A Level Music Technology

EdExcel 2026

St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

The examination board is **EdExcel**

The course consists of 4 units over 2 years for A Level.

A Level Music / Tech

- ALL A LEVEL MUSIC STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED THEIR FIRST CHOICE OF UNIVERSITY

A Level Music Tech and Music

Successful applications to the **Royal Birmingham Conservatoire**, **Birmingham University** and **Leicester** and **Keele** universities to study music

A Level Music Tech

Progression to Higher Education

The content allows students to develop their knowledge and skills of music, enabling them to progress into undergraduate music or music related degree courses

Why study Music Technology A Level?

- Opens doors to many careers.
- Live sound engineer, games music composer, SXF designer / creator, TV, Radio and Film music engineer in live a post production sound, streaming music engineer for social media platforms and online content, podcasting etc…
- Allows you to develop as a producer, composer and develop you understanding of the world of music technology.
- Because you love to listen to, compose and produce music!

Why study Music Technology A Level?

Potential career paths

Studio Work: Roles such as studio technician, sound engineer, or sound designer.
Composing: Creating music for film, television, theatre, or video games.
Live Sound: Working in live venues, on tours, or in television and theatre productions.
Media: Positions in radio, video editing, or other media-related technical roles.
Education: Teaching music technology at various levels.
Music Business: Roles in publishing or at record labels, such as A&R (Artists and Repertoire).

Entry Requirements

- Study of Music at GCSE (or similar course)
- To be able to perform on a musical instrument or sing at Grade 4 standard or above at the beginning of the course.

A Level Music Technology

- Component 1 ~ **Recording (20%)**
- Component 2 ~ **Technology based composition (20%)**
- Component 3 ~ **Listening and analysing (25% Exam)**
- Component 4 ~ **Producing and Analysing (35% Exam/practical)**

Component 1: Recording

- ***Non-examined assessment:***
- ***externally assessed 20% of the qualification***

- **Content overview:**
  Production tools and techniques to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording.

Component 1: Recording

- **Assessment overview**
- One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs provided by EdExcel, consisting of a minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments
- Keyboard tracks may be sequenced.
- Total time must be between 3 minutes and 3½ minutes.
- Logbook and authentication form must be supplied.

Student Work Examples

- Recording

Component 2:
Technology-based composition

- ***Non-examined assessment: externally assessed 20% of the qualification***
- **Content overview:**
- Creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based **composition**.

Component 2:
Technology-based composition

Assessment overview

- One technology-based composition chosen from three briefs set by EdExcel
- Synthesis and sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects use must be included.
- Total time must be 3 minutes.
- Logbook and authentication form must be supplied.

Student work

- Technology Based Composition

Student work

- Technology Based Composition

Component 3: Listening and analysing

- ***Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes***
- ***25% of the qualification***
- **Content overview**
- Knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles
- Application of knowledge related to all three areas of study:
  - recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
  - principles of sound and audio technology
  - the development of recording and production technology.

Component 3: Listening and analysing

- **Assessment overview**
- **This paper comprises two sections: A and B.**
- **Section A:**
- Listening and analysing– four questions, each based on unfamiliar commercial recordings.
- **Section B:**
- Extended written responses– two essay questions.
- One comparison question, which uses two unfamiliar commercial recordings.

Component 4: Producing and analysing

- ***Written/practical examination:***
- ***2 hours 15 minutes ~ 35% of the qualification***
- **Content overview**
- Knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied
- to unfamiliar materials.
- Application of knowledge related to two of the areas of study:
  - recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
  - principles of sound and audio technology.

Component 4: Producing and analysing

Assessment overview

- **This paper comprises two sections: A and B**
- Each student will be provided with a set of audio/MIDI materials for the practical element of the examination, to include:
  - audio files relating to three instrumental/vocal parts.
  - a single MIDI file from which a fourth instrumental part will be created or synthesised.
- Students will correct and then combine the audio and MIDI materials to form a completed mix, which may include creating new tracks or parts from the materials provided.

Component 4: Producing and analysing

- **Assessment overview**
- Section A: Producing and analysing– five questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided that include both written responses and practical tasks.

- Section B: Extended written response – one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit.

A Level Music Technology

- 100% Pass Rate 2019
- A* - E ~ 100% (NA 97.5%)
- A* - C ~ 66% (NA 63%)

- 100% Pass Rate 2021/ 2022
- A* - E ~ 100% (NA 97.5%)
- A* - C ~ 100% (NA 97.5%)

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A Level Music Technology Progression

A-level Music Technology can lead to university courses in Creative Music Technology, Sound and Music Technology, or Music Production, with examples including the Tonmeister degree at the University of Surrey and programs at Leeds College of Music or Huddersfield University.

These degrees can lead to careers in music production, studio work, composing, live sound engineering, and roles in media or teaching.

University courses and degrees

Creative Music Technology: A degree that builds directly on the A-level's foundation, preparing students for various roles in the music industry.
Music Production: Courses are offered at universities like Leeds College of Music and Huddersfield University.
Tonmeister: A specialized degree in sound recording and production, with a well-known program at the University of Surrey.
Sound and Music Technology: A broader degree that can lead to a variety of technical and creative roles.
Live Sound Engineering: Programs like those at the Academy of Contemporary Music (ACM) are an option for those interested in live performance sound.

Questions?

Please contact phickman@stfrancis.cc

Mr Hickman

Head of Music


SFA