

New syllabuses from ABRSM

In 2011 we will be introducing new syllabuses for Piano and Organ and making minor modifications to some of the aural tests, which are a feature of all graded music exams. We have developed a range of materials for teachers and learners to support these changes, which will be available from July 2010.

We understand the importance of offering the best choices of repertoire and strive to update technical requirements to reflect current teaching and learning practices. This guide gives a brief insight into the changes we've made and the support materials available.

Piano

In July 2010 we will publish a revised Piano syllabus for 2011 and 2012. This new syllabus offers a completely new selection of repertoire – 158 pieces in all – that we hope pupils and their teachers will enjoy learning.

We received much positive feedback about the arrangements that we included in the 2009 and 2010 Piano syllabus. As a result, we're continuing this trend in 2011 and 2012 with an appealing selection of arrangements of well-loved melodies, from Russian ballet and German Lieder to American spirituals and Joni Mitchell. At the same time, the syllabus will continue to provide a wide cross-section of core repertoire, from the Baroque period right up to the present day. There is also a strong focus on Spain and Catalonia as well as pieces from seven different Eastern European countries.

The Piano syllabus 2011 & 2012 takes effect from 1 January 2011.



Overlap information

Candidates may continue to play set pieces from the 2009 & 2010 Piano syllabus for a limited overlap period, as follows:

- UK and Republic of Ireland – until the end of Period A (spring exams) 2011
- All other countries – until 31 December 2011

All pieces must be from the same syllabus – candidates are not permitted to perform a mixture of pieces from old and new syllabuses.

Supporting publications

Selected Piano Exam Pieces 2011 & 2012, Grades 1–8 (one volume per grade)

These popular selections contain pieces from the new syllabus, and are available with or without CD recordings of the complete Piano syllabus. The CD recordings are also available separately at each grade.
Publication date: July 2010

Teaching Notes on Piano Exam Pieces 2011 & 2012

This invaluable teaching aid, covering Grades 1–7, explores the skills needed to play each piece and provides detailed information on what examiners are looking for in a performance.
Publication date: July 2010

Organ

A wholly revised Organ syllabus will be issued in July 2010, thoroughly refreshing the repertoire lists. Piloted by organ teachers, this new syllabus also incorporates new scale and sight-reading requirements and transposition tests.

For the first time we are introducing a Grade 1 Organ exam. This new assessment provides a goal for beginners and brings Organ in line with other ABRSM syllabuses.

As in the current syllabus, the use of pedals is not compulsory until Grade 4. However, the first three grades now feature several pieces with simple pedal parts for candidates keen to demonstrate their developing skills. These pieces will be clearly flagged in the syllabus, to help teachers and learners choose their programmes.

The scale requirements have had a thorough overhaul and there is a greater emphasis on pedal activity than before, as this is such an integral part of organ playing. Pedals now appear in the scale requirements at Grade 3, a grade earlier than previously, although candidates can choose to play manual requirements only at this grade if they prefer.

The new Organ syllabus takes effect from 1 January 2011.

Overlap information

Candidates may continue to play set pieces from the previous Organ syllabus for a limited overlap period, as follows:

- UK and Republic of Ireland – until the end of Period A (spring exams) 2011
- All other countries – until 31 December 2011

All pieces must be from the same syllabus – candidates are not permitted to perform a mixture of pieces from old and new syllabuses.

There is no overlap period for organ technical requirements. This means that the revised scale and sight-reading requirements and transposition tests will take effect in all Organ exams from 1 January 2011 worldwide.



Supporting publications

Organ Scales, Arpeggios & Exercises from 2011

Containing all the scales, arpeggios and exercises required for the new Organ syllabus, this is a crucial resource for organ students and their teachers at Grades 1–8.
Publication date: July 2010

Organ Specimen Sight-Reading Tests (from 2011) Grades 1–8, including specimen transposition tests (Grades 6–8)

This volume contains valuable sight-reading practice material for students preparing for ABRSM Organ exams using the new syllabus. The book also includes specimen transposition tests for Grades 6–8.
Publication date: July 2010

Aural tests

We believe that developing students' listening skills through aural training is an essential part of a music teacher's role. ABRSM examines this skill in various ways throughout the Practical exam, but the aural tests are the focal point when it comes to assessing the candidate's 'musical ear'.

Following feedback from teachers, we decided to make a comprehensive revision of the existing support materials available from ABRSM, allowing us to make these more relevant to current teaching and learning styles.

We also took the opportunity to review the aural test requirements and have made a few minor modifications. In particular we have:

- revised the rubrics (the words the examiner uses to explain the tests in the exam). These will be published within the new editions of *Specimen Aural Tests* and the new *Aural Training in Practice* books, allowing teachers and learners to prepare thoroughly for the exam experience and get a flavour of what to expect on the day.
- altered the content and routine of Test C at Grade 1. Candidates will now be asked to identify whether a change of pitch affecting one note occurs near the beginning or the end of a two-bar phrase. Examples of the revised test will be available to download from our website free of charge from May 2010 at www.abrsm.org/aural.
- made some minor modifications to a few of the other tests so they are more approachable for the candidate, as well as making the assessment more consistent and precise.
- produced CD recordings of all the tests included in the new books, along with written and spoken model answers. A mock test for each grade will also be available as a free audio download from www.abrsm.org/mockauraltests.

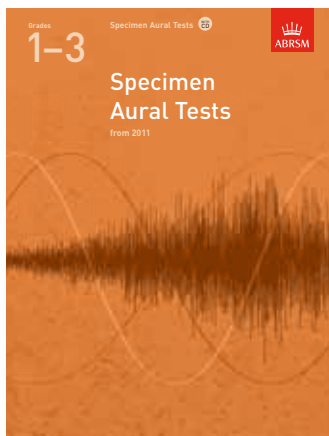
The modified aural tests will be used in all exams from 1 January 2011.



New supporting publications for aural tests

Specimen Aural Tests from 2011, new edition

These volumes provide teachers and students with practice examples of each test and include the examiner rubrics. Model answers, where appropriate, are given as a guide to achieving success in the exam. Each book is available with or without CD recordings of all the tests in the book – ideal for use in the lesson or for pupil practice at home.



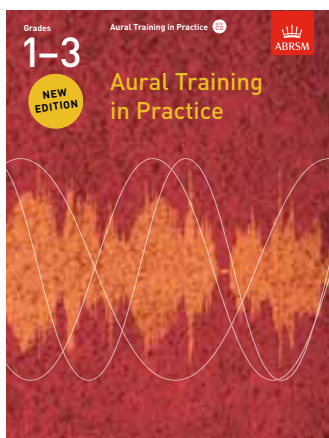
Available formats:

Grade(s)	Format
1–3	Book only
1–3	Book with two CDs
4 & 5	Book only
4 & 5	Book with two CDs
6	Book only
6	Book with CD
7	Book only
7	Book with two CDs
8	Book only
8	Book with two CDs

Publication date: July 2010

Aural Training in Practice, new edition

The new edition of this popular series offers valuable support for teachers and students preparing for the modified aural tests. The books explain the purpose of each test and include comprehensive information on the assessment, teaching hints and further practice examples. Each book is accompanied by a CD recording, providing a complete resource for exam preparation.



Available formats:

Grades	Format
1–3	Book with two CDs
4 & 5	Book with CD
6–8	Book with two CDs

Publication date: January 2011

Podcasts

Podcasts covering the syllabus changes will be available to download free of charge from our website from July 2010. Syllabus Director Nigel Scaife discusses the repertoire selections for our new Piano and Organ syllabuses, along with the aural modifications and the process behind this review.

To download an ABRSM podcast, please visit:
www.abrsm.org/downloads



Further information

Syllabuses

Full details of the new set pieces for piano and organ and the revised aural requirements can be found in the following syllabus booklets:

- Piano 2011 & 2012
- Harpsichord, Organ, Guitar, Harp, Percussion & Ensembles 2011–2014

Syllabus booklets are available from your local music retailer or representative. You can also download syllabuses from our website: www.abrsm.org/syllabuses

Exams

For more information about ABRSM exams, please visit our website: www.abrsm.org/exams

Publications

ABRSM publications are available from music retailers worldwide and from our website: www.abrsm.org/shop

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