

# Starting with confidence >>

## Music

The following is a list of activities you may like to do during your summer holidays, in preparation for studying A Level Music.

Most vital for this is working your way through the ABRSM Theory books to at least Grade 5 standard.

Your GCSE or BTEC course at school will have provided you with some valuable experience of performing, composing and listening.

On the A Level course these skills will be dramatically developed, so it is as well that you keep your musical wits sharp!

Aural perception is an examined skill on the A Level course, so what are your listening skills like? Here are some useful links which will put you through some paces:

- [www.auralworkshop.com/index.htm](http://www.auralworkshop.com/index.htm)
- [www.good-ear.com](http://www.good-ear.com)

You will have to do some sort of composition work also: like any creative craft, you need some technical know-how, and the skills to put this into good meaningful practice. So, do you know your key-signatures, your dominant from a mediant, all about transposing instruments? Use these links to investigate the fundamentals of how music works:

- [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net)
- <http://library.thinkquest.org/15413/theory/theory.htm>
- [www.musictheory.org.uk](http://www.musictheory.org.uk)
- <http://musictheoryblog.blogspot.co.uk>



You will study a major work on the course: at present this is Haydn Symphony No.104 in D major 'London' and Mendelssohn Symphony No. 4 in A major Op. 77 'Italian'.

Listen to these works and become familiar with how they sound. Can you identify key differences between the two?

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You need to be at Grade 6 performance standard by your A2 year. Make sure you have instrumental lessons in place and pieces to work on over the summer holiday.

You should be ready to perform two pieces of at least Grade 5 standard in September.

