Candidates and teachers are advised that the examinations in performing, including unprepared test, shall not, in general, exceed the following times:

- Ordinary level: 10 minutes
- Higher level: 15 minutes
- Higher level elective: 25 minutes

Examiners may, at their discretion, request candidates to stop at appropriate points. It should be noted that this has no implication whatsoever for the quality of the candidate’s performance.

Candidates and teachers are advised that warming-up time does not form part of the examination schedule and should take place either before the Examiner’s agreed starting time, or in another venue in the school.

The performing requirements, as outlined in the Supplementary Assessment Information issued to schools during the school year 1998/1999, may be summarised as follows:

- **Ordinary level**
  - Two songs or pieces
  - One unprepared test

- **Higher level - core (one performing activity)**
  - Three songs or pieces
  - One unprepared test

- **Higher level - core (two performing activities)**
  - Two songs or pieces in each performing activity
  - One unprepared test

- **Higher level - elective (one performing activity)**
  - Six songs or pieces
  - One unprepared test

- **Higher level - elective (two performing activities)**
  - Four songs or pieces in each performing activity
  - One unprepared test

A performing activity may consist of any one of the following:

a) Solo singing
b) Group singing
   - Harmony to be an integral part of this activity, where appropriate
   - The maximum number of candidates per individual part is two
c) Solo instrumental
d) Group instrumental
   - Harmony to be an integral part of this activity, where appropriate
   - The maximum number of candidates per individual part is two
e) Music Technology
f) Rehearsing and conducting a musical group

g) Improvisation

- These categories may not be mixed within one performing activity
- A performing activity is defined by the medium presented e.g. piano, voice, guitar etc. For assessment purposes, solo and group performing are regarded as separate performing activities. The following instruments may not be presented as two different activities, unless one is a solo activity and the other group. They may, however, be combined in one performing activity.
  - Piano + electronic keyboard
  - Acoustic guitar + six-string electric guitar
  - Concert flute + traditional flute
  - Flute + piccolo
  - Any combination of recorders
  - A combination of percussion instruments
- Accompaniment or duet performance is treated as group performance
- The same music may not be presented for two different activities

**Volume levels**

The volume of a performance must be kept at an acceptable level. If an examiner considers the volume of any performer to be in excess of safe levels, the examination will not proceed until the volume has been reduced to a satisfactory and safe level.

**Performing to ones own accompaniment**

Each of the following constitutes a performing activity under the above heading:
  - Singing to one’s own accompaniment
  - Solo / group singing
  - Accompaniment

A candidate presenting two activities under the above heading may not present the same repertoire for assessment a second time i.e. a Higher level core candidate (two activities) must present four different pieces of music (two in each activity). Similarly, a Higher level elective candidate (two activities) must present eight different pieces of music (four in each activity).

**Unprepared Tests – Improvisation**

Ordinary level: Candidates will be required to improvise for at least the length of the given phrase.

Higher level: Candidates will be required to improvise for at least twice the length of the given phrase. Reference to the original phrase must be apparent in the improvisation.
**Music Technology:** As outlined in the Supplementary Assessment Information, the following is a summary of the requirements for candidates choosing this option.

| Ordinary level | • Input, save and retrieve one two-part score  
|                | • Perform three edits  
|                | • Produce a tape or score version of the music  
| Higher level core (one activity) | • Input, save and retrieve one two-part score  
|                | • Perform six edits  
|                | • Produce a tape or score version of the music  
|                | • Play two pieces from the standard electronic repertoire or compile and play to own backing track*  
| Higher level core (one of two activities) | • Input, save and retrieve one two-part score  
|                | • Perform three edits  
|                | • Produce a tape or score version of the music  
| Higher level elective (one activity) | • Input, save and retrieve two three-part scores  
|                | • Perform six edits  
|                | • Produce a tape or score version of the music  
|                | • Play four pieces from the standard electronic repertoire or compile and play to own backing track**  
| Higher level elective (one of two activities) | • Input, save and retrieve one four-part score or two two-part scores  
|                | • Perform three edits  
|                | • Produce a tape or score version of the music  

* **Backing track to consist of at least 32 bars**  
Candidates must show evidence of / describe the compiling of the backing track  

** **Backing track to consist of at least three parts/lines of at least 32 bars each**  
Candidates must show evidence of / describe the compiling of the backing track

**Candidates presenting the Music Technology option will be required:**

- To state the medium / system / software he / she will use to input lines / parts / tracks and to name the edits they intend to make  
- To input all or part of each line / part / track, at the discretion of the Examiner  
- To make the required number of edits. Edits should make musical sense.  
- To demonstrate the ability to produce a tape or printed score. While the tape or score may be produced in advance on the day of the examination, the candidate will be required to demonstrate the procedure involved to the Examiner  
- To perform the required number of pieces, if presenting Higher level core (one activity) or Higher level elective (one activity). See table above.

- Methods of inputting, as defined in the syllabus, must be via electronic instruments and/or conventional instruments with midi controllers/interface. Music may also be input by use of the mouse directly onto the stave using appropriate notation software. Inputting may be in real time or step time. Teachers and candidates are reminded that copying and pasting is not a valid method of inputting unless the music copied was first input by the candidate. Music to be input should be at least 16 bars long and of an appropriate degree of difficulty.
Any issues in relation to the performing examinations in Music should at all times be addressed to:

The Practicals Section (Music)
State Examinations Commission
Cornamaddy
Athlone
Co Westmeath

Telephone: 090 644 2752 / 090 644 2861/ 2751

LISTENING ELECTIVE

- Candidates choosing this elective should note the following:
  - The tape/CD is submitted to the Superintendent at the time of taking the Listening elective paper in June
  - The candidate’s examination number should be written clearly on the tape/CD and on the inlay card
  - The titles of all ten recorded excerpts should be clearly listed on the inlay card
  - Each excerpt should be no longer than thirty seconds
  - The tape should be rewound and ready to play

- As the Listening elective is intended to assess the personal response of a candidate to the topic of his/her choice, it is not envisaged that the same recording be utilised by more than one candidate i.e. the copying / dubbing of tapes by groups of students is not permitted.

- Source references must be sufficiently detailed to allow for verification e.g. internet web addresses, publication details etc, as appropriate

COMPOSING ELECTIVE

Candidates choosing this elective should note the following:

- The elective is submitted to the Superintendent at the time of taking the Composing (core) examination in June
- A full written description of the compositions / arrangements / orchestrations must accompany the elective (see Syllabus, page 9)
- Where electro-acoustic music is being submitted, a prepared tape is a necessary requirement.

Candidates and teachers are advised that past papers and unprepared tests can be viewed and printed out from the website of the State Examinations Commission (www.examinations.ie).