

BOWED STRINGS: General Regulations

Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass

- a* Candidates are required to perform on acoustic instruments (electric instruments are not permitted).
- b* In Grades 1 to 5 the teacher or accompanist may tune the candidate's instrument before the examination begins. The examiner will not do so. In all other grades candidates will be required to tune their own instruments.
- c* Candidates should provide themselves with music stands and stools if they require them.
- d* Schedule of maximum marks for all grades:
- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Pieces: 1 | 30 |
| 2 | 30 |
| 3 | 30 |
| Scales and Arpeggios | 21 |
| Playing at Sight | 21 |
| Aural Tests | 18 |
| Total | <hr/> 150 |
- e* Intonation, production and quality of tone, bowing and finger action, and posture will be taken into account in the marking of the pieces and studies, scales and arpeggios.
- f* Candidates are not compelled to adhere to the fingering and bowing marks indicated: any good practical fingering and bowing will be accepted. In Violin and Viola Grades 1 and 2, candidates will not be expected to play in any but the first position, except in the scales and arpeggios where necessary; Cello pieces in these grades may include very simple changes of position. By Grade 4, candidates are expected to have begun exploring position changes matching the demands and style of the music.
- g* Candidates should use their discretion in the choice of pieces in order to present a contrasted and balanced programme.
- h* A live piano accompaniment is required for all pieces, except those which are published as studies or unaccompanied works and *all* List C Double Bass pieces. Candidates must provide their own accompanist, who may remain in the examination room *only* while engaged in accompanying. The candidate's teacher may act as accompanist; under no circumstances will the examiner do so.
- i* By Grade 5, Violin, Viola and Cello candidates should have acquired some skill in vibrato. Double Bass candidates should have acquired some skill in vibrato by Grade 6.
- j* Candidates playing Concerto or similar movements should arrange in advance with their accompanists which orchestral tuttis could be usefully omitted in the examination.
- k* Cadenzas to Concerto or other movements should not be played unless specified in the syllabus.
- l* The tests of Playing at Sight will be given without accompaniment. 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 test before they are required to perform it for assessment. Treble clef will be introduced in the Grade 6 tests for Viola and Grade 8 tests for Cello and Double Bass; tenor clef will be introduced in the Grade 7 tests for Cello and Double Bass.

Prep Test. Information about this test, designed as a preparation for the Grade 1 examination and to encourage the building of good musical and technical foundations, is contained in a separate leaflet. The test, lasting approximately 10 minutes, takes the form of a positive assessment with no marks or a 'pass' or 'fail' result. A certificate, incorporating the examiner's written report, is presented to the candidate at the end of the assessment. The tunes/basic exercises, at least one of the set pieces and examples of the listening games/simple aural tests which comprise the material used for the assessment are published by ABRSM Publishing for each instrument.