

## **Summer Preparation Task: A Level Music Technology (Edexcel)**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to A Level Music Technology! This summer task is designed to help you prepare for the course starting in September. It includes a mix of reading, practical tasks, and online learning to give you a head start in understanding the key concepts and tools you'll be using.

### **1. MOOCs and Online Learning**

Complete at least one of the following free online courses to build foundational knowledge in music production and audio technology:

- Introduction to Music Technology (Coursera): <https://www.coursera.org/learn/music-tech>
- Music Production (Berklee via edX): <https://www.edx.org/course/music-production>
- Sound Design and Audio Processing (FutureLearn): <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/sound-design>

### **2. Practical Tasks**

Try the following hands-on activities to develop your skills:

- Download and explore a free Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) such as Cakewalk (<https://www.bandlab.com/products/cakewalk>) or Tracktion T7 (<https://www.tracktion.com/products/t7-daw>).
- Record and edit a short piece of audio using your chosen DAW.
- Experiment with EQ, reverb, and compression effects.
- Create a short composition using MIDI instruments.

### **3. Reading and Listening**

Engage with the following resources to deepen your understanding:

- Book: 'The Music Producer's Handbook' by Bobby Owsinski (check your local library or online excerpts).
- Article: 'What is a Compressor?' by iZotope: <https://www.izotope.com/en/learn/what-is-a-compressor.html>
- Podcast: 'Tape Notes' – interviews with music producers: <https://www.tapenotes.co.uk/>
- YouTube Channel: 'RecordingRevolution' – tutorials on home recording: <https://www.youtube.com/user/recordingrevolution>

### **4. Reflection**

Write a short reflection (300–500 words) on what you learned from the tasks above. Consider the following questions:

- What did you find most interesting or challenging?
- Which tools or techniques are you excited to explore further?
- How do you think these activities will help you in the A Level course?