

# **HARP** (*Subject Code: 08*): **Syllabus requirements**

## **Syllabus validity**

This syllabus is valid from 2005 until further notice.

## **Instruments**

This syllabus is for pedal and non-pedal harp at all grades. The requirements for pedal harp from Grade 4 are generally for instruments with a minimum of 46 strings. The requirements for non-pedal harp from Grade 3 are for instruments with E $\flat$  tuning and with a minimum of 34 strings (highest acceptable pitch for bottom string: 6th-octave C). At Grades 1 and 2, three non-pedal harp tuning groups (C tuning, E $\flat$  tuning and F tuning) are provided for.

## **Tuning**

Candidates must bring their own instrument to the exam and ensure that it is properly tuned beforehand. Tuning adjustment is permitted during the exam, if necessary. Candidates will also be given sufficient time to make the necessary pedal/lever changes for scale requirements and pieces. The examiner will not assist with tuning.

## **Music stands**

All ABRSM Centres provide a music stand, but candidates are welcome to bring their own if they prefer.

## **Programme planning**

Candidates should use their discretion in their choice of three pieces to present a contrasted and balanced programme. One piece must be chosen from each of the three lists in each grade (A, B and C).

Pieces marked \* may be played by both pedal and non-pedal harpists, provided that the composer's original pitches and rhythms are not omitted or altered in any way. Pieces marked † must be played by pedal harpists *only*, while those marked ‡ must be played by non-pedal harpists *only*.

For those publications where no distributor is listed in the syllabus, candidates are referred to the following harp retailers – Morley, Pencerdd Cyf, Pilgrim, Salvi or Telynau Vining (see pp. 117–119 for contact details).

## **Scales and arpeggios**

Examiners will usually ask for at least one of each type of scale/arpeggio required at each grade. At Grades 1 and 2 examiners will ask non-pedal harp candidates which of the three groups of scales they have chosen.

All scales and arpeggios should:

- be played from memory
- ascend and descend according to the specified range (and pattern)
- be played at a pace that achieves a good even tone, clear articulation and a vital and secure rhythmic structure

Any practical and systematic fingering that produces a good result will be accepted. The scale requirements are published in separate books for pedal and non-pedal harp by Alaw (see p. 117).

### **Sight-reading**

Candidates will be given a short interval of up to half a minute in which to look through and, if they wish, try out any part of the sight-reading test before they are required to perform it for assessment. A book of specimen sight-reading tests for harp (pedal and non-pedal) is published by ABRSM.

### **Performance and assessment**

When marking, examiners will be assessing not only the accuracy of notes and rhythm, but also other elements inherent in a good performance, including tone quality, tuning, balance, clarity, articulation, suitable choice of tempo and details of expression, phrasing and posture. Any practical and systematic fingering that produces a good result will be accepted. Further details of assessment criteria are given in *These Music Exams*, available free of charge from music retailers and from [www.abrsm.org/exams](http://www.abrsm.org/exams).

### **Marking scheme**

Schedule of maximum marks for all grades:

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