

L3 RSL for Music Practitioners

Pre-course work



Pre-course expectations

Success in Sixth Form is largely a function of the amount and quality of independent study you carry out; here's a chance to help you get the very best start to your course. We would like you to complete the work described below and hand it in to your teacher in your first lesson in September. If you have made a late change to your timetable, please complete this work within the first week of starting the course. The work should take you 2-3 hours.

Details of pre-course work

1. Write an analysis of **two contrasting live performances**.
 - One of those performances should ideally be viewed in person at a concert or gig. However, if this is not possible, you may use YouTube for both performances if you are unable to attend a concert.
 - One performance must be in the Rock genre. The second could be in a style of your choice as long as it is from the 1950s onwards and falls under the umbrella of Popular music e.g. Solo artists, Disco, Reggae, Jazz fusion and others.
 - See if you can find a score, tab, chord charts etc., and annotate this as you listen. Can you follow all the parts?
2. Rehearse and be prepared to perform **one** solo performance piece in front of the class and your teachers in your first session.
 - Consider your accompaniment e.g. backing track, accompany yourself.
 - Bring any resources e.g. sheet music, backing track and instrumentation required.

Suggestions to help you with this work

1. You may present your work in any of the following ways:
 - A diary entry (include your reaction to the music and personal opinions)
 - A review suitable for a newspaper or magazine feature
 - Critical analysis/formal evaluation
 - All submissions should be typed, not hand written.
2. You should particularly refer to **the instruments/timbre** of the ensemble or artist and any particular performance techniques you notice.
3. Please then also refer to at **least three other musical elements** of your choice e.g. *dynamics, texture, structure, harmony (chords) and melody, use of technology (timbre)*.

To consider:

Is the performance by amateurs or professionals? How does this affect the performance?

Continued.....

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Pre-course work Continued



Stretch yourself

Undertake research on the development of Pop music since the 1950s. You could focus on **one** of these strands below or choose your own:

- How does the use of new technology affect live and/or recorded performance today?
- How have song structure and use of harmony (chords) developed in pop music since the 1950s to the present day. Has this improved?

