



BTEC Level 3 - National Extended Certificate in Music Performance

Summer Independent Learning - Year 11-12

Welcome to your Summer Independent Learning (SIL) pack for BTEC Music Performance! This pack is designed to help you consolidate your musical skills and knowledge, giving you a strong foundation for the exciting work we'll do in Year 12. Remember, proactive learning during the summer will set you up for success!

Task 1: Your Personal Performance Showcase – Shine Bright!

Objective: To refine your performance skills and expand your repertoire, preparing at least one piece for an assessed performance during your first two weeks at college.

Instructions:

You have three exciting pathways to explore for your summer performance. Feel free to choose one or combine elements from multiple options! The key is to demonstrate your musicality and dedication.

1. Polish a Current Piece:

- Take a piece you are **already working on** or have recently performed.
- Dedicate time to perfecting it. Focus on **dynamics, tempo markings, and phrasing** to ensure a truly musical and expressive performance.
- **Video your performance** for self-assessment and sharing. You might find a recorded accompaniment on YouTube for pieces commonly played for grades.
- **Optional:** Share your video with friends and family, or even send it to your teacher at mark.abbott@nc1t.ac.uk for early feedback.

2. Resurrect an Old Favourite:

- Dig out an **older piece that you used to enjoy playing**.
- Revisit it with your current, more advanced skills. You'll likely discover new depths in the music and perform it even better!

- **Actively listen to professional performances** of the piece on platforms like Apple Music, Spotify, or YouTube. What specific elements do you admire in these performances? Can you incorporate any of their interpretations or techniques into your own?
- **Video or record your performance** as evidence of your work.

3. Learn a New Piece:

- **Choose one entirely new piece to learn from scratch.**
- Consider pieces from **Rock School, Trinity College, or other similar exam syllabuses** for your instrument. These lists often provide great variety and clear progression.
- Alternatively, select a piece you have **always wanted to learn**, regardless of exam board affiliation.
- As you learn, use recorded performances to help you grasp the piece and make informed decisions about your interpretation.
- **Video or record your performance** as evidence of your progress.

Important Performance Notes:

- **Quality over Difficulty:** It is always better to play an easier piece well, demonstrating strong musicality, than to struggle poorly with a more difficult piece.
 - **Express Yourself:** Pay close attention to dynamics, tempo markings, and phrasing to ensure your performance is expressive and musical.
 - **Assessment:** You **must perform at least one of these pieces** (the teacher will choose which one) in front of your teacher during the first two weeks of college.
 - **Backing Tracks:** You are welcome to use a backing track if your chosen piece requires or benefits from one.
-

Task 2: Music Theory Foundations – Sharpen Your Skills!

Objective: To review and strengthen your fundamental music theory knowledge, which is essential for the compulsory "Practical Music Theory and Harmony" unit in the BTEC course.

Instructions:

When we begin the BTEC course, we will delve into the "Practical Music Theory and Harmony" unit. While we will cover core concepts, we expect you to have some basic knowledge already. This task ensures you're prepared.

1. Master Musictheory.net:

- Visit [musictheory.net](https://www.musictheory.net) (an excellent external resource).
- You need to be thoroughly familiar with all topics in the following sections:
 - **The Basics** – *all sections*
 - **Rhythm and Metre** – *all sections*
 - **Scales and Key Signatures** – *all sections*
 - **Chords** – *the first two lessons (Diatonic Chords section)*
- **Optional Bonus:** Also explore the first lesson from the 'Chord Progressions' section for an extra head start!

2. Take Comprehensive Notes:

- As you work through each section on [musictheory.net](https://www.musictheory.net), make sure you write **detailed and comprehensive notes** about all these areas. These notes will be a valuable revision tool for the year ahead.

- You can download free manuscript paper from:
http://www.musictheory.org.uk/manuscript_paper.php

3.

4. Practice Your Knowledge:

- Utilise the interactive tests available on <https://www.musictheory.net/exercises> to help you grasp key signatures, scales, and other concepts. Consistent practice is key to retention!

Assessment:

- You will be **tested on these areas of music theory** when you come to college. It is **vital** that you fully understand and learn this material.
-

Task 3: Tempo, Dynamics, and Expression – Speak the Language of Music!

Objective: To build your vocabulary and understanding of musical terms related to tempo, dynamics, and expression, which are crucial for interpreting and communicating music effectively.

Instructions:

1. Research and Create Your Music Dictionary:

- Research and make detailed notes on **tempo markings, BPM (beats per minute), dynamics, and expressive terms**.
- Organise your notes into a personal **Music Dictionary**.

Assessment:

- You **will be tested on these areas of music theory and vocabulary** when you come to college. A strong understanding is essential for your BTEC course.
-

General Tips for Success: Your A-Level Music Toolkit

- **Pace Yourself:** Don't try to cram everything at the last minute! Break down these tasks into smaller, manageable chunks throughout the summer. Consistency is key.
- **Active Engagement:** Don't just passively read or listen. Take meticulous notes, make connections between concepts, and actively test your understanding.
- **Utilise All Resources:** The links provided are excellent starting points. Don't hesitate to explore other reputable musical resources online or in your local library.
- **Stay Curious:** Music is a vast and exciting subject. If a concept or composer particularly piques your interest, follow that curiosity – it will enrich your understanding immensely!
- **Bring Your Best Work:** Your completed notes, dictionary, and prepared performance pieces will be absolutely essential for your first lessons and assessments in Year 12. They are your proof of independent learning and dedication!

Good luck, and have a truly productive and musically enriching summer!