

WOODWIND & BRASS INSTRUMENTS: General Regulations

- a* The following subjects are offered for examination in Grades 1 to 8, except where otherwise indicated:
Woodwind: Descant (Soprano) Recorder (Grades 1–5 only), Treble (Alto) Recorder, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto and Baritone Saxophone in E \flat , Soprano and Tenor Saxophone in B \flat ;
Brass: Horn, Trumpet, Cornet (B \flat and E \flat), Flugelhorn, E \flat Horn, Trombone, Bass Trombone (Grades 6–8 only), Baritone, Euphonium, Tuba.
- b* Trombone, Baritone, Euphonium and Tuba candidates should inform the examiner whether they are bass or treble clef readers.
- c* Candidates must tune their instrument themselves at all grades. However, the teacher or accompanist may advise on tuning at Grades 1–5, if needed.
- d* Candidates should provide themselves with music stands if they require them.
- e* Schedule of maximum marks for all grades:
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|----------------------|---|-----------|
| Pieces: | 1 | 30 |
| | 2 | 30 |
| | 3 | 30 |
| Aural Tests | | 18 |
| Scales and Arpeggios | | 21 |
| Playing at Sight | | 21 |
| Total | | <hr/> 150 |
- f* 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 tone, choice of tempo, observance of marks of expression, rhythm and phrasing.
- 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 in List A and List B, except those which are published as unaccompanied works. 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. All List C pieces are to be performed unaccompanied.
- i* Candidates playing Concerto or similar movements should arrange in advance with their accompanist which orchestral tutti could be usefully omitted in the examination.
- j* Cadenzas to Concerto or other movements should not be played unless specified in the syllabus.
- k* All scales and arpeggios should be played from memory, beginning from the lowest possible tonic unless otherwise indicated. For transposing instruments which normally use treble clef, or those which become transposing instruments when their parts are alternatively written in treble clef (i.e. Trombone, Baritone, Euphonium and Tuba), the naming of scales applies to the notation, not the concert notes; that is to say, the scale of, for instance, D major for the Trumpet in B \flat or Euphonium (treble clef only) will sound in C, not D. A full definition of the various articulations to be used for the scale requirements is given in the scale and arpeggio books published by ABRSM Publishing for each instrument.
- 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. Tenor clef will be introduced in the Grade 5 tests for Bassoon and Grade 6 tests for Tenor Trombone (bass clef readers).

Prep Test. Information about this test, designed as a preparation for Grade 1 and to encourage the building of good musical and technical foundations, is contained in a separate leaflet. The test, lasting c. 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 by instrument. The test is available for all woodwind and brass instruments, except Treble Recorder, Bass Trombone and Tuba.