

Music Tech

-Year 11-

Pre-work

Student name:

What the aims are	How long the pre-work will take
To introduce you to the core learning disciplines of Music Technology.	3 hours or more
How the work will be assessed	What you should do if you find it difficult
You will be asked to produce and discuss your answers in your first week's Music Technology lessons. Work will be taken in and monitored. A mark out of 60 will be given for this work sheet. 50 would be excellent, 40 a pass and anything lower would require further study tasks to be given in the second week back and a discussion with your teacher.	Firstly, attempt all of this worksheet. If parts of it are challenging you can seek help online. Learners learn in many different ways, and it's always helpful to visit the same material and experience it in a different way. This will give you a new perspective on the same material, which will give you a better insight into the foundation of what it is about.

Music Technology

Music Tech is a fascinating subject accessible by one of the greatest things we have on this earth: music. Not only does it lead an understanding of the natural world, but also our history as humans. It is a hub of creativity, and can lead to fascinating and rewarding career pathways in live sound venues, film and television, but also into the world of computing, publishing, performing, writing, and many more.

Most musicians say, if they haven't studied Music Tech, that they wish they had. Music has the power to tap into our primal instincts, to affect us emotionally, and can cut a pathway to new ways of thinking. It does this in ways the conscious brain is not aware of, but the subconscious always picks up on.

Listening to Music across the Recording Eras

There are five recording eras that recorded music fits into depending on what technology is available at the time.

	Years	Tell-tale sign 01	Tell-tale sign 02	Tell-tale sign 03
Direct to mono tape	1930 – '63	No stereo image	Audible tape hiss	Lacking high freq's
Early Multitracking	1964 – '69	Hard panning	Bouncing down	Effects heavy
Large scale analogue multitracking	1969 – '95	Flexible panning	High dynamic range	Clear high frequencies
Digital Sequencing	1980 - Pres	Drum machine	Synths present	'Indie' sound
DAW era	1996 - Pres	Auto-tuning	Low dynamic range	'Perfect' sound

Your task

Find a song that represents each of the eras. You can do this on Spotify, Youtube, Apple Music, or any platform you like.

	Years	Song Name	Artist	Album	Genre
Direct to mono tape	1930 – 1963				
Early Multitracking	1964 – 1969				
Large scale analogue multitracking	1969 – 1995				
Digital Sequencing <i>(drum machines)</i>	1980 – Pres				
DAW era <i>(Made using computers)</i>	1996 – Pres				
				Total (20)	

Recording Tech from old times vs current technology

Recording tech is vastly different depending on which decade you are working in. Historically studios have had to use tape to record everything, and it is only recently that studios have entered the digital era and recorded everything digitally. Abbey Road during the 1960s made their own equipment with EMI. Motown created their own studio using Berry Gordy's house in Detroit, but managed to stay on top of the latest and greatest tech to make their records by buying them in.

1960s – '70s	<i>Popular brand 1</i>	<i>Popular brand 2</i>	<i>Popular brand 3</i>	<i>Popular brand 4</i>
Tape Machine	Studer	Ampex	EMI	Tascam
Mixing Console	Neumann	Helios	Neve	Siemens
Microphone	Neumann	RCA	AKG	Shure
EQ	Pultec	SSL	Neve	API
Compressor	Urei	Fairchild	PYE	Altec

In the present day a lot of these technologies have been replaced with technology based in the digital domain, which is the current era we are working in today.

Your task

Find 4 popular brands of the following modern-day equipment. This is done by checking out online music stores, such as GAK.co.uk, Thomann.de, and Youtube.com. Youtube is by far the best for this, and simply typing "best [piece of technology]" will yield many results. Try it with the equipment above for further reading.

Present day	<i>Popular brand 1</i>	<i>Popular brand 2</i>	<i>Popular brand 3</i>	<i>Popular brand 4</i>
<u>Audio Interface</u>				
DAW <i>Mac / PC</i>				
<u>Microphone</u>				
<u>Headphones</u>				
<u>VST plugin</u>				
			Total (20)	

Two budgets

How would you record a song of your choosing with two very different **budgets** using modern day equipment?

Imagine you have great performers at hand, so there's no need to budget for them, unless you are planning to record an orchestra or something of the sort. You can also record the performers at different times, rather than having them all together.

Song	
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Your task

Put forward a proposal on how you would record your track with vastly different budgets. Refer to instruments, recording equipment, and anything else you like. Add details on how you would do the recording having found out about the necessary equipment you will need above.

Budget = £1,000		Budget = £1,000,000	
<i>Microphones</i>	<i>£200ish</i>	<i>Microphones</i>	<i>Most expensive</i>
<i>Recording studio</i>	<i>£0 if bedroom producer</i>	<i>Recording studio</i>	<i>Studios, take your pick</i>
<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Mic stands, anything else</i>	<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Anything you want</i>
<i>Audio Interface</i>	<i>You most likely need 8-tracks simultaneously</i>	<i>Audio Interface</i>	<i>There are some expensive ones out there</i>

Proposal with £1,000 (marked out of 10)	Proposal with £1,000,000 (marked out of 10)		
		<i>Total (20)</i>	
		<i>Grand Total (60)</i>	