

# Your guide to the changes for 2021

Following an [Ofqual consultation](#), we have made changes to a number of our qualifications.

The changes are designed to reduce the pressure on teachers and students in the 2020/21 academic year, and to safeguard against ongoing public health concerns.

Please use the [specification on our website](#) alongside this document which shows how our qualifications will differ in summer 2021.

## Overview of changes for GCSE (9-1) Music (J536)

Ofqual have confirmed that students taking GCSE Music in summer 2021 **will have a reduction in NEA requirements for performing and composing.**

- The **Practical Component** is being removed.
- The **Integrated Portfolio** will remain.
- Only one performance piece and one composition are now required as part of the **Integrated Portfolio**.
- There will no longer be a requirement for an ensemble performance piece, although they may still be submitted.
- The minimum durations will be reduced for both performance and composition.
- There will be no change to the written paper **Listening and Appraising**.

## GCSE (9-1) Music (J536) for academic year 2020/21

Students must complete Integrated Portfolio (01 or 02) and Listening and Appraising (05) to be awarded GCSE in Music in **summer 2021**.

There are two submission options, postal submission or electronic upload via the OCR Repository.

Repository option: Learners must take (01) and (05).

Postal option: Learners must take (02) and (05).

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Performance on the learner's chosen instrument.  Composition to a brief set by the learner.	<b>Integrated portfolio</b> <b>(01 or 02)</b> 60 Marks <i>Non-exam assessment</i>	<b>60% of total GCSE</b>
Listening and appraising.  A written paper, with CD.  Aural recognition and context unheard/unfamiliar music from within the Areas of Study 2, 3, 4 & 5.	<b>Listening and appraising</b> <b>(05)</b> 80 Marks <i>1 hour and 30 minutes written paper</i>	<b>40% of total GCSE</b>

- We have removed Practical Component (03) and (04).
- The Integrated Portfolio will be weighted up to be worth 60% of the qualification rather than 30%.
- The total length of performance required is a minimum of 1.5 minutes. If including ensemble, it must be 2 minutes.
- Learners may perform several short pieces to meet the minimum duration.
- The total length of composing required is a minimum of 2 minutes.

What has changed – Specification	Detail
<i>Integrated Portfolio</i>	<p>The Integrated Portfolio is now the only NEA component required, consisting of one performance and one composition of the learner's choice.</p> <p>There are no changes to the form of assessment or marking criteria – please mark the work out of 60 as normal. Use the Integrated Portfolio marking criteria and guidance in the specification.</p> <p>Score/lead sheet requirements remain as normal.</p> <p>We will weight up the mark to 60% rather than 30% of the overall qualification.</p>
<i>Practical Component</i>	This component has been removed. We will not be releasing a board set brief.
<p><i>Minimum performance durations reduced.</i></p> <p><i>Minimum composition duration reduced.</i></p>	<p><b>Performance:</b> 1.5 minutes (2 mins if including ensemble)</p> <p>Learners may still perform multiple pieces to meet the performance minimum duration.</p> <p><b>Composition:</b> 2 minutes. As the Integrated Portfolio is the sole NEA component for summer 2021, this is a learner choice composition.</p> <p>Students must still meet these reduced minimum durations.</p>
<i>Removal of Practical component codes</i>	The component codes have been removed for both of the Practical Components <b>03</b> and <b>04</b> that will not be assessed in 2021.

What has changed - Forms	Detail
<i>Candidate Cover Sheet</i>	The 'Candidate Cover Sheet' and 'Minimum Duration Statement' will be updated for 2021 to reflect the changes being made.
<i>Minimum Duration Statement</i>	

## Support

OCR's team of expert Subject Advisors has created videos, webinars, and other resources to guide you through these changes and help you prepare your students for their exams in summer 2021.

These resources can be found [here](#)

## Contact Us

If you would like to contact us, you can do so at:

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