Music Extension
Subject guide 2008

Why study Music Extension?
Do you have specific musical abilities or talents? Do you enjoy music and want to explore a particular area of music in greater depth? Then Music Extension might be the subject for you.

What is this subject all about?
Music Extension is an exciting and challenging course for students already enrolled in Senior Music and is studied over both Year 12 semesters.
You will choose one of three specialisations — Composition, Musicology or Performance — as a context for expressing your music ideas and developing your personal music style.
As a composer, musicologist or performer you will be encouraged to develop technique and skills in your chosen specialisation and to communicate your music ideas to an audience through compositions, musicological presentations, or performances.
Because the focus is on self-directed, independent learning you will be able to plan your own course of study. You can select your own repertoire for performance, create your own music and/or select your own topics for research. You may also be involved in individual instruction and practice, personal research, classroom learning experiences and ensemble rehearsal.

What will you learn?
If you choose the Composition specialisation, you will be creating your own music in a style or genre that allows you to best display your emerging skills as a composer. Your compositions may be vocal or instrumental, solo or ensemble, notated or recorded, and may be generated by electronic means and contemporary technologies.
If you choose the Musicology specialisation, you will be engaged in a research-based study of music. This specialisation may involve document study, archival research, field research, stylistic analysis, and/or cross-disciplinary studies. The range of fields within Musicology includes historical musicology, ethnomusicology, philosophy of music, psychology of music, and acoustics.
If you choose the Performance specialisation, you will be performing as a soloist, a member of an ensemble, an accompanist, a conductor, or any combination of these. You should select repertoire in the style/s or genre/s that allow you to best display your emerging skills as a performer and which allow you to demonstrate the exit standards described in the syllabus.
How will you learn?
Depending on your chosen specialisation, you will be:

- developing your music memory and aural skills
- discussing and experimenting with music ideas
- exploring innovative music-making techniques and compositional ideas
- exploring the capabilities of instruments, voices and other sound sources
- undertaking interviews, research and field studies
- experiencing live performances as an audience member and/or performer
- rehearsing, critiquing, refining and reflecting on your developing work
- developing an individual style.

How will you be assessed?
Over the two semesters, you will be required to present one Investigating task and two Realising tasks.

In the Investigating task you will research, explore, analyse and synthesise evidence from a range of music sources such as scores, audio and visual recordings, live performances, case studies, essays, lectures, journals or musicology surveys, and present your findings through, for example, an extended written response, a multimedia or oral presentation.

In the two Realising tasks, depending on your specialisation, you will show the development and refinement of your technique and skills and express your music ideas in “the work” (that is, your composition, performance or musicological presentation).

How can your parent/s or guardian/s help?
Your parent/s or guardian/s can help by providing a supportive environment in the home and by showing an interest in your daily activities. They can:

- support, and keep informed about, the Music program in the school
- attend school and community music concerts and theatrical productions
- encourage you to attend live music performances
- be considerate of the practical demands of the subject in terms of physical effort and time, especially the out-of-hours commitment sometimes required.

More information
If you would like more information, please email senior.syllabuses@qca.qld.edu.au. You can also visit the QCAA website www.qca.qld.edu.au and search for 'Music Extension'.