

Bullers Wood Music A Level – Pre-course tasks

Over your summer break you are to complete several pre-course tasks, ready to be submitted in first week of lessons. These tasks will help your new teachers to get to know you in a musical sense and where you are at in your musical journey.

External students only:

- 1) Prepare an unaccompanied solo performance, minimum grade 5 standard. Please provide the score (Unaccompanied: there will be no pianist available to accompany you. You can however accompany yourself or use a backing track).
- 2) Complete a draft composition in a style of your choosing, minimum of 2:30 minutes. This can either be submitted as a score or a recorded performance.
- 3) Go through the theory work below and strive to get your theoretical understanding of music to grade 5 standard. **It is vital that you can read musical notation confidently, in both treble and bass clef by the time we start in September.**

Current Bullers students:

Please complete task 3 from the list above.

Music theory needed for Music A Level

For A Level you must get your theory level up to grade 5 level as quickly as possible. We will do this through a series of YouTube tutorials, tasks and worksheet. Some of you may find this easier than others but this is to ensure that we all have a good grounding in music theory before we start with our A level studies.

If you find a topic easy because you've already covered it then you can skip ahead to the more challenging stages if you would like.

To test your theory level, take the [Grade 5 theory paper](#) and then mark it yourself using the [Answers](#). If you get more than 70 you can move start on section 4.

If you want an easy walk through with everything in one place, look through this [this theory book](#). This is an excellent starting point if you want to make sure you understand the main theory of music concepts before you begin your course.

Section	Concept	Video tutorial or explanation sheet	Music theory net walkthrough	Work to be completed	Test yourself
0	Intro to sound Pitch & Staves Rhythm & Metre	• What is a note? • Writing music down	• Music theory walkthroughs	• Pitch (Treble and Bass Clef) • Rhythm and Metre • Answers	• Note identification
1	Intervals	• Intervals • Intervals Pt2	• Music theory walkthroughs	• Intervals - Answers	• Interval identification
2	Scales Keys	• Scales • Keys & Circle of fifths • More circle of fifths	• Music theory walkthroughs	• Scales - Answers	• Key signature identification • Scale identification
3	Chords	• What is a chord? • Types of triads	• Music theory walkthroughs	• Chords & cadences - Answers	• Chord identification • Chord construction
4	7th chords	• 7th chords	• Music theory walkthroughs	• Diatonic 7th chords	
5	Functional harmony	• Functional harmony • The job of a chord • Function harmony in a minor key • Using the chords	• Music theory walkthroughs	• Functional harmony • All diatonic chords in every major key	
6	Melody	• Non-Harmonic tones • Non-Harmonic tones PT2	• Music theory walkthroughs	• Non-Harmonic tones PPT test	

		• Non-Harmonic tones again <i>Please note American's use the description neighbour tones, we call them auxiliary notes.</i>			
--	--	--	--	--	--