



ABRSM information

- If you have already registered a pupil for a Practical exam so Spring Term 2021 ABRSM will be in contact with you regarding your options for this exam.

Performance Grades

As of late 2020 ABRSM are offering an alternative to their Practical Exam called a Performance Grade. These grades are available from grades 1-8 and across all instrument types including singing. The grade is 100% assessed through recordings. The Performance Grades are not replacing the pre-existing Practical Exam but are providing an additional route for graded progression. You can alternate between Practical Exams and Performance Grades. Grade 5 theory is still a requirement for grade 6+ as with Practical Exams.

The focus of the Performance Grade is specifically performance skills which includes assessment of:

- Engaging an audience
- Telling a musical story
- Communicating your interpretation
- Sharing our craft

Candidates can select their own pieces/songs to perform and should arrange them into a successful programme to perform. Musical choices can be drawn from across the ABRSM syllabus as well as wider works. The exam should consist of 4 pieces performed as a continuous programme. Three of the pieces must be selected from the pre-existing syllabus (one from each list) and one is a candidate's own choice. *For further information on timings and selection of pieces please see the relevant syllabus for the candidate's grade/instrument.*

As with Practical Exams, the Performance Grades are marked out of a total of 150 marks. 30 marks are available for each piece performed and an additional 30 marks are on offer for 'performance as a whole' which covers points such as communication, interpretation and delivery of performance.

The Performance Grade is remotely assessed, and recordings can be completed as many times as the candidate wishes. Recordings may be completed at home or in a school/college environment. *Please refer to the guidance provided by ABRSM on recording and submitting a performance.*

Online Music Theory

ABRSM are now providing an opportunity for graded theory exams (1-5 only) to be taken online. There have been some minor changes to the layout of some of the theory questions. Candidates will be able to view and access practice papers ahead of their exam to ensure they are familiar with the set out of the online questions.