

BOWED STRINGS REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

This section provides a summary of the most important points that teachers and candidates need to know when taking ABRSM bowed strings exams. Further details, as well as administrative information relating to the exams, are given in ABRSM's Information & Regulations (available at www.abrsm.org/regulations) which should be read before an exam booking is made.

Entering for an exam

Eligibility: There are eight grades of exam for each subject and candidates may be entered in any grade irrespective of age and without previously having taken any other grade in the same subject. Candidates for a Grade 6, 7 or 8 exam must already have passed ABRSM Grade 5 (or above) in Music Theory, Practical Musicianship or a solo Jazz subject; for full details, including a list of accepted alternatives, see Regulation 1d at www.abrsm.org/regulations.

Access: ABRSM endeavours to make its exams as accessible as possible to all candidates, regardless of sensory impairments, learning difficulties or particular physical needs. There is a range of alternative tests and formats as well as sets of guidelines for candidates with particular access needs (see www.abrsm.org/specificneeds). Where a candidate's needs are not covered by the guidelines, each case is considered on an individual basis. Further information is available from the Access Co-ordinator (accesscoordinator@abrsm.ac.uk).

Exam booking: Details of exam dates, locations, fees and how to book an exam are available online at www.abrsm.org/exambooking.

Instruments

Candidates are required to perform on acoustic instruments (electric instruments are not permitted). Any size of instrument may be used. Examiners apply the marking criteria (which include the assessment of pitch, tone and musical shaping) to assess musical outcomes without reference to the specific attributes of the instrument.

Elements of the exam

All ABRSM graded bowed strings exams comprise the following elements: three Pieces; Scales and arpeggios; Sight-reading; and Aural tests. In all grades, marks are allocated as follows:

Pieces: 1	30
2	30
3	30
Scales and arpeggios	21
Sight-reading	21
Aural tests	18
Total	150

Marking scheme: 100 marks are required for a Pass, 120 for a Merit and 130 for a Distinction. A Pass in each individual section is not required to pass overall. See pp. 88–89 for the marking criteria used by examiners.

Pieces

Programme planning: Candidates must choose one piece from each of the three lists (A, B and C) in each grade. In the exam, they should inform the examiner which pieces they are performing, and they are welcome to use the form on p. 91 for this purpose.

Accompaniment: A live piano accompaniment is required for all pieces, except those which are published as studies or unaccompanied works and those Double Bass List C pieces marked ‘solo’. Candidates must provide their own accompanist, who may remain in the exam room only while accompanying. The candidate’s teacher may act as accompanist (examiners will not). If necessary, the accompanist may simplify any part of the piano accompaniment, provided the result is musically satisfactory.

Exam music & editions: Wherever the syllabus includes an arrangement or transcription, the edition listed in the syllabus must be used in the exam; in all such cases the abbreviation ‘arr.’ or ‘trans.’ appears in the syllabus entry. For all other pieces, the editions quoted in the syllabus are given for guidance only and candidates may use any edition of their choice (in- or out-of-print or downloadable). Information on obtaining exam music is given on p. 10.

Interpreting the score: Printed editorial suggestions such as fingering, bowing, metronome marks, realization of ornaments etc. need not be strictly observed. Whether the piece contains musical indications or not, candidates are always encouraged to interpret the score in a stylistically appropriate manner. Ultimately, examiners’ marking will be determined by consideration of pitch, time, tone, shape and performance, and how control of these contributes to the overall musical outcome.

Vibrato: The use and control of vibrato, and its effect on tone and shape, will be taken into account by examiners, who will be assessing the overall musical outcome. Pieces whose full musical effect is heavily reliant on vibrato tend not to appear in the syllabus before around Grade 5.

Repeats: All da capo and dal segno indications should be observed but all other repeats (including first-time bars) should be omitted unless they are very brief (i.e. of a few bars) or unless the syllabus specifies otherwise.

Cadenzas & tuttis: Cadenzas should not be played unless the syllabus specifies otherwise. Lengthy orchestral tutti sections should be cut.

Performing from memory: Candidates are free to perform any of their pieces from memory; in such cases they must ensure that a copy of the music is available for the examiner to refer to if necessary. No additional marks are awarded for playing from memory.

Page-turns: Examiners will be understanding if a page-turn causes a lack of continuity during a piece, and this will not affect the marking. A variety of solutions for awkward page-turns exists, including the use of an additional copy of the music or a photocopy of a section of the piece (but see ‘Photocopies’ below). In cases where candidates believe there is no solution to a particularly awkward page-turn, they may apply to bring a page-turner to the exam. The request must be made to the Syllabus Department (syllabus@abrsm.ac.uk) no later than the closing date for entry, and details of the piece, edition and nature of the difficulty should be given. If permission is granted, a confirmation letter will be issued which must be taken to the exam as verification. Examiners are unable to help with page-turning. In a Grade 8 exam, a candidate’s accompanist is permitted to bring a page-turner to assist with page-turns in the piano part (prior permission is not required).

Photocopies: Performing from unauthorized photocopies (or other kinds of copies) of copyright editions is not allowed. ABRSM may withhold the exam result where it has evidence of an illegal copy (or copies) being used. In the UK, copies may be used in certain limited circumstances – for full details, see the MPA’s *Code of Fair Practice* at www.mpaonline.org.uk. In all other cases, application should be made to the copyright holder before any copy is made, and evidence of permission received should be brought to the exam.

Scales and arpeggios

Examiners will usually ask for at least one of each type of scale/arpeggio etc. required at each grade, as well as aiming to hear a balance of separately-bowed and slurred requirements. When asking for requirements, examiners will specify only:

- the key (including minor form – harmonic *or* melodic – in the Grade 6–8 scales) or the starting note
- separate bows *or* slurred (except for where the requirements are to be prepared with separate bows *only* – e.g. Grade 1 arpeggios)

All scales and arpeggios should:

- be played from memory
- be played from the lowest possible tonic/starting note, unless the syllabus indicates otherwise
- ascend and descend according to the specified range (and pattern)

Candidates are free to use any fingering that produces a successful musical outcome.

For major and minor scales (and double-stop scales in parallel sixths/octaves) candidates may choose between two rhythm patterns: even notes *or* long tonic. Arpeggios, dominant and diminished sevenths are required in root position only. All dominant sevenths must finish by resolving on the tonic.

Examples of scale/arpeggio etc. patterns found in this syllabus are given on pp. 12–13.

Books of the scale requirements are published for all bowed strings subjects by ABRSM.

Bowing will generally dictate the tempi of slurred scales and arpeggios. Separately-bowed requirements should be played briskly, using no more than half the bow length. The speeds on pp. 14–15 are given as a general guide.

Sight-reading

Candidates will be asked to play a short unaccompanied piece of music which they have not previously seen. They will be given up to half a minute in which to look through and, if they wish, try out all or any part of the test before they are required to play it for assessment. The main technical parameters are outlined on each grade page of this syllabus; once introduced, these parameters apply for all subsequent grades (albeit with a logical progression of difficulty). For practice purposes, books of specimen sight-reading tests are published for all bowed string subjects by ABRSM.

Aural tests

The requirements are the same for all subjects. Full details of the Aural tests are given on pp. 68–73.

In the exam

Examiners: Generally, there will be one examiner in the exam room; however, for training and quality assurance purposes, a second examiner may sometimes be present. Examiners may ask to look at the music before or after the performance of a piece (a separate copy is not required: the candidate's or accompanist's copy will suffice). Examiners may also decide to stop the performance of a piece when they have heard enough to form a judgment. They will not issue, or comment on, a candidate's result; instead, the mark form (and certificate for successful candidates) will be issued by ABRSM after the exam.

Tuning: In Grades 1–5, the teacher or accompanist may tune the candidate's instrument (or advise on tuning) before the exam begins. In Grades 6–8, candidates must tune their instrument themselves. Examiners are unable to help with tuning.

Seating: Double bass candidates should provide their own stool if required. A chair/stool will be provided for cello candidates.

Order of the exam: The individual sections of the exam may be undertaken in any order, at the candidate's choice, although it is always preferable for accompanied pieces to be performed consecutively.

(continued overleaf)

Assessment

The tables on pp. 88–89 show the marking criteria used by examiners. These criteria (newly revised and amended) have been in use in exams from January 2014. In each element of the exam, ABRSM operates the principle of marking from the required pass mark positively or negatively, rather than awarding marks by deduction from the maximum or addition from zero. In awarding marks, examiners balance the extent to which the qualities and skills listed on pp. 88–89 (broadly categorized by pitch, time, tone, shape and performance) are demonstrated and contribute towards the overall musical outcome.

Obtaining exam music

Exam music is available from music retailers as well as online, including at the ABRSM music shop: www.abrsm.org/shop. Every effort has been made to ensure that all the publications listed will remain available for the duration of the syllabus. Candidates are advised to obtain their music well in advance of the exam in case of any delays with items not kept in stock by retailers. Apart from queries relating to exams, all enquiries about the music (e.g. editorial, availability) should be addressed to the relevant publisher: contact details are listed at www.abrsm.org/publishers.

SCALE AND ARPEGGIO PATTERNS

The examples below clarify patterns found in this syllabus. Reference should be made to the appropriate syllabus pages for the full requirements for each instrument.

Rhythm patterns for scales

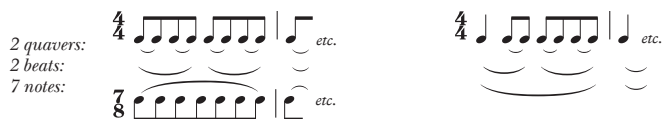
For major and minor scales (all grades) candidates may choose between two rhythm patterns: even notes *or* long tonic. (Chromatic scales should be played with even notes at all grades.)

even notes *or* long tonic

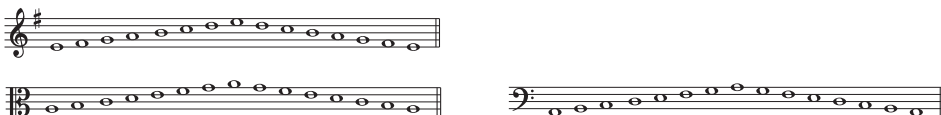


Slurring patterns for scales

even notes *or* long tonic



Natural minor scale



Dominant seventh (*resolving on tonic*)



Double-stop scales

In broken steps





Double-stop scales (cont.)

In parallel



	even notes	<i>or</i>	long tonic
<i>in sixths:</i>			
<i>in octaves:</i>			

Patterns for Double Bass only

Scales to a sixth

even notes	<i>or</i>	long tonic
		

Scales to a twelfth

even notes	<i>or</i>	long tonic
		

Arpeggios to a twelfth















Scale in broken thirds



Scale in running thirds



CELLO	pattern	Grade / Speed							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Scales		♩ = 44	♩ = 50	♩ = 54	♩ = 58	♩ = 63	♩ = 72	♩ = 84	♩ = 100
Arpeggios		♩ = 88	♩ = 100	♩ = 104	♩ = 108	♩ = 112	♩ = 116	♩ = 40	♩ = 42
Chromatic scales				♩ = 54	♩ = 58	♩ = 63	♩ = 48	♩ = 84	♩ = 100
Dom. & Dim. 7ths *					♩ = 54	♩ = 56	♩ = 58	♩ = 60	♩ = 63
Double-stop scales (in broken steps)							♩ = 72	♩ = 84	♩ = 100
Double-stop scale (in parallel)									♩ = 60

DOUBLE BASS	pattern	Grade / Speed							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Scales		♩ = 40	♩ = 42	♩ = 44	♩ = 46	♩ = 50	♩ = 56	♩ = 63	♩ = 76
Arpeggios		♩ = 40	♩ = 42	♩ = 44	♩ = 92	♩ = 100	♩ = 104	♩ = 108	♩ = 112
Chromatic scales				♩ = 88	♩ = 92	♩ = 100	♩ = 56	♩ = 42	♩ = 50
Dom. & Dim. 7ths *					♩ = 46	♩ = 50	♩ = 52	♩ = 54	♩ = 56
Scale in broken and running thirds †							♩ = 56		♩ = 50
Double-stop scales (in broken steps)								♩ = 84	♩ = 100

* Dim. 7ths from Grade 5

† Scale in broken thirds (Grade 6) and in running thirds (Grade 8)

This syllabus for Double Bass is valid from 2012. The next edition will be published in July 2019. Advance notice of any planned changes to the Double Bass requirements from 2020 will be available at www.abrsm.org/doublebass from January 2019.

Double Bass GRADE 1

THREE PIECES: one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C. Pieces in first position are indicated by †, those in half position by §, while the remaining pieces can be played in either position:

LIST A

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1 | Anon. Estonian Lament to the Moon (<i>in either key</i>) | } <i>Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 1, arr. Slatford (ABRSM)</i> |
| § 2 | Blow Gavott (from <i>Musick's Hand-maid</i>) | |
| † 3 | Anon. German The More the Merrier. No. 67 from <i>Ready Steady Go, arr. Elliott (Bartholomew 502: piano accomp. published separately, 502a)</i> | |
| † 4 | Suzuki Allegretto. No. 11 from <i>Suzuki Bass School, Vol. 1, Revised Edition (Alfred–Summy-Birchard 0370S: piano accomp. published separately, 0372S)</i> | |
| 5 | Trad. John Grumlie, arr. Elliott. P. 25 from <i>The Essential String Method, Double Bass Book 3 (Boosey & Hawkes: piano accomp. published separately)</i> | |
| † 6 | Trad. Peruvian Dance Tune. <i>Amazing Solos for Double Bass, arr. Schofield (Boosey & Hawkes)</i> | |

LIST B


- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| † 1 | Catherine Elliott Carnival Waltz. P. 4 from <i>The Essential String Method, Double Bass Book 3 (Boosey & Hawkes: piano accomp. published separately)</i> | |
| 2 | Tony Osborne Bass Bridges of Paris or Alpen Song†: No. 14 or No. 18 from <i>The Really Easy Bass Book (Faber)</i> | |
| 3 | Michael Rose Ballad II | |
| 4 | Schumann A Little Piece (from Op. 68) | } <i>Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 1, arr. Slatford (ABRSM)</i> |
| § 5 | Taki Moon Over the Ruined Castle. No. 8 from <i>Suzuki Bass School, Vol. 2, Revised Edition (Alfred–Summy-Birchard 0371S: piano accomp. published separately, 0374S)</i> | |
| 6 | Tchaikovsky Old French Song, arr. Nelson. P. 27 from <i>The Essential String Method, Double Bass Book 4 (Boosey & Hawkes: piano accomp. published separately)</i> | |

LIST C

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|--------------------------------|
| † 1 | Anon. Corn Rigs Quadrille | } <i>Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 1, arr. Slatford (ABRSM)</i> | <i>solo or accomp. accomp.</i> |
| § 2 | Steve Berry A Little Blue (<i>without improvisation</i>) | | |
| 3 | T. Morley Now is the month of Maying (<i>in either key</i>) | | <i>solo or accomp. accomp.</i> |
| § 4 | I. Carroll Gigue: from <i>Five Simple Pieces (Stainer & Bell 2310)</i> | | <i>accomp.</i> |
| 5 | Tony Osborne And Y Not: No. 22 from <i>The Really Easy Bass Book (Faber)</i> | | <i>accomp.</i> |
| † 6 | Regner Lied des Schlafes: No. 5 from <i>Kontra-Spass (Schott KBB 11)</i> | | <i>accomp.</i> |
| 7 | Trad. Hatikvah, arr. Elliott. P. 22 from <i>The Essential String Method, Double Bass Book 3 (Boosey & Hawkes: piano accomp. published separately)</i> | | <i>solo or accomp.</i> |

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS*: from memory; for further details (incl. examples) see pp. 8–9 and 12–15 Group 1 (first position) *or* Group 2 (half position), at candidate's choice†

	<i>range</i>	<i>bowing requirements</i>	<i>rhythm pattern</i>
GROUP 1			
Scales			
C, D majors	a 6th	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred	even notes <i>or</i> long tonic,
G major; A natural minor	1 oct.	(2 quavers to a bow)	at candidate's choice
Arpeggios			
G major; A minor	1 oct.	separate bows	even notes
<i>or</i>			
GROUP 2			
Scales			
C major	a 6th	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred	even notes <i>or</i> long tonic,
F, B \flat majors; A natural minor	1 oct.	(2 quavers to a bow)	at candidate's choice
Arpeggios			
F, B \flat majors; A minor	1 oct.	separate bows	even notes

SIGHT-READING*: 1st *or* half position, at candidate's choice†. A four-bar piece in $\frac{4}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$, or a six-bar piece in $\frac{2}{4}$, in G or D majors (no use of E and A strings) *or* F or B \flat majors (no use of G string). All notes separately bowed. Simple dynamics (*f*, *mf*, *p*), note values () and rests (♯). See also p. 9.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE*: see pp. 68 and 69

† The examiner will ask which Group/position

* Published by ABRSM (Scale requirements, Specimen Sight-Reading Tests, Specimen Aural Tests)

THREE PIECES: one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C:

LIST A

- 1 **attrib. J. S. Bach** Minuet (BWV Anh. II 126).
P. 9 from } *The Anna Magdalena Bach Notebook for Double Bass, arr. Elliott (Bartholomew 009: piano accomp. published separately, 009a)*
- 2 **Petzold** Minuet in D (BWV Anh. II 114).
P. 3 from }
- 3 **Boccherini** Minuetto (from String Quartet, Op. 24 No. 4). *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 1, arr. Slatford (ABRSM)*
- 4 **Handel** Gavotte, arr. Elliott (*upper line*). P. 10 from } *The Essential String Method, Double Bass Book 4 (Boosey & Hawkes: piano accomp. published separately)*
- 5 **Trad. English** Greensleeves, arr. Elliott. P. 26 from }
- 6 **Mozart** Passe-pied (*observing repeats*). No. 9 from *La Contrebasse classique, Vol. A, arr. Dehant (Combreda C05440)*

LIST B

- 1 **Beethoven** Andante cantabile (from String Quartet, Op. 18 No. 5) } *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 1, arr. Slatford (ABRSM)*
- 2 **Michael Rose** Ballad I }
- 3 **Rodgers & Hammerstein** Edelweiss (from *The Sound of Music*). No. 50 from *Abracadabra Double Bass, Book 1, arr. Lillywhite et al. (Black: piano accomp. published separately)*
- 4 **Schubert** Two German Dances, arr. Nelson (*omitting DC*). P. 23 from *The Essential String Method, Double Bass Book 4 (Boosey & Hawkes: piano accomp. published separately)*
- 5 **Schumann** The Merry Peasant (The Happy Farmer). P. 18 (arr. Elliott) from *The Essential String Method, Double Bass Book 4 (Boosey & Hawkes: piano accomp. published separately)* or No. 7 from *Suzuki Bass School, Vol. 2, Revised Edition (Alfred–Sammy–Birchard 0371S: piano accomp. published separately, 0374S)*
- 6 **Weber** Ecossaise (*upper line, observing repeats*). P. 7 from *Technitunes for Double Bass, arr. Nelson and Elliott (Boosey & Hawkes: piano accomp. published separately)*

LIST C

- 1 **Arlen & Harburg** We're off to see the Wizard (from *The Wizard of Oz*). No. 70 from *Abracadabra Double Bass, Book 1, arr. Lillywhite et al. (Black: piano accomp. published separately)* *accomp.*
- 2 **Christopher Field** Ladye Broomleigh Her Pavane. *solo*
No. 45 from } *Yorke Studies for Double Bass, Vol. 1 (Yorke YE0022)*
- 3 **Trad. Scottish** Ye Banks and Braes, arr. Slatford. *solo*
No. 73 from }
- 4 **Herz** Galoppe } *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 1, arr. Slatford (ABRSM)* *accomp.*
- 5 **Giles Swayne** Lazybones } *accomp.*
- 6 **Regner** Maitanz: No. 2 from *Kontra-Spass (Schott KBB 11)* *accomp.*
- 7 **Trad.** March of the Kings, arr. Elliott. P. 25 from *The Essential String Method, Double Bass Book 4 (Boosey & Hawkes: piano accomp. published separately)* *solo or accomp.*

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS*: from memory; for further details (incl. examples) see pp. 8–9 and 12–15

	<i>range</i>	<i>bowing requirements</i>	<i>rhythm pattern</i>
Scales			
F, G, B \flat , D majors; A, B minors (<i>minors natural or harmonic, at candidate's choice</i>)	1 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (2 quavers to a bow)	even notes <i>or</i> long tonic, at candidate's choice
Arpeggios			
F, G, B \flat majors; A, B minors	1 oct.	separate bows	even notes

SIGHT-READING*: an eight-bar piece, time signatures as Grade 1, in C, G, D majors or A natural minor, in 1st position. Notes separately bowed or with simple two-note slurs. Addition of *mp*, 'hairpins' (*cresc./dim.*), dotted minim, and minim rest. See also p. 9.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE*: see pp. 68 and 69

* Published by ABRSM (Scale requirements, Specimen Sight-Reading Tests, Specimen Aural Tests)

THREE PIECES: one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C:

LIST A

- 1 **Azaïs** Menuet. No. 22 from *La Contrebasse classique, Vol. A, arr. Dehant (Combre C05440)*
- 2 **attrib. J. S. Bach** First Minuet in D minor (BWV Anh. II 121) (*observing 1st repeat*). P. 9 from *The Anna Magdalena Bach Notebook for Double Bass, arr. Elliott (Bartholomew 009: piano accomp. published separately, 009a)*
- 3 **L. Couperin** Menuet de Poitou (*omitting DC*) } *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 1,*
- 4 **Lully** Air and Chaconne (from *Le bourgeois gentilhomme*) } *arr. Slatford (ABRSM)*
- 5 **Gerhard Deutschmann** Menuett and Trio. No. 9 from *Yorke Solos for Double Bass, Vol. 1 (Yorke YE0087)*
- 6 **Mozart** Allegro (K. 3). No. 2 from *Subterranean Solos, arr. Hartley (Bartholomew 006: piano accomp. published separately, 006a)*

LIST B

- 1 **Grieg** Norwegian Dance (Op. 35). No. 5 from *Subterranean Solos, arr. Hartley (Bartholomew 006: piano accomp. published separately, 006a)*
- 2 **Gurlitt** Voyage de nuit. No. 20 from *La Contrebasse classique, Vol. A, arr. Dehant (Combre C05440)*
- 3 **Sheila Joynes** The Old Sea Dog. No. 52 from *Bass is Best! Yorke Mini-Bass Book 2, arr. Emery and Barratt (Yorke YE0098)*
- 4 **John Merle** Mummers (Danse grotesque). *Festival Performance Solos – String Bass (Carl Fischer BF5: piano accomp. published separately, BF6)*
- 5 **Schumann** Melody (from Op. 68). *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 1, arr. Slatford (ABRSM)*
- 6 **Verdi** Grand March (from *Aida*). *Amazing Solos for Double Bass, arr. Schofield (Boosey & Hawkes)*

LIST C

- 1 **Aprile** Solfeggio No. 3 (*upper part*) (*ornaments optional*). *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 1, arr. Slatford (ABRSM)* († *with the published piano (not double bass) accomp.*) *solo or accomp.†*
- 2 **Frederick Boaden** Prelude: 1st movt from *Petite Suite (Yorke YEC47358)* *accomp.*
- 3 **Teppo Hauta-aho** Scott: 3rd movt from *Jazz Sonatine [No. 1]. No. 1 from Hauta-aho Pizzicato Pieces, Book 1 (Recital Music RM097)* *solo*
- 4 **Mozart, trans. Hindemith** O Iso ed Osiro. *Hindemith Stücke für Kontrabass solo (Schott ED 8378)* *solo*
- 5 **Tony Osborne** Bassa Nova (*pizz or arco or combination*): No. 3 from *Junior Jazz Book 1 (Recital Music RM037)* *accomp.*
- 6 **Michael Rose** Jumbo Rag: from *A Sketchbook for Double Bass (ABRSM)* *accomp.*
- 7 **David Tutt** Spanish Dance. No. 8 from *Bass is Best! Yorke Mini-Bass Book 2, arr. Emery and Barratt (Yorke YE0098)* *accomp.*

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS*: from memory; for further details (incl. examples) see pp. 8–9 and 12–15

	<i>range</i>	<i>bowing requirements</i>	<i>rhythm pattern</i>
Scales			
E, A, C, D majors; E, G, D minors (<i>minors harmonic or melodic, at candidate's choice</i>)	1 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (2 quavers to a bow)	even notes <i>or</i> long tonic, at candidate's choice
Arpeggios			
E, A, C, D majors; E, G, D minors	1 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (2 notes to a bow)	even notes
Chromatic scale			
Starting on A	1 oct.	separate bows	even notes

SIGHT-READING*: an eight-bar piece, time and key signatures as Grade 2, with the addition of F, B majors and B minor, in half or 1st position. Occasional accidentals (within minor keys only). Dotted rhythms, semiquavers and ties may be encountered. *Pizzicato* (at end of piece only) and *staccato* may be included. Increasing use of dynamics, rests and slurs. See also p. 9.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE*: see pp. 68 and 70

THREE PIECES: one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C:

LIST A

- 1 **attrib. J. S. Bach** Minuet in C (BWV Anh. II 116). P. 5 from *The Anna Magdalena Bach Notebook for Double Bass*, arr. Elliott (Bartholomew 009: piano accomp. published separately, 009a) or No. 2 from *Suzuki Bass School, Vol. 3, Revised Edition* (Alfred–Summy-Birchard 0376S: piano accomp. published separately, 0377S)
- 2 **J. S. Bach** Gavotte and Musette, arr. Slatford. No. 20 from } *Yorke Solos for Double Bass, Vol. 1*
- 3 **Mozart** A Little Melody, arr. Láska. No. 23 from } (*Yorke YE0087*)
- 4 **Froberger** Gigue (*ornaments optional*) } *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 2*, arr. Slatford
- 5 **Handel** Allegro (from Concerto grosso, Op. 6 No. 8) } (*ABRSM*)
- 6 **A. Thomas** Gavotte (from *Mignon*). No. 7 from *Subterranean Solos*, arr. Hartley (Bartholomew 006: piano accomp. published separately, 006a)

LIST B

- 1 **Grieg** Hunting Song (Op. 4 No. 4) } *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 2*, arr. Slatford
- 2 **Mendelssohn** Venetian Gondola Song (from Op. 57) } (*ABRSM*)
- 3 **Humperdinck** Fiddler’s Song (from *Königskinder*). *Amazing Solos for Double Bass*, arr. Schofield (Boosey & Hawkes)
- 4 **S. Lancen** Si j’étais ... Mousorgsky. No. 13 from *Yorke Solos for Double Bass, Vol. 1* (*Yorke YE0087*)
- 5 **J. F. Müller** Neapolitan Dance (*Neil Kjos Music KJ15920*)
- 6 **Michael Rose** Reverie: from *A Sketchbook for Double Bass* (*ABRSM*)

LIST C

- 1 **A. Benjamin** Jamaican Rumba } *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 2*, arr. Slatford (*ABRSM*) *accomp.*
- 2 **Kabalevsky** Cavalryman (from Op. 27) } *accomp.*
- 3 **Frederick Boaden** Elegy: 2nd movt from *Petite Suite* (*Yorke YEC47358*) *accomp.*
- 4 **Bottesini** Study No. 4 or No. 9: from *Method for Double Bass, Part 1* (*Yorke YE0076*) *solo*
- 5 **Christopher Field** Hornpipe: No. 4 from *Mock Baroque*. No. 108/4 from *Yorke Studies for Double Bass, Vol. 2* (*Yorke YE0086*) *solo*
- 6 **Teppo Hauta-aho** Allegro moderato: 1st movt from *Jazz Sonatine No. 2* (*Recital Music RM333*) *solo*
- 7 **Regner** Der Clown tritt auf: No. 8 from *Kontra-Spass* (*Schott KBB 11*) *accomp.*

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS*: from memory; for further details (incl. examples) see pp. 8–9 and 12–15

	<i>range</i>	<i>bowing requirements</i>	<i>rhythm pattern</i>
Scales			
E, F, G, A majors; E, G, A minors (<i>minors harmonic or melodic, at candidate’s choice</i>)	a 12th	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (2 quavers to a bow)	even notes <i>or</i> long tonic, at candidate’s choice
Arpeggios			
E, F, G, A majors; E, G, A minors	a 12th	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (3 notes to a bow)	even notes
Dominant sevenths (<i>resolving on tonic</i>)			
In the keys of A and B \flat	1 oct.	separate bows	even notes
Chromatic scales			
Starting on G and B	1 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (3 notes to a bow)	even notes

SIGHT-READING*: a piece of around eight bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 3, with the addition of $\frac{6}{8}$, A major, E and D minors. Shifts between half, 1st and 3rd positions may be encountered (but no more than two positions per test). Occasional chromatic notes. Anacrusis, hooked bowing, accents and pause signs may be included. See also p. 9.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE*: see pp. 68 and 70

* Published by ABRSM (Scale requirements, Specimen Sight-Reading Tests, Specimen Aural Tests)

THREE PIECES: one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C:

LIST A

- 1 **Corelli** Sarabanda (Largo): 3rd movt from Sonata in D minor [C minor], trans. Zimmermann (*IMC 1766*)
- 2 **attrib. Giovannino** Adagio and Aria staccata e allegra: 1st and 2nd movts from Sonata in A minor (*Yorke YE0008*)
- 3 **Handel** Bourree. No. 8 from *Suzuki Bass School, Vol. 3, Revised Edition* (Alfred–Summy–Birchard 0376S: piano accomp. published separately, 0377S)
- 4 **S. Paxton** Allegretto: 1st movt from Sonata in D, Op. 3 No. 2, trans. Elliott (*Bartholomew 005*)
- 5 **Rameau** Dance. No. 68 from *Bass is Best! Yorke Mini-Bass Book 2, arr. Emery and Barratt* (*Yorke YE0098*)
- 6 **Rameau** Le Lardon and La Boiteuse. *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 2, arr. Slatford* (ABRSM)

LIST B

- 1 **Fauré** Autumn (Op. 18 No. 3)
 - 2 **Spohr** Allegro (from String Quartet, Op. 4 No. 2)
 - 3 **Massenet** Mélodie (Op. 10), arr. Zimmermann
 - 4 **Trad.** The Jolly Dutchman, arr. Isaac
 - 5 **Chester Minkler** A Gaelic Melody. No. 11 from *Suzuki Bass School, Vol. 3, Revised Edition* (Alfred–Summy–Birchard 0376S: piano accomp. published separately, 0377S)
 - 6 **Pascal Proust** Le bon barbu rond (*Combre C06174*)
- } *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 2, arr. Slatford* (ABRSM)
- } *Festival Performance Solos – String Bass* (Carl Fischer BF5: piano accomp. published separately, BF6)

LIST C

- 1 **L. Bernstein** Cool (from *West Side Story*). *Amazing Solos for Double Bass, arr. Schofield* (Boosey & Hawkes) *accomp.*
- 2 **Bottesini** Study No. 18 or No. 32: from *Method for Double Bass, Part 1* (*Yorke YE0076*) *solo*
- 3 **Tyrone Brown** Walking Song (p. 14 only, observing 1st repeat): from *Compositions for Bass* (*Mel Bay*) *solo*
- 4 **I. Carroll** Polish Mazurka or Cuban Rumba: from *Five National Dances* (*Stainer & Bell H290*) *accomp.*
- 5 **Miles Davis** So What, arr. Swaim. No. 10 from *Suzuki Bass School, Vol. 3, Revised Edition* (Alfred–Summy–Birchard 0376S: piano accomp. published separately, 0377S) *accomp.*
- 6 **Ray Henderson** Black Bottom. *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 2, arr. Slatford* (ABRSM) *accomp.*
- 7 **L. Shitte** Étude. No. 63 from *Bass is Best! Yorke Mini-Bass Book 2, arr. Emery and Barratt* (*Yorke YE0098*) *solo or accomp.*

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS*: from memory; for further details (incl. examples) see pp. 8–9 and 12–15

	<i>range</i>	<i>bowing requirements</i>	<i>rhythm pattern</i>
Scales			
E♭, G♯ majors	1 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred	even notes <i>or</i> long tonic,
F, B♭, C majors; F, B♭, C minors (minors harmonic or melodic, at candidate's choice)	a 12th	(2 beats to a bow)	at candidate's choice
Arpeggios			
E♭, G♯ majors	1 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred	even notes
F, B♭, C majors; F, B♭, C minors	a 12th	(3 notes to a bow)	"
Dominant sevenths (<i>resolving on tonic</i>)			
In the keys of F and A♭	1 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (2 notes to a bow)	even notes
Diminished sevenths			
Starting on E and A	1 oct.	separate bows	even notes
Chromatic scales			
Starting on D and E♭	1 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (3 notes to a bow)	even notes

(continued overleaf)

† Starting one octave above bottom G

SIGHT-READING*: a piece of around eight to sixteen bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 4, with the addition of G minor. Highest note E (e'): shifts as required to cover this range. Changes between *arco* and *pizzicato*, simple syncopation and a slowing of tempo at the end may be encountered. See also p. 9.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE*: see pp. 68 and 71

Double Bass GRADE 6

PREREQUISITE FOR ENTRY: ABRSM Grade 5 (or above) in Music Theory, Practical Musicianship or any solo Jazz subject. For alternatives, see www.abrsm.org/prerequisite.

THREE PIECES: one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C:

LIST A

- 1 **Capuzzi** Rondo (Allegro): 3rd movt from Concerto in D (*Yorke YE0011*)
- 2 **Galliard** Adagio and Allegro: 1st and 2nd movts from Sonata in D minor, trans. Drew. *String Festival Solos, Double Bass Vol. 2 (Alfred–Belwin EL95110: piano accomp. published separately, EL95109)*
- 3 **Giordani** Larghetto. *Two Eighteenth-Century Pieces, arr. Sterling (Stainer & Bell H468)*
- 4 **B. Marcello** Largo and Allegro: 3rd and 4th movts from Sonata in F, Op. 2 No. 1. *Marcello Six Sonatas (G. Schirmer GS26269)*
- 5 **S. Paxton** The Bush aboon Traquair (A Scots Air) and Vivace: 2nd and 3rd movts from Sonata in D, Op. 3 No. 2, trans. Elliott (*Bartholomew 005*)
- 6 **Vivaldi** Allegro: 4th movt from Sonata No. 1 in Bb, RV 47. *Vivaldi Complete Sonatas for Violoncello (Bärenreiter BA 6995) or (separately, trans. Zimmermann: IMC 2302)*

LIST B

- 1 **Beethoven** Sonatina. No. 6 from *Solos for the Double Bass Player, arr. Zimmermann (G. Schirmer GS33083)*
- 2 **Gabriel-Marie** La Cinquantaine. No. 6 from *Suzuki Bass School, Vol. 4 (Alfred–Summy-Birchard 28359: piano accomp. published separately, 28360) or (separately, arr. Elliott: Bartholomew 001)*
- 3 **Keÿper** Romance: No. 1 from *Romance and Rondo (Yorke YE0030)*
- 4 **John Merle** Caballero. *Festival Performance Solos – String Bass (Carl Fischer BF5: piano accomp. published separately, BF6)*
- 5 **Pascal Proust** Arcades (*Combre C05483*)
- 6 **John Walton** A Deep Song (*Yorke YE0005*)

LIST C

- 1 **L. Bernstein** America (from *West Side Story*) (*observing repeats*). *Amazing Solos for Double Bass, arr. Schofield (Boosey & Hawkes)* *accomp.*
- 2 **Bottesini** Study No. 40 or No. 50: from *Method for Double Bass, Part 1 (Yorke YE0076)* *solo*
- 3 **Derek Bourgeois** Allegro commodo: No. 3 from *Fantasy Pieces for Double Bass (Brass Wind)* *solo*
- 4 **Gavin Bryars** Room 42. *Time Pieces for Double Bass, Vol. 2, arr. Slatford (ABRSM)* *accomp.*
- 5 **P. M. Dubois** Le gai cascadeur (*Le Rideau Rouge RR1068*) *accomp.*
- 6 **Teppo Hauta-aho** A Little Waltz (Pieni Valssi): from *Teppo's Tunes (Recital Music RM068)* *accomp.*
- 7 **Sturm** Andante and Moderato: Nos 3 and 4 from *110 Studies for String Bass, Op. 20, Vol. 1 (IMC 2079)* *solo*


* Published by ABRSM (Scale requirements, Specimen Sight-Reading Tests, Specimen Aural Tests)

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS*: from memory; for further details (incl. examples) see pp. 8–9 and 12–15

	<i>range</i>	<i>bowing requirements</i>	<i>rhythm pattern</i>
Scales			
E, F, G, A majors & minors (minors harmonic or melodic, as directed by the examiner)	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (2 beats to a bow)	even notes <i>or</i> long tonic, at candidate's choice
Scale in thumb position			
D major†	1 oct.	separate bows	even notes <i>or</i> long tonic, at candidate's choice
Arpeggios			
E, F, G, A majors & minors	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (3 notes to a bow)	even notes
Dominant sevenths (<i>resolving on tonic</i>)			
In the keys of A, B \flat and C	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (2 notes to a bow)	even notes
Diminished sevenths			
Starting on E, F and G	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (2 notes to a bow)	even notes
Chromatic scales			
Starting on E, F and G	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (4 notes to a bow)	even notes
Scale in broken thirds			
G major (<i>as example on p. 13</i>)	1 oct.	slurred (2 notes to a bow)	even notes

SIGHT-READING*: a piece of around twelve to sixteen bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 5, with the addition of $\frac{9}{8}$, $\frac{5}{4}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$, E \flat major and C minor. Highest note G (*g'*): shifts as required to cover this range. Simple chords may be included (at end of piece only). A slowing of tempo within the piece followed by an *a tempo* may be encountered, as may triplet rhythms. See also p. 9.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE*: see pp. 68 and 71

† Starting with thumb on D string: 

PREREQUISITE FOR ENTRY: ABRSM Grade 5 (or above) in Music Theory, Practical Musicianship or any solo Jazz subject. For alternatives, see www.abrsm.org/prerequisite.

THREE PIECES: one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C:

LIST A

- 1 **Capuzzi** Allegro: 1st movt from Concerto in D (*Yorke YE0011*)
- 2 **Corelli** Preludio (Largo) and Giga (Allegro): 1st and 4th movts from Sonata in D minor [C minor], trans. Zimmermann (*IMC 1766*)
- 3 **De Fesch** Sarabande (Largo) and Minuet: 3rd and 4th movts from Sonata in G (*IMC 2489*)
- 4 **B. Marcello** Largo and Allegro: 3rd and 4th movts from Sonata in G minor, Op. 2 No. 4. *Marcello Six Sonatas* (G. Schirmer GS26269) or (*separately: IMC 1661*)
- 5 **Mozart** Rondo (Tempo di minuetto): 3rd movt from Bassoon Concerto, K. 191, trans. Sankey (*IMC 2421*)
- 6 **Vivaldi** Largo and Allegro: 1st and 2nd movts from Sonata No. 2 in F, RV 41. *Vivaldi Complete Sonatas for Violoncello* (*Bärenreiter BA 6995: low Cs and Ds may be adapted*) or (*separately, trans. Zimmermann: IMC 2303*)

LIST B

- 1 **Ratez** Cantabile: No. 2 from *Six pièces caractéristiques*, Op. 46 (*separately: Billaudot CC95*) or *Ratez Characteristic Pieces, Book 1* (*Recital Music RM189*)
- 2 **Rossini** Une larme (*Recital Music RM303*)
- 3 **Saint-Saëns** Aria 'Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix', arr. McTier (*McTier Music MM 207*)
- 4 **Vaughan Williams** Romanza (*observing 8^{vas}*): 2nd movt from Concerto for Bass Tuba (*tuba edition: OUP*)
- 5 **Verdi** Aria (from *Rigoletto*). No. 10 from *Solos for the Double Bass Player*, arr. Zimmermann (G. Schirmer GS33083)
- 6 **J. P. Waud** Novelette. No. 35 from *Yorke Solos for Double Bass, Vol. 1* (*Yorke YE0087*)

LIST C


- 1 **Bottesini** Study No. 71 or No. 109: from *Method for Double Bass, Part 1* (*Yorke YE0076*) *solo*
- 2 **Derek Bourgeois** Pomposo or Tempo di valse: No. 2 or No. 4 from *Fantasy Pieces for Double Bass* (*Brass Wind*) *solo*
- 3 **Paul Breuer** Allegro ma non troppo: 1st movt from Sonatine (*Breitkopf & Härtel BG 506*) *accomp.*
- 4 **Teppo Hauta-aho** Erkon Elegia (*Recital Music RM104*) *solo*
- 5 **Norman Hester** The Bull Steps Out (*Yorke YE0070*) *accomp.*
- 6 **B. Hummel** Allegro: 1st movt from Sonatina, Op. 69b (*Simrock EE 2989*) *accomp.*
- 7 **Dennis Legrande** May I? (*Spartan Press SP930*) *accomp.*

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS*: from memory; for further details (incl. examples) see pp. 8–9 and 12–15

	<i>range</i>	<i>bowing requirements</i>	<i>rhythm pattern</i>
Scales			
F \sharp , A \flat (G \sharp), B \flat , C majors & minors (minors harmonic or melodic, as directed by the examiner)	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (2 beats to a bow)	even notes <i>or</i> long tonic, at candidate's choice
Scales in thumb position			
D major & minor [†] (<i>harmonic or melodic, as directed by the examiner</i>)	1 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (2 beats to a bow)	even notes <i>or</i> long tonic, at candidate's choice
Arpeggios			
F \sharp , A \flat (G \sharp), B \flat , C majors & minors	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (3 notes to a bow)	even notes
Dominant sevenths (<i>resolving on tonic</i>)			
In the keys of B, D \flat and E \flat	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (2 notes to a bow)	even notes
Diminished sevenths			
Starting on F \sharp , A \flat and B \flat	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (2 notes to a bow)	even notes
Chromatic scales			
Starting on F \sharp , A \flat and B \flat	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (6 notes to a bow)	even notes
Double-stop scale (<i>in broken steps</i>)			
In thirds, in B \flat major	1 oct.	see p. 12	see p. 12

SIGHT-READING*: a piece of around sixteen to twenty bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 6, with the addition of $\frac{7}{8}$ and $\frac{7}{4}$, E major and F \sharp minor. Highest note A (*a'*): shifts as required to cover this range. Further use of chords. Some passages in tenor clef may be included. See also p. 9.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE*: see pp. 68 and 72

† Starting with thumb on D string: 

PREREQUISITE FOR ENTRY: ABRSM Grade 5 (or above) in Music Theory, Practical Musicianship or any solo Jazz subject. For alternatives, see www.abrsm.org/prerequisite.

THREE PIECES: one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C:

LIST A

- 1 **Cimador** Allegro: 1st movt from Concerto in G (*Yorke YE0003*)
- 2 **H. Eccles** Adagio and Corrente (Allegro con spirito): 3rd and 2nd movts from Sonata in G minor, trans. Zimmermann (*IMC 1712*)
- 3 **Pergolesi** Comodo and Presto: 1st and 4th movts from Sinfonia in F (*separately, trans. Elliott: Bartholomew 010*) or *Three Sonatas for Double Bass and Piano (trans. Drew: University of Miami)*
- 4 **Pichl** Allegro moderato: 1st movt from Concerto in C (*Bartholomew 007*)
- 5 **Tartini** Adagio cantabile, trans. Drew (*St Francis Music Publications*)
- 6 **Telemann** Lento and Allegro, or Lento and Allegro: 1st and 2nd, or 3rd and 4th movts from Sonata in D, TWV 41:D6, trans. Sankey (*IMC 2304*)
- 7 **Vivaldi** Largo and Allegro, or Largo and Allegro: 1st and 2nd, or 3rd and 4th movts from Sonata No. 6 in B \flat , RV 46. *Vivaldi Complete Sonatas for Violoncello (Bärenreiter BA 6995)* or (*separately, trans. Zimmermann: IMC 1473*)

LIST B

- 1 **Bellini, arr. Bottesini** Final de *La sonnambule*. No. 3 from *Bottesini Arias for Double Bass and Piano (Yorke YE0023)*
- 2 **Bottesini** Réverie in D (*McTier Music MM 203*)
- 3 **Dittersdorf** Adagio: 2nd movt from Concerto No. 2. *Dittersdorf Concertos for Double Bass (Yorke YE0059)*
- 4 **Fauré** Après un rêve, trans. Zimmermann (*IMC 1740*)
- 5 **Gouffé** Concertino, Op. 10 (*Billaudot RI9143*)
- 6 **Nielsen** Romanze: No. 1 from *Fantasy Pieces*, Op. 2, trans. Drew (*St Francis Music Publications*)
- 7 **Tuláček** Valse miniature. No. 2 from *Tuláček Three Pieces for Double Bass and Piano (Recital Music RM021)*

LIST C

- 1 **Christopher Benstead** Finale (Presto): No. 4 from *Four Episodes (Yorke YE0085)* *accomp.*
- 2 **Bottesini** Study No. 110 or No. 114: from *Method for Double Bass, Part 1 (Yorke YE0076)* *solo*
- 3 **Derek Bourgeois** Allegro pesante or Allegro commodo: No. 5 or No. 8 from *Fantasy Pieces for Double Bass (Brass Wind)* *solo*
- 4 **Dragonetti** No. 7 or No. 8: from *12 Waltzes (Henle HN 847)* *solo*
- 5 **Piazzolla** Kicho (*starting at Allegro*) (*Tonos*) *accomp.*
- 6 **A. Reynolds** Hornpipe (*Bartholomew 004*) *accomp.*
- 7 **A. Ridout** Grave: 1st movt from Concerto for Double Bass (*Yorke YE0044*) *accomp.*
- 8 **Eric Scrève** Sweet Bass Ballad (*Combre C06547*) *accomp.*

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS*: from memory; for further details (incl. examples) see pp. 8–9 and 12–15

	<i>range</i>	<i>bowing requirements</i>	<i>rhythm pattern</i>
Scales			
B, D \flat (C \sharp), D, E \flat majors & minors	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred	even notes <i>or</i> long tonic,
E, G majors & minors (<i>minors harmonic or melodic,</i> <i>as directed by the examiner</i>)	3 oct.	(7 notes to a bow)	at candidate's choice
Arpeggios			
B, D majors & minors	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred	even notes
E, G majors & minors	3 oct.	(3 notes to a bow)	"
Dominant sevenths (<i>resolving on tonic</i>)			
In the keys of A, C, E and G	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (4 notes to a bow)	even notes
Diminished sevenths			
Starting on E, G, B and D	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (4 notes to a bow)	even notes
Chromatic scales			
Starting on E, G, B and D	2 oct.	separate bows <i>and</i> slurred (6 notes to a bow)	even notes
Double-stop scale (<i>in broken steps</i>)			
In thirds, in D major	1 oct.	see p. 12	see p. 12
Scale in running thirds			
G major (<i>as example on p. 13</i>)	1 oct.	slurred (3 notes to a bow)	even notes

SIGHT-READING*: a piece of around sixteen to twenty-four bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 7, with the addition of $\frac{12}{8}$, A \flat major and F minor. Highest note C (*c''*): shifts as required to cover this range. Passages in tenor clef or treble clef may be included. Acceleration of tempo and simple ornaments may be encountered. See also p. 9.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE*: see pp. 68 and 73

AURAL TESTS: included in the Practical exams for all subjects

Listening lies at the heart of all good music-making. Developing aural awareness is fundamental to musical training because having a ‘musical ear’ impacts on all aspects of musicianship. Singing, both silently in the head and out loud, is one of the best ways to develop the ‘musical ear’. It connects the internal imagining of sound, the ‘inner ear’, with the external creation of it, without the necessity of mechanically having to ‘find the note’ on an instrument (important though that connection is). By integrating aural activities in imaginative ways in the lesson, preparation for the aural tests within an exam will be a natural extension of what is already an essential part of the learning experience.

In the exam

Aural tests are an integral part of all Practical graded exams.

The tests are administered by the examiner from the piano. For any test that requires a sung response, pitch rather than vocal quality is the object. The examiner will be happy to adapt to the vocal range of the candidate, whose responses may be sung to any vowel (or consonant followed by a vowel), hummed or whistled (and at a different octave, if appropriate).

Assessment

A number of tests allow for a second attempt or for an additional playing by the examiner, if necessary. Also, where there is hesitation on the part of the candidate, the examiner will be ready to prompt, if necessary. In any such cases, this will affect the assessment.

Marks are not awarded for each individual test nor deducted for mistakes but reflect the candidate’s overall response in this section. The marking criteria for the aural tests are given on p. 89.

Minor modifications (from 2011)

This syllabus includes the minor modifications introduced to some aural tests in 2011.

Specimen tests

Examples of the tests are given in new editions (from 2011) of *Specimen Aural Tests* and *Aural Training in Practice*, available for purchase from music retailers and from www.abrsm.org/shop.

Deaf or hearing-impaired candidates

Deaf or hearing-impaired candidates may opt to respond to alternative tests in place of the standard tests, if requested at the time of entry. The syllabus for these tests is available free on request from ABRSM (E accesscoordinator@abrsm.ac.uk). Examples of the alternative tests are available for purchase from Allegro Music (T +44 (0)1885 490375; E sales@allegro.co.uk). The minor modifications (from 2011) do not affect the alternative aural tests.

Aural Tests GRADE 1

- A To clap the pulse of a piece played by the examiner, and to identify whether it is in two time or three time.** The examiner will start playing the passage, and the candidate should join in as soon as possible, clapping in time and giving a louder clap on the strong beats. The examiner will then ask whether the music is in two time or three time. The candidate is *not* required to state the time signature.
- B To sing as ‘echoes’ three phrases played by the examiner.** The phrases will be two bars long, in a major key, and within the range of tonic–mediant. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the starting note (the tonic) and then count in two bars. After the examiner has played each phrase, the candidate should sing back the echo without a pause, keeping in time.
- C To identify where a change in pitch occurs during a phrase played by the examiner.** The phrase will be two bars long, in a major key, and the change will affect only one of the notes. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the tonic and then count in two bars. The examiner will play the phrase twice, making the change in the second playing, after which the candidate should state whether the change was near the beginning or near the end. If necessary, the examiner will play both versions of the phrase again (although this will affect the assessment).
- D To answer questions about two features of a piece played by the examiner.** Before playing, the examiner will tell the candidate which two features the questions will be about. The first will be: dynamics (loud/quiet, or sudden/gradual changes); the second will be articulation (smooth/detached).

Aural Tests GRADE 2

- A To clap the pulse of a piece played by the examiner, and to identify whether it is in two time or three time.** The examiner will start playing the passage, and the candidate should join in as soon as possible, clapping in time and giving a louder clap on the strong beats. The examiner will then ask whether the music is in two time or three time. The candidate is *not* required to state the time signature.
- B To sing as ‘echoes’ three phrases played by the examiner.** The phrases will be two bars long, in a major key, and within the range of tonic–dominant. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the starting note (the tonic) and then count in two bars. After the examiner has played each phrase, the candidate should sing back the echo without a pause, keeping in time.
- C To identify a change in either pitch or rhythm during a phrase played by the examiner.** The phrase will be two bars long, in a major key. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the tonic and then count in two bars. The examiner will play the phrase twice, making the change in the second playing, after which the candidate should identify the change by describing it, or singing/clapping. If necessary, the examiner will play both versions of the phrase again (although this will affect the assessment).
- D To answer questions about two features of a piece played by the examiner.** Before playing, the examiner will tell the candidate which two features the questions will be about. The first will be *one* of the following: dynamics (loud/quiet, or sudden/gradual changes), articulation (smooth/detached); the second will be tempo (becoming slower/faster, or staying the same).

Aural Tests GRADE 3

- A To clap the pulse of a piece played by the examiner, and to identify whether it is in two time, three time or four time.** The examiner will start playing the passage, and the candidate should join in as soon as possible, clapping in time and giving a louder clap on the strong beats. The examiner will then ask whether the music is in two time, three time or four time. The candidate is *not* required to state the time signature.
- B To sing as ‘echoes’ three phrases played by the examiner.** The phrases will be two bars long, in a major or minor key, and within the range of an octave. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the starting note and then count in two bars. After the examiner has played each phrase, the candidate should sing back the echo without a pause, keeping in time.
- C To identify a change in either pitch or rhythm during a phrase played by the examiner.** The phrase will be up to four bars long, in a major or minor key. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the tonic and then count in two bars. The examiner will play the phrase twice, making the change in the second playing, after which the candidate should identify the change by describing it, or singing/clapping. If necessary, the examiner will play both versions of the phrase again (although this will affect the assessment).
- D To answer questions about two features of a piece played by the examiner.** Before playing, the examiner will tell the candidate which two features the questions will be about. The first will be *one* of the following: dynamics (loud/quiet, or sudden/gradual changes), articulation (smooth/detached), tempo (becoming slower/faster, or staying the same); the second will be tonality (major/minor key).

Aural Tests GRADE 4

- A To sing or play from memory a melody played twice by the examiner.** The melody will be within the range of an octave, in a major or minor key with up to three sharps or flats. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the starting note and then count in two bars. (If the candidate chooses to play, the examiner will also name the key-chord and the starting note, as appropriate for the instrument.) If necessary, the examiner will play the melody again and allow a second attempt (although this will affect the assessment).
- B To sing five notes from score in free time.** The candidate may choose to sing from treble or bass clef. The notes will be within the range of a third above and below the tonic in the key of C, F or G major. The test will begin and end on the tonic and will not contain intervals greater than a third. First the examiner will name and play the key-chord and the starting note. If necessary, the examiner will help the candidate by playing and identifying the correct note if any note is sung at the wrong pitch.
- C (i) To answer questions about two features of a piece played by the examiner.** Before playing, the examiner will tell the candidate which two features the questions will be about. The first will be *one* of the following: dynamics, articulation, tempo, tonality; the second will be character.
- (ii) To clap the rhythm of the notes in an extract from the same piece, and to identify whether it is in two time, three time or four time.** The examiner will play the extract twice (unharmonized), after which the candidate should clap back the rhythm. The examiner will then ask whether the music is in two time, three time or four time. The candidate is *not* required to state the time signature.

Aural Tests GRADE 5

- A To sing or play from memory a melody played twice by the examiner.** The melody will be within the range of an octave, in a major or minor key with up to three sharps or flats. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the starting note and then count in two bars. (If the candidate chooses to play, the examiner will also name the key-chord and the starting note, as appropriate for the instrument.) If necessary, the examiner will play the melody again and allow a second attempt (although this will affect the assessment).
- B To sing six notes from score in free time.** The candidate may choose to sing from treble or bass clef. The notes will be within the range of a fifth above and a fourth below the tonic, in a major key with up to two sharps or flats. The test will begin and end on the tonic and will not contain intervals greater than a third, except for the rising fourth from dominant to tonic. First the examiner will name and play the key-chord and the starting note. If necessary, the examiner will help the candidate by playing and identifying the correct note if any note is sung at the wrong pitch.
- C (i) To answer questions about two features of a piece played by the examiner.** Before playing, the examiner will tell the candidate which two features the questions will be about. The first will be *one* of the following: dynamics, articulation, tempo, tonality, character; the second will be style and period.
- (ii) To clap the rhythm of the notes in an extract from the same piece, and to identify whether it is in two time, three time or four time.** The examiner will play the extract twice (unharmonized), after which the candidate should clap back the rhythm. The examiner will then ask whether the music is in two time, three time or four time. The candidate is *not* required to state the time signature.

Aural Tests GRADE 6

- A To sing or play from memory the upper part of a two-part phrase played twice by the examiner.** The upper part will be within the range of an octave, in a major or minor key with up to three sharps or flats. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the starting note and then count in two bars. (If the candidate chooses to play, the examiner will also name the key-chord and the starting note, as appropriate for the instrument.) If necessary, the examiner will play the phrase again and allow a second attempt (although this will affect the assessment).
- B To sing a melody from score, with an accompaniment played by the examiner.** The candidate may choose to sing from treble or bass clef. The melody will be within the range of an octave, in a major or minor key with up to three sharps or flats. First the examiner will name and play the key-chord and the starting note and then give the pulse. A brief period of preparation will follow during which the candidate may sing out loud. The examiner will play the key-chord and the starting note again and then count in two bars. If necessary, the examiner will allow a second attempt (although this will affect the assessment).
- C To identify the cadence at the end of a phrase as perfect or imperfect.** The phrase will be in a major or minor key and will be played twice by the examiner. The chords forming the cadence will be in root position. Before the first playing, the examiner will play the key-chord.
- D (i) To answer questions about two features of a piece played by the examiner.** Before playing, the examiner will tell the candidate which two features the questions will be about. The first will be: texture or structure; the second will be *one* of the following: dynamics, articulation, tempo, tonality, character, style and period, texture/structure.
- (ii) To clap the rhythm of the notes in an extract from the same piece, and to identify whether it is in two time, three time or four time.** The examiner will play the extract twice (unharmonized), after which the candidate should clap back the rhythm. The examiner will then ask whether the music is in two time, three time or four time. The candidate is *not* required to state the time signature.

- A To sing or play from memory the lower part of a two-part phrase played twice by the examiner.** The lower part will be within the range of an octave, in a major or minor key with up to three sharps or flats. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the starting note and then count in two bars. (If the candidate chooses to play, the examiner will also name the key-chord and the starting note, as appropriate for the instrument.) If necessary, the examiner will play the phrase again and allow a second attempt (although this will affect the assessment).
- B To sing the upper part of a two-part phrase from score, with the lower part played by the examiner.** The candidate may choose to sing from treble or bass clef. The upper part will be within the range of an octave, in a major or minor key with up to four sharps or flats. First the examiner will name and play the key-chord and the starting note and then give the pulse. A brief period of preparation will follow during which the candidate may sing out loud. The examiner will play the key-chord and the starting note again and then count in two bars. If necessary, the examiner will allow a second attempt (although this will affect the assessment).
- C (i) To identify the cadence at the end of a phrase as perfect, imperfect or interrupted.** The phrase will be in a major or minor key and will be played twice by the examiner. The chords forming the cadence will be in root position. Before the first playing, the examiner will play the key-chord.
- (ii) To identify the two chords forming the above cadence.** The chords will be limited to the tonic, subdominant, dominant, dominant seventh or submediant (all in root position). First the examiner will name and play the key-chord, then play the two chords as a pair. The candidate may answer using technical names (tonic, dominant, etc.), chord numbers (I, V, etc.) or letter names (C major, G major, etc.).
- (iii) To identify whether the modulation at the end of a different passage is to the dominant, subdominant or relative minor.** The passage, played once by the examiner, will begin in a major key. First the examiner will name and play the starting key-chord. The candidate may answer using technical names (dominant, subdominant, relative minor) or the letter name of the new key.
- D (i) To answer questions about two features of a piece played by the examiner.** Before playing, the examiner will tell the candidate which two of the following features the questions will be about: dynamics, articulation, tempo, tonality, character, style and period, texture, structure.
- (ii) To clap the rhythm of the notes in an extract from the same piece, and to identify whether it is in two time, three time, four time or 6/8 time.** The examiner will play the extract twice (unharmonized), after which the candidate should clap back the rhythm. The examiner will then ask whether the music is in two time, three time, four time or 6/8 time.

- A (i) To sing or play from memory the *lowest* part of a three-part phrase played twice by the examiner.** The lowest part will be within the range of an octave, in a major or minor key with up to three sharps or flats. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the starting note and then count in two bars. (If the candidate chooses to play, the examiner will also name the key-chord and the starting note, as appropriate for the instrument.) If necessary, the examiner will play the phrase again and allow a second attempt (although this will affect the assessment).
- (ii) To identify the cadence at the end of a continuing phrase as perfect, imperfect, interrupted or plagal.** The phrase will be in a major or minor key and will be played twice by the examiner. The chords forming the cadence will be limited to the tonic (root position, first or second inversions), supertonic (root position or first inversion), subdominant (root position), dominant (root position, first or second inversions), dominant seventh (root position) or submediant (root position). Before the first playing, the examiner will play the key-chord.
- (iii) To identify the three chords (including their positions) forming the above cadential progression.** The chords will be limited to the tonic (root position, first or second inversions), supertonic (root position or first inversion), subdominant (root position), dominant (root position, first or second inversions), dominant seventh (root position) or submediant (root position). First the examiner will name and play the key-chord, then play the three chords in sequence, finally playing each chord individually, pausing for the candidate to identify it. The candidate may answer using technical names (tonic, first inversion, etc.), chord numbers (Ib, etc.) or letter names (C major in first inversion, etc.).
- B To sing the *lower* part of a two-part phrase from score, with the upper part played by the examiner.** The candidate may choose to sing from treble or bass clef. The lower part will be within the range of an octave, in a major or minor key with up to four sharps or flats. First the examiner will name and play the key-chord and the starting note and then give the pulse. A brief period of preparation will follow during which the candidate may sing out loud. The examiner will play the key-chord and the starting note again and then count in two bars. If necessary, the examiner will allow a second attempt (although this will affect the assessment).
- C To identify whether the modulations at the end of two different passages are to the dominant, subdominant or relative minor/major.** The first passage will begin in a major key and the second will begin in a minor key; each passage will be played once by the examiner. Before playing each passage, the examiner will name and play the starting key-chord. The candidate may answer using technical names (dominant*, subdominant, relative minor/major) or the letter name of the new key. (* Minor-key passages may modulate to the dominant major or minor but the candidate is only required to specify 'dominant' in such cases.)
- D To describe the characteristic features of a piece played by the examiner.** After hearing the piece, the candidate should describe any notable features (such as texture, structure, character, style and period, etc.). The examiner will prompt the candidate with questions only if this becomes necessary.