

PERCUSSION (*Subject Code: 44*)

- a All candidates will be required to perform on one Tuned Percussion instrument *and*, at their choice, either Timpani or Snare Drum.
- b The teacher or candidate should make their own arrangements for their percussion instruments to be set up in a suitable room, containing a good piano properly regulated and in tune, which is easily accessible from the local examination centre and available at a time to suit the examiner's other commitments. Transport for the examiner, if requested, must be provided without cost to the Board. Alternatively, the instruments may be situated at a school or teacher's studio where visit arrangements have already been made for candidates in other subjects, provided that the setting up of the instruments does not in any way impede the progress of the examination timetable.
- c Schedule of maximum marks for all grades:

Tuned Percussion

Scales and Arpeggios	21
Piece 1	30

Timpani or Snare Drum

Study	30
Piece 2	30
Playing at Sight	21
Aural Tests	18
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Total	150

- d When marking, the examiner will pay attention not only to accuracy of notes and time, but also to other elements inherent in a good performance, for example quality of touch, variety and gradation of tone, choice of tempo, observance of marks of expression, rhythm, phrasing and accent.
- e Candidates will be expected to use the correct sticks and mallets for the instruments they have chosen to play.

Tuned Percussion

- f Candidates may play the requirements on the xylophone, marimba or vibraphone (with motor off), or, in Grades 1 and 2 only, on the glockenspiel provided that the range of the instrument used is appropriate to cover the range of the scale requirements and the chosen piece.
- g Scales and arpeggios should be played from memory, ascending and descending throughout the prescribed compass, at a pace appropriate to the technical demands of the grade, consistent with accuracy and distinctness, and without undue accentuation. The repeat indications in the scale and arpeggio examples in the syllabus should be noted and observed.
- h A selection of the pieces published by ABRSM Publishing are provided with optional piano accompaniments. Candidates may, however, play any of the set pieces with an accompaniment contained in any other published edition.

Timpani

- i Either hand- or pedal-tuned drums may be used. In order to accommodate hand-tuned drums, tuning changes in the studies and pieces have been arranged to occur at pauses, which should be kept as short as possible.
- j Tuning in Grades 1 and 2 may be done by the teacher. In all other grades candidates will be required to tune their own timpani. Candidates should provide their own tuning forks or pitch sources, and these should be used only before the beginning of each study or piece.
- k Candidates may, if they wish, omit damping crotchet and quaver rests in Grades 1–3, although they should damp the longer rests and at the end of a piece or study. From Grade 4 onwards rests should be damped whenever feasible.
- l The different roll notations should be played according to the notes contained in the examination material published by ABRSM Publishing.

PERCUSSION

Snare Drum

m Candidates may use either traditional or matched grip.

n The different roll notations should be played according to the notes contained in the examination material published by ABRSM Publishing.

Playing at Sight

o Candidates should be prepared to play a test for either tuned percussion or the other instrument offered for examination, as directed by the examiner.

p 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 for Playing at Sight before they are required to perform it for assessment.

Aural Tests

q The standard aural tests as set for all other Practical subjects will be given, but candidates may choose to play the pulse-tapping test (Grades 1 to 3) if they wish.