



Guidelines for deaf and hearing-impaired candidates

Our policy

In addition to the specific provisions described below, we are happy to consider each person individually if their needs are not covered by our standard arrangements. However, it is important to understand that whilst we are able to make provisions for the administration of the exam, e.g. extra time or alternative tests, we are not able to make any concessions in the marking – all candidates will be treated equally.

Arrangements

Alternative tests: candidates who are deaf or hearing-impaired may choose to take the Alternative aural tests in the practical graded exams. The syllabus for these tests is listed below. For further information or advice please contact the Access Coordinator (see page 4).

Specimen tests for piano can be purchased from a music retailer. Specimen tests for all other instruments are available on order from Allegro Music – telephone +44 (0)1885 490375, email sales@allegro.co.uk.

Sign language interpreters: candidates who require a sign language interpreter are welcome to bring one to their exam, and the five minutes of extra time will allow the examiner and sign language interpreter to meet at the start. The Associated Board has published separate guidance on the use of sign language interpreters, which is available from the Access Coordinator (see page 4) or on our website.

Entry codes and extra time

Entry codes and extra time are as follows:

S	Alternative aural tests	5 minutes extra
V	Candidate using a sign language interpreter	5 minutes extra
Z	Candidate using a sign language interpreter and alternative aural tests	10 minutes extra

If neither a sign language interpreter nor alternative tests are needed, but extra time is required for communication please include a note with the entry or send an e-mail and an extra five minutes will automatically be added to the exam time.

Diplomas: all hearing-impaired candidates will be given 15 minutes of extra time. If the candidate is also using a sign language interpreter, an additional 15 minutes will be allowed, giving a total of 30 minutes extra time. No alternative tests are required for these exams.

If any further provisions are needed, or there is additional information for the examiner, please contact the Access Coordinator (see page 4) with full details.

Performance Assessment Deaf and hearing-impaired candidates whose needs cannot be met within the current graded system, may take the Performance Assessment. A written statement should accompany the entry explaining the particular needs of the candidate (this is essential if the candidate is under 21) so that this information can be passed on to the examiner. For further information on this please visit our website or contact the Access Coordinator for a leaflet.

Alternative aural tests

All information within these guidelines refers to the new tests for deaf and hearing-impaired candidates, introduced for use in exams from 1 January 2007. From this date any previous test material will be replaced. Please ensure you refer to the correct specimens.

- Provided that the keyboard is not in sight, candidates may stand wherever they wish in the room or place one or both hands on the piano.
- Candidates who require the tests to be played in a specific range on the piano should inform the Board at the time of entry. Examiners will accommodate this within the parameters of the test.
- For any test that requires a 'clapped' response, candidates are free to either clap or tap.
- In tests where a change of rhythm is to be described, examiners are happy to accept any valid verbal, clapped or tapped response.

Preparatory test

Candidates who are unable to attempt listening games C & D may attempt two examples of game A and two of game B. The applicant should give advance notice to the Associated Board if this provision is required.

Grade 1

- A** To clap the pulse of a passage of music in 2 or 3 time played by the examiner. The candidate will then be asked to state the time.
- B** To clap, as an echo, the rhythms of three short phrases played by the examiner.
- C** To recognise a rhythmic difference between the score of a melody and a version played twice by the examiner.
- D** To perform a 2-bar question and improvise a 2-bar answer. The test will be in a simple major key and in 4/4 time. 1 minute's preparation time will be given.

Grade 2

- A** To clap the pulse of a passage of music in 2 (including 6/8) or 3 time played by the examiner. The candidate will then be asked to state the time.
- B** To clap, as an echo, the rhythms of three short phrases played by the examiner.
- C** To recognise a rhythmic difference between the score of a melody and a version played twice by the examiner.
- D** To perform a 2-bar question and improvise a 2-bar answer, which should end on the tonic. The test will be in a simple major key and in 4/4 time. 1 minute's preparation time will be given.

Grade 3

- A** To clap the pulse of a passage of music in 2 (including 6/8), 3 (including 9/8) or 4 time played by the examiner. The candidate will then be asked to state the time.
- B** To clap, as an echo, the rhythms of three short phrases played by the examiner.
- C** To recognise a rhythmic difference between the score of a melody and a version played twice by the examiner.
- D** To perform a 2-bar question and improvise a 2-bar answer, which should end on the tonic. The test will be in a major key and in 3/4 or 4/4 time. 1 minute's preparation time will be given.

Grade 4

- A** To clap from memory the rhythm of a 4-bar melody in simple or compound time played twice by the examiner. The candidate will then be asked to state whether it is in 2, 3 or 4 time.
- B** To recognise a rhythmic difference between the score of a melody and a version played twice by the examiner.
- C** To perform a 2-bar question and improvise a 2-bar answer, which should end on the tonic. The test will be in a major key and in 3/4, 4/4 or 6/8 time. 1 minute's preparation time will be given.

Grade 5

- A** To clap from memory the rhythm of a 4-bar melody in simple or compound time played twice by the examiner. The candidate will then be asked to state whether it is in 2, 3 or 4 time.
- B** To recognise two rhythmic differences between the score of a melody and a version played twice by the examiner.
- C** To perform a 4-bar question and improvise a 4-bar answer, which should end on the tonic. The test will be in a major key and in 3/4, 4/4 or 6/8 time. 2 minutes' preparation time will be given.

Grade 6

- A** To clap from memory the rhythm of a short melody in simple or compound time played twice by the examiner. The candidate will then be asked to state whether it is in 2, 3 or 4 time.
- B** To recognise two rhythmic differences between the score of a melody and a version played twice by the examiner.
- C** To perform a 4-bar question and improvise a 4-bar answer, which should modulate to the dominant and end on the tonic of the new key. The test may be in a major or minor key and in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 or 6/8 time. 2 minutes' preparation time will be given.

Grade 7

- A** To clap from memory the rhythm of a short melody in simple or compound time played three times by the examiner. The candidate will then be asked to state whether it is in 2, 3 or 4 time.
- B** To recognise three rhythmic differences between the score of a melody and a version played twice by the examiner.
- C** To perform a 4-bar question and improvise a 4-bar answer, which should modulate to the dominant or the relative major/minor, as directed by the examiner, and end on the tonic of the new key. The test may be in a major or minor key and in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 or 6/8 time. 2 minutes' preparation time will be given.

Grade 8

- A** To clap from memory the rhythm of a short melody in simple or compound time played three times by the examiner. The candidate will then be asked to state whether it is in 2, 3 or 4 time.
- B** To recognise three rhythmic differences between the score of a melody and a version played twice by the examiner.
- C** To perform a 4-bar question and improvise a 4-bar answer, which should modulate to the dominant or the relative major/minor, as directed by the examiner, and end on the tonic of the new key. The test may be in a major or minor key and in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 or 6/8 time. 2 minutes' preparation time will be given.

Further information

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Guidelines are also available for blind and partially sighted candidates, candidates with dyslexia or other learning difficulties, candidates with autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) and candidates with other specific needs.

Candidates with a dual sensory impairment should make sure they have a copy of both sets of relevant guidelines.

All information correct at time of going to press. Updates will be posted on the website at www.abrsm.org