



# Music Technology



## STUDY LEVEL

**A level**

## CONTACT DETAILS

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The idea of music technology is connected to musical and technological creativity. Thus, it is used to create new sound possibilities. This course is designed to train you in the art of music production by delivering exciting coursework projects and engaging you in the analytical study of associated concepts, theories and functions. Our studios are equipped with industry standard interfaces, microphones and software packages to enable you to hone your skills as a producer and as a recording engineer.

### What will I study?

You will study practical methods of instrumental recording using microphone and DI techniques in addition to advanced methods of effects processing in Logic Pro X software. You will also study the underlying principles of musical composition as a basis for your own project, which you will complete in your second year of study.

It is important to study in detail the concepts, theories and functions associated with Music Technology that under-pin the practical elements of the course. These include processes such as compression and equalisation, synthesis including LFOs and envelopes, effects such as sampling, methods such as the wall of sound and concepts such as the loudness wars, and various pieces of hardware equipment such as mixing desks, microphones and DAWs.

Your study will prepare you for the completion of two pieces of externally assessed coursework and the completion of two externally assessed written examinations.

### Co-curricular activities?

Music Technology students have many exciting opportunities to assist our professional technical crew at live events at the College. These might include rigging a stage for live performance, monitoring sound/microphone levels, operating a lighting board, overseeing technical rehearsals and setting up portable PA systems.

Performance is not assessed as part of the Music Technology A level course, and therefore performers are encouraged to participate in the stunning thirty-piece SJD Jazz Band, in addition to smaller ensembles that will have the opportunity to showcase their talents in the annual Battle of the Bands competition.

### Where might it lead?

The A level in Music Technology equips students with countless transferable skills, including problem solving and timed pressure, practical ICT application, creativity and technical understanding of brand new concepts e.g. microphone placement and DAW functioning. These skills are essential for students wishing to access popular higher education courses.

Students wishing to study Music Technology in higher education may wish to specialise in areas such as music production, music marketing, sound engineering, recording and mixing, live sound application, film/television/radio production or creative sound design. Several courses now offer a year in industry, which is extremely valuable when establishing a career after university.

## Course Breakdown

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### Course Summary

- Exam board is Edexcel

Paper	Content	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Component 1	Recording Coursework	60	Non-examined	20%
Component 2	Composing Using Technology Coursework	60	Non-examined	20%
Component 3	Listening and Analysing Written Exam	75	1 hour 30 minutes	25%
Component 4	Producing and Analysing Practical Exam	105	2 hours 15 minutes	35%

### Summary of Content

#### Recording

You will be required to choose one song from a list of ten; you will be taught to use production tools and techniques to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording.

#### Technology-based Composition

You will be required to complete one technology-based composition chosen from three briefs; you will be taught to create, edit, manipulate and structure sounds to produce a technology-based composition.

#### Listening and Analysing

This written exam will test your knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles, in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings. You will be required to apply your knowledge of all three areas of study: recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes, the principles of sound and audio technology and the development of recording and production technology.

#### Producing and Analysing

This written/practical exam will test you on your knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques. You will be required to apply your knowledge related to two of the areas of study: recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes and the principles of sound and audio technology.

### Suggested Preparation for September

Reading list:

1. Music Technology from Scratch by Mortimer Rhind-Tutt
2. The Art of Mixing: A Visual Guide to Recording, Engineering and Production by David Gibson
3. Sound Recording: The Life Story of a Technology by David Morton
4. Sound Synthesis and Sampling by Martin Russ
5. The Synthesiser: A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding, Programming, Playing and Recording the Ultimate Electronic Musical Instrument by Mark Vail
6. Practical Recording 1: Microphones by Norbert Pawera
7. Practical Recording Techniques: The Step-by-Step approach to Professional Audio Recording by Bruce Bartlett