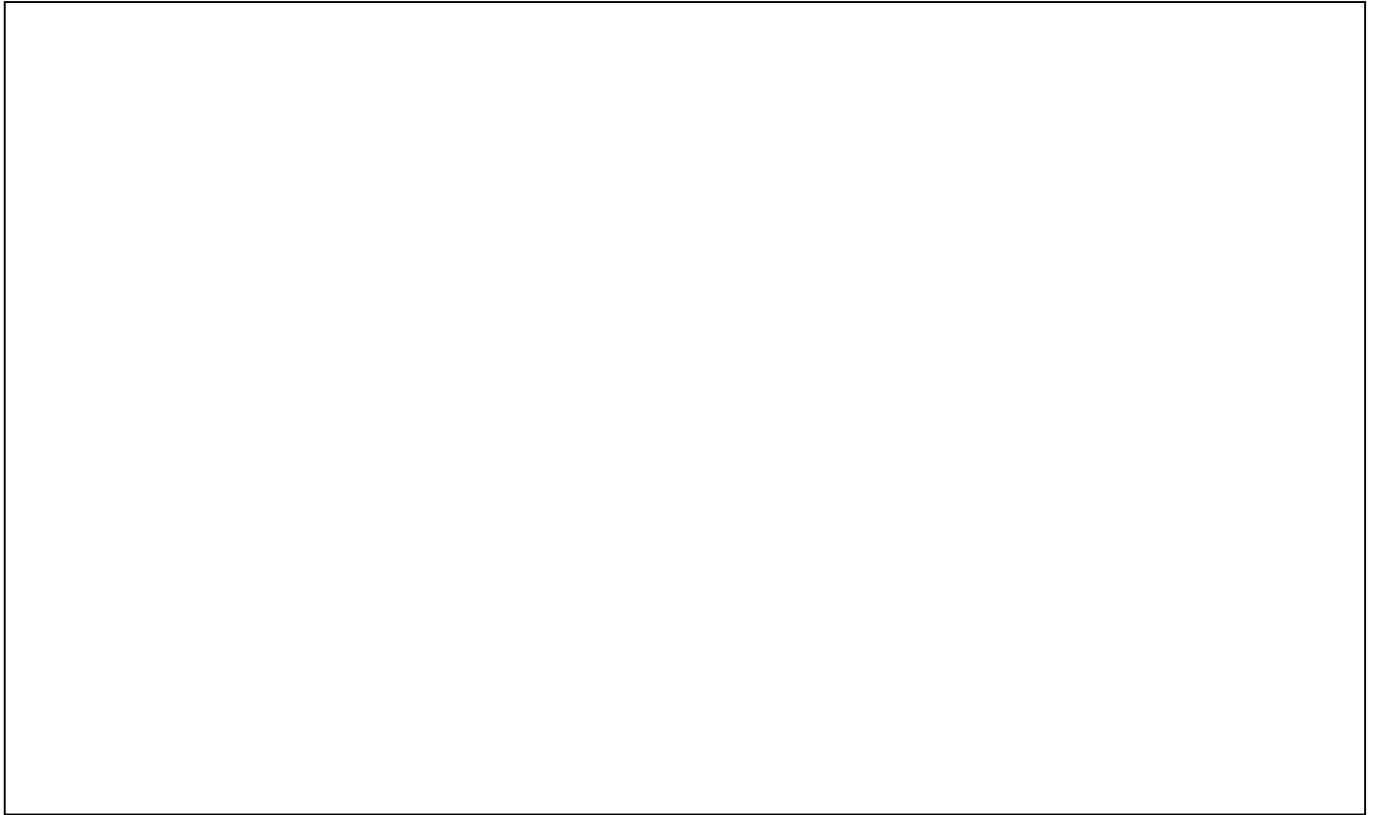
Task 2 – Listening

Find the commercial recordings of these 3 songs and listen to them carefully. Listing the instruments first, how do you think the sound was captured? Was it using a microphone? Was it by plugging the instrument directly into the mixer?

- Uptown Funk, Bruno Mars
- You Can't Hurry Love, The Supremes
- Stravinsky conducts 'The Firebird' 1959

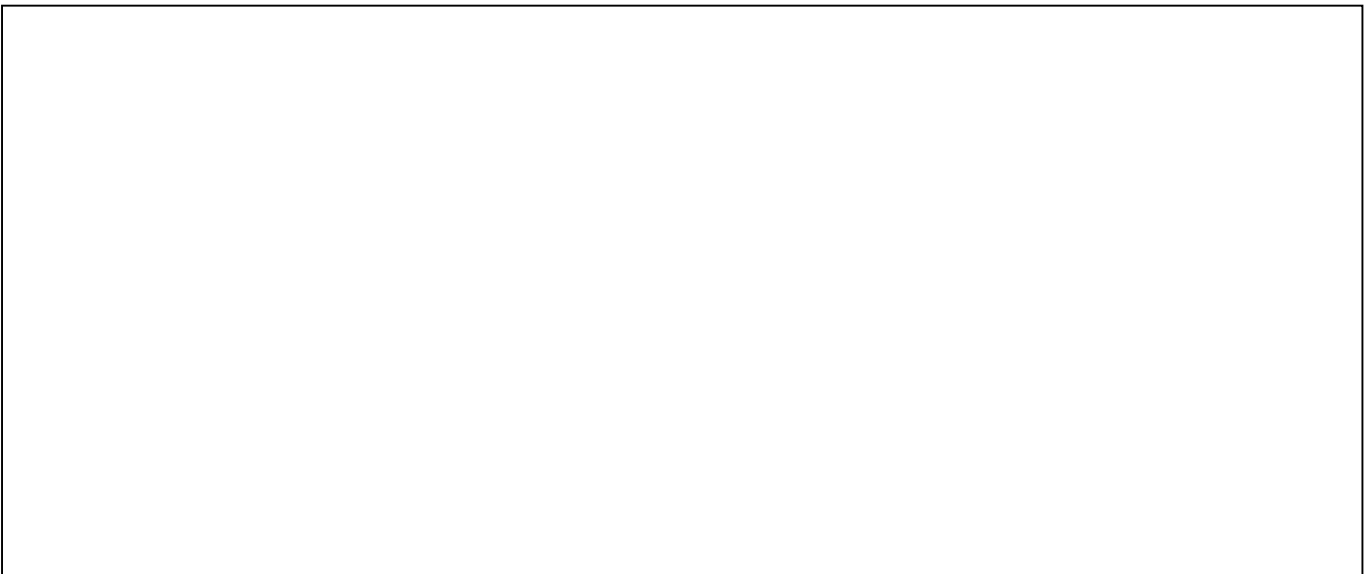
Task 3 – Research

What is a microphone? How does it work? What does it convert? Spend some time looking at different microphones and their characteristics. Another good place to head to is thomman.de (the largest sellers of music tech gear in Europe). Have a look at their microphone section for more information.



Task 4 – Research and Listening

Head to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9elQeVfrLOo> or google 'youtube Paul McCartney Chaos and Creation at Abbey Road. Watch the documentary. What do you understand by bouncing down? How was sound recorded in the 1960's in the way that the Beatles recorded it?



Task 5 – Research

What do you understand by the term mono, stereo and dolby 5.1?

Task 6 – Research

Make notes on the documentary 'Muse - The Making of the 2nd law'. It's a great documentary about modern production techniques and how an album is recorded, including the creative process. What strikes you as interesting?

Synthesis in Popular Music

Synthesisers are a unique musical instrument and are used in a wide array of musical genres. They can be used in interesting ways to great creative effect within music. Complete the following tasks to gain a better understanding of synthesisers before the A-Level Music Tech course begins.

Task 1

Complete some research on Audio Synthesisers, this could include some interesting dates throughout history, interesting uses of synthesisers in music and how they have impacted music.

Research

<p>Which track have you picked and why is it your favourite?</p>											
<p>What genre(s) would you pick to describe the track? <u>Multiple Choice</u></p>	Pop	Rock	Indie	House	Dubstep	Jazz	Techno	Hip-Hop	Drum and Bass	Reggae	
<p>What word(s) would you pick to describe the track? <u>Multiple Choice</u></p>	Warm		Bright		Crisp		Clear		Mellow		Muddy
<p>In what way(s) are synthesisers used in the track? <u>Multiple Choice</u></p>	To enhance the bass of the track		As an accompanying instrument		As a sound effect (SFX)		There is no synthesis		Throughout the entire track		As a main "lead" instrument
<p>Does the addition of a synthesiser make the track more enjoyable? Explain why.</p>											