

Leaving Cert Music

The main aim of Leaving Cert music is the development the student's skill in the main facets of music: listening, composing and performing.

The listening and composing elements account for 50% of the overall mark and performance makes up another 25%. After this the student can decide to specialise in a performing, composing or listening elective for another 25%.

There are two written papers each worth 100 marks (25% each).

Paper 1 is a listening paper. Students study four large scale pieces of music in great detail. These are:

Syllabus A

JS Bach: Cantata No. 78 "Jesu Der Du Meine Seele"

Tchaikovsky: Overture to Romeo and Juliet

Gerald Barry: Piano Quartet

Queen: Bohemian Rhapsody

Syllabus B

Mozart: Piano Concerto K.488

Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique

Raymond Deane: "Seachanges"

The Beatles: Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts club Band

Students also study Irish Music in detail. This covers all aspects of Irish music including instruments, history and performances.

The students also answer a question on aural skills where they hear a piece unknown to them and answer questions on this.

Paper 2 is a composition paper where students must compose a melody and set harmony to another melody.

Most students choose to complete their elective in performance (giving them up to 50% before attempting the written papers). Students can perform in a variety of styles and in a variety of ways (group, solo etc). Students can also choose a music technology option as part of their practical exam. Here they use computers to input and edit musical scores.