

## PIANO (*Subject Code: 01*)

- a This syllabus is valid for 2009–10.  
b Schedule of maximum marks for all grades:

Scales and Arpeggios/Broken Chords	21
Pieces: 1	30
2	30
3	30
Sight-Reading	21
Aural Tests	18
Total	<hr/> 150

- c When marking, the examiner will pay attention not only to accuracy of notes and rhythm, but also to other elements inherent in a good performance, including quality of touch, variety and gradation of tone, choice of tempo and details of expression, phrasing and accent.
- d All the scale requirements should be played from memory, ascending and descending according to the specified range, without undue accentuation and at a pace that is consistent with accuracy and distinctness (recommended minimum speeds are given in *These Music Exams*, available free of charge and at [www.abrsm.org/exams](http://www.abrsm.org/exams)). In all grades, the scale requirements should be prepared legato, unless the syllabus specifies staccato (or both). Any practical and systematic fingering that produces a good result will be accepted. Pedalling must not be used.

For all ‘hands together’ requirements, the hands should be one octave apart, unless otherwise indicated. Arpeggios, diminished and dominant sevenths are required in root position only, except where otherwise indicated. Scales in thirds or a third apart should begin with the tonic in the lower voice, while scales in sixths or a sixth apart should begin with the tonic in the upper voice.

Examiners will usually ask for at least one type of scale, arpeggio or broken chord required at each grade and, from Grade 6, will aim to hear a balance of legato and staccato as appropriate.

- e 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. The main parameters for the Sight-Reading tests for each grade are outlined in this syllabus; once introduced, they apply for all subsequent grades (albeit with a logical progression of difficulty).
- f Candidates should use their discretion in the choice of pieces in order to present a contrasted and balanced programme.
- g Discretion in the use of the pedals will be taken into account, although candidates in the lower grades who cannot reach the pedals easily will not be penalized. Similarly, candidates whose hands are too small to play the music as written will not be penalized for ‘spreading’ chords or omitting occasional notes at wide stretches provided the result is musically satisfactory.
- h ABRSM Centres provide a satisfactory piano (which may be upright or grand). Practice before the examination cannot be arranged, but examiners will recognize that the instrument may be one to which candidates are unaccustomed.
- i When examinations are held at Visits (i.e. premises provided by a school or teacher and visited by the examiner), a satisfactory piano must be provided. An electronic piano may be used, provided it has a clearly recognizable piano tone, a touch-sensitive keyboard with full-size weighted keys, and an action, compass and facilities that match those of an ordinary piano, including a sustaining pedal.

## *Piano Regulations & General Requirements*

**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 three tunes, a choice of set pieces and examples of the listening games which comprise the material used for the assessment are published by ABRSM Publishing in *Piano Prep Test*. Any piece or pieces from one of the *Party Time! for Piano* albums or *Roundabout* (all published by ABRSM Publishing) may be presented as alternatives to the set pieces in *Piano Prep Test*.

**Piano Duet.** Examinations for piano duet are available at three levels – Primary, Intermediate and Advanced. Details of the requirements and suggested pieces are listed under the subject heading Ensembles in the *Harpsichord, Organ, Guitar, Harp, Percussion & Ensembles Syllabus* published separately.