

ENSEMBLES

- a* This syllabus is offered to reflect the interest in this form of musical activity, and to stimulate and encourage instrumentalists and singers to take an interest in ensemble performance and explore repertoire of all periods, including early and contemporary music.
- b* A special entry form should be completed for this subject. More than one group may be entered by a teacher or school, in which case a separate entry form should be completed for each group. The current scale of fees in the UK is given in the *Examination Information & Regulations* booklet.
- c* Groups comprising any reasonable combination of two to ten instrumentalists and/or singers with *one* performer to each part may enter for examination. This includes duos consisting of an instrumentalist or singer and a keyboard player, where both performers wish to be assessed as an ensemble, and piano duets. All groups are required to perform without the direction of a conductor. Instruments are restricted to those included in the current range of subjects featured in the Board's syllabuses.
- d* There are three levels of examination:
Primary: for performers approaching the standard required in Grades 4–5
Intermediate: for performers of approximately Grades 6–7 standard
Advanced: for performers of approximately Grade 8 standard
- e* The programme should last about 12 minutes for Primary level, 18 minutes for Intermediate level and 25 minutes for Advanced level. All groups will be allowed an additional 5 minutes for setting up and tuning.
- f* All groups are required to perform a minimum of two items, contrasting in style and tempo. These may be chosen *either* from the suggested lists of works (given as a guideline to expected standards) *or* from any other works, published or unpublished, of the group's own choice, which are similar in standard and length and have serious musical aims, provided a score has been submitted to the Board's Syllabus Office for approval one month prior to the date of entry.
- g* Candidates entering as a duo who may also be taking an individual examination in the same period must offer a different programme of pieces or songs in each examination.
- h* Piano duet candidates may change places for different pieces in their programme, if they wish.
- i* The examiner will award an overall grading, rather than a mark, taking into account the following elements of the performance:
1. Technical competence (including ensemble, balance and intonation)
 2. Texture (including unanimity of outlook, detail, contrast and blend)
 3. Interpretation (including rhythmic sense, phrasing, choice of tempi and attention to marks of expression)
- j* The gradings are as follows:
- A: an outstanding performance, with little reservation
 - B: a very good performance, but with some reservation
 - C: a competent performance, but with significant reservation
 - F: failure to reach the standard required to pass
- k* The examiner's notes and grading are sent to the applicant named on the entry form, and certificates are issued for each member of a group obtaining a C grading or above.
- l* Full scores of all works offered should be made available for the use of the examiner.
- m* Any available edition of the suggested works in the standard repertoire may be used.
- n* Candidates should provide themselves with music stands if they require them.