Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examinations in Music, 2020
Practical Examinations

Notes for the Information of Teachers and Candidates

Please read carefully before filling out LMP4A forms.

1. Performing Skills – Syllabus Clarifications

A. **Solo Singing**:
i. The candidate must sing the melody for at least the length of a verse or a chorus in each song.
ii. There may not be another singer singing melody or harmony during the candidate's solo.
iii. An instrumental accompaniment (live or on a backing track) may be added.
iv. Backing tracks may not be streamed live from the internet.
v. The melody (i.e. candidate's line) may not be doubled on the backing track.

B. **Solo Playing**:
i. The candidate must play the melody or an instrumental solo (e.g. drum/bass/guitar solo) for at least the length of a verse or a chorus in each song/piece.
ii. There may not be another performer singing or playing melody during the candidate's solo.
iii. An instrumental accompaniment (live or on a backing track) may be added.
iv. Backing tracks may not be streamed live from the internet. Please note:
   a. If the candidate is playing the melody, this line may not be doubled on the backing track.
   b. if the candidate is **not** playing the melody (e.g. if playing drums/bass guitar/rhythm guitar), there must be a solo section for the candidate built into each piece where the melody is not being played or sung on the backing track at the same time.

C. **Solo singing to own accompaniment (SSOA)**:
i. The candidate must sing on his/her own and must accompany him/herself on the same instrument in each song.
ii. No-one else (live or on a backing track) may perform with the candidate.
iii. This performing skill is only ticked if both singing **and** accompaniment are to be assessed.
iv. If only the singing is to be assessed, tick *Solo singing*.
v. If only the accompaniment is to be assessed, tick *Playing as a member of a group*.

D. **Singing as a member of a group**:
i. The candidate must sing with at least one other live performer (i.e. not on a backing track).
ii. There must be at least two live parts apart from the accompaniment* (see below).
iii. A backing track may be added to the performance, but the melody line must be performed live.
iv. Backing tracks may not be streamed live from the internet.
v. There cannot be more than two per examinable part.

E. **Playing as a member of a group**:
i. The candidate must play with at least one other live performer (i.e. not on a backing track).
ii. There must be at least two live parts apart from the accompaniment* (see below).
iii. In the case of non-melodic instruments only (e.g. drums/bass guitar/rhythm guitar), a piano/ keyboard/ harp/guitar/ukulele player playing the **melody** with chords qualifies as one of the parts.
iv. A backing track may be added to the performance, but the melody line must be performed live
v. Backing tracks may not be streamed live from the internet.
vi. There cannot be more than two per examinable part.

*NB: Accompaniment in this respect refers specifically to instruments that can supply backing of a chordal nature, i.e. piano/keyboard/harp/guitar/ukulele. Other accompanying instruments such as drums/percussion/bass guitar etc. are considered as individual parts in a group performance.

F. Technology - see pages 4 & 5
G. Conducting – see page 6, 7 & 8
H. Improvisation – see page 6, 7 & 8

2. Combinations

A. **Two activities**

i. The same voice/instrument may not be presented in two different activities unless one is solo and the other group.

ii. Solo Singing To Own Accompaniment (SSOA)
   a. SSOA may **not** be combined with SSOA
   b. SSOA may **not** be combined with solo singing
   c. SSOA may **not** be combined with group playing (unless on a different instrument)
   d. SSOA **may** be combined with **group** singing
   e. SSOA **may** be combined with **solo** playing

B. **One activity - Instrumental combinations**
The following instruments may be combined in one activity. They may not be presented as two different activities, unless one is a solo activity and the other group.
   - Flute and piccolo
   - Concert flute and traditional flute
   - Tin whistle and low whistle
   - Acoustic guitar and six-string electric guitar (NB not six-string bass guitar)
   - Banjo and mandolin
   - Piano and electronic keyboard
   - Any combination of recorders
   - Any combination of saxophones
   - Any combination of percussion instruments

NB Candidates wishing to present a combination of instruments not listed above must apply in advance to Practicals Section for written permission to do so.

3. Backing tracks

A. Please see Section 1 above for details re use of backing tracks for specific performing skills.
B. Mobile phones may not be used to play backing tracks. They may not be brought into the examination room by candidates or accompanists/teachers under any circumstances.
C. Backing tracks may not be downloaded or streamed live from the internet during the examination itself. Backing tracks must be in "hard copy" format (CD/DVD/USB stick/hard disk of laptop or computer etc).
D. All computers/laptops/devices being used as part of the examination must be disconnected from the internet, internal networks and Wi-Fi.

4. Unprepared tests

A. All candidates, whether Ordinary level, Higher level or Higher level elective, one activity or two activities, take **one** unprepared test only.
B. Aural memory tests will be played three times on CD. The candidate responds after the second and third playings. Marks are awarded for the better attempt.
C. Candidates taking sight-reading (rhythm) for their unprepared test may not say the rhythmic names of the notes, or tap their foot audibly while performing the sight test.
D. Improvisation: Ordinary level candidates will be required to improvise for at least 8 bars. Higher level and Higher level elective candidates will be required to improvise for at least 16 bars. Reference to the given phrase must be apparent in the improvisation.
E. Candidates presenting conducting as a performing activity respond to a previously unseen score as part of the conducting examination itself. This is in addition to the unprepared test taken by all candidates.

5. General conditions

A. Duration of examination, including unprepared test:

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

Candidates will not be permitted to exceed the allocated time.

B. All songs/pieces in one activity must be presented as a performing unit in one sitting. Where members of a group are not presenting the same selection each candidate's complete programme must be heard separately.

C. Candidates presenting two activities are not required to present the activities consecutively.

D. All aspects of a performance (i.e. backing track, if candidate using headphones) must be audible to the Examiner.

E. In the interest of Health and Safety, 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.

F. The same music may not be presented for two different activities, even when presented on a different instrument or medium, including music technology, conducting and improvisation.

G. Other than for certified medical reasons where a candidate is unable to present during the assigned examination dates, it will not be possible to reschedule the examination to an alternative date.

H. The entire performance must be completed in the one examination session i.e. during the main scheduled examination period or, where authorised by Practicals Section, on the rescheduled examination date.

6. Examination Centre & Scheduling

A. All performing examinations must take place in one room/hall in the school as far as possible and all necessary equipment should be set up in this room/hall in advance.

B. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. when presenting pipe organ or other large instruments) a candidate may be permitted to move to a different venue. State Examinations Commission must be informed of this in advance.

C. **Acoustical preferences are not considered as exceptional circumstances for requesting a change of room/venue.**

D. The examination venue **must** be in an area of the school that is free from noise or disturbance by other students/intercom announcements.

E. Where technology is being presented, the computer/laptop/equipment to be used for the examination must be set up in advance and must be disconnected from the internet/local network/Wi-Fi.

F. School authorities/candidates must ensure that computer speakers are turned on and sound enabled during music technology examinations.

G. School authorities are advised not to allocate times to candidates as it is not possible to estimate accurately the time at which any practical examination will take place. Please note that a visit by an Advising Examiner for monitoring purposes will cause a delay. This is unavoidable and is essential for the integrity of the examination. Candidates must be made aware that they will not necessarily be examined at a specific time or on a specific day.

H. All candidates are required to attend a group meeting with the Examiner when he/she arrives in the school. Schools are asked to ensure that candidates are made aware of this requirement.

Music Technology Examination – Format of the Examination
A. First part of examination – input, edit, print/record, save & retrieve

All technology candidates will be asked by the examiner to:

1. set up the score(s) to be input.

2. input all or part of each part/track (the examiner decides). Music is input track by track.

3. make the required number of edits.
   - Edits must be performed on the score input on the day of the examination. Under no circumstances will candidates be permitted to perform edits on a pre-saved score.
   - Candidates will be asked to play back the score after inputting and after each edit is executed.

4. demonstrate how to record or print the score.

5. save, close and retrieve the file.

B. Second part of examination – performing to own backing track***
(Higher level one activity (H1T) and Higher level elective one activity (HE1T) candidates **only**)

1. Candidates will be asked by the examiner to describe how they compiled the backing track. For example:
   - the process – Computer? Sequencer? Live musicians recorded?
   - the number of tracks
   - instruments or sounds chosen for each track and reasons for choice
   - difficulties (if any) encountered e.g. with balance

2. Play the backing track.

3. Perform to the backing track.

*** or perform the required number of pieces from the electronic repertoire (i.e. perform two (H1T) or four (HE1T) pieces on electronic keyboard using the full range of keyboard functions)

General Conditions (Technology)

1. 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 sequencing software. Inputting may be in real time or step time. Copying and pasting is not a valid method of inputting unless the music copied was first input in the track in question by the candidate.

2. Music to be input should be at least 16 bars long (in each part) and of an appropriate degree of difficulty i.e. contain a variety of pitches and rhythms. All parts to be input should start in bar 1 if possible.

3. Candidates may not bring any documentation into the examination room apart from the music to be input/performed and the LMP4A form. Instructions (apart from the names of the edits and the pitch names of the notes) may not be written on the music.

4. Any software package/electronic instrument/sequencer that fulfils the requirements of the syllabus may be used in the Technology examination. All elements of the examination must be audible to the examiner.

5. Technology is a solo performing activity. HL one activity Technology (H1T) and HL Elective one activity Technology (HE1T) candidates must satisfy the syllabus requirements for solo performance (see section **1.Solo Performing** on page 1).

6. All computers/laptops/devices being used for the examination must be set up in advance and must be disconnected from the internet/local network/Wi-Fi.

Edits

A. Acceptable edits are those which change the **sound** of the music when played back on the computer or sequencer, for example, tempo, rhythm, pitch, key, dynamics, detuning, panning, echo, phasing, reverb, quantising, velocity, sustain, timbre/instrument/voice.

B. Changes to the lyrics or structure of the piece (e.g. repeat marks) do not fulfil the requirements of the syllabus.

C. Changing tempo or dynamics by simply typing in a new term does not fulfil the requirements of the syllabus unless the changes are audible when played back on the computer/sequencer.
All edits must be audible.

D. Slurring and articulation are different forms of the same edit (attack), in the same way as *f* and *p* are different forms of dynamics. Candidates should ensure that they present three (or six) different edits for examination.

E. Where a candidate presents the option of inputting two scores, edits are carried out on one score only (the candidate chooses). The score to be edited will be input last.

F. Due to time constraints it may not be possible to input a full score. Candidates should prepare edits that can be executed successfully at the beginning of the score being input.

Candidates and Teachers are advised that past papers, unprepared tests and other relevant information can be viewed, downloaded and printed from the State Examinations Commission's website www.examinations.ie.

Any issues in relation to the performing examinations in Music should be addressed to:

Practicals Section (Music)
State Examinations Commission
Cornamaddy
Athlone
Co Westmeath.
Telephone: 090-644 2751 / 090-644 2752
e-mail: practicals@examinations.ie

PLEASE NOTE:

1. All queries re performances to be presented must be addressed through Practicals Section (and not the Examiner) before the day of the examination.

2. The Examiner is precluded from discussing **any** aspect of the examination with any party. Any queries in relation to the examination should be addressed directly to Practicals Section.

Performing Activities   **Ordinary Level**   Candidates choose **one** of the following activities

GROUP			SOLO				
Singing	**Playing**	**Improvising**	**Singing**	**Playing**	**Conducting**	**Improvising**	**Technology**
• two songs	• two pieces	• two pieces demonstrating one type of improvisation	• two songs	• two pieces	• two pieces or songs • answer questions on unprepared score	• two pieces demonstrating one type of improvisation	• one score of two parts • three edits • show how to print or record • save, close and retrieve
• one unprepared test (aural memory melody/aural memory rhythm/sight-reading/improvisation)							

Higher Level (candidates taking Composing or Listening elective): Candidates choose **one** activity from band A <u>or</u> **two** from band B

	GROUP			SOLO				
	Singing	**Playing**	**Improvising**	**Singing**	**Playing**	**Conducting**	**Improvising**	**Technology**
A	• three songs	• three pieces	• three pieces demonstrating three types of improvisation or a combination	• three songs	• three pieces	• three pieces or songs • answer questions on unprepared score	• three pieces demonstrating three types of improvisation or combination	• one score of two parts • six edits • show how to print or record • save, close and retrieve • play two pieces from electronic repertoire or compile and play to own previously compiled backing track *
	• **one** unprepared test (aural memory melody/aural memory rhythm/sight-reading/improvisation)							
B	• two songs	• two pieces	• two pieces demonstrating one type of improvisation	• two songs	• two pieces	• two pieces or songs • answer questions on unprepared score	• two pieces demonstrating one type of improvisation	• one score of two parts • three edits • show how to print or record • save, close and retrieve
	• one unprepared test (aural memory melody/aural memory rhythm/sight-reading/improvisation)							

* Backing track to consist of at least 32 bars. Candidates must show evidence of / describe the compiling of the backing track. The music input in part one of the examination may not be used as the backing track for the performance element. The performance to own backing track must be a solo performance.

Higher Level Elective (50% performing)   Candidates choose **one** activity from band C <u>or</u> **two** from band D

	GROUP			SOLO				
	Singing	**Playing**	**Improvising**	**Singing**	**Playing**	**Conducting**	**Improvising**	**Technology**
C	• six songs	• six pieces	• Six pieces demonstrating three types of improvisation or combination	• six songs	• six pieces	• six pieces or songs • answer questions on unprepared score	• Six pieces demonstrating three types of improvisation or combination	• two scores of three parts • six edits • show how to print or record • save, close and retrieve • play four pieces from electronic repertoire or compile and play to own previously compiled backing track**
	• one unprepared test (aural memory melody/aural memory rhythm/sight-reading/improvisation)							
D	• four songs	• four pieces	• four pieces demonstrating one type of improvisation	• four songs	• four pieces	• four pieces or songs • answer questions on unprepared score	• four pieces demonstrating one type of improvisation	• one score of four parts or two scores of two parts • three edits • show how to print or record • save, close and retrieve
	• one unprepared test (aural memory melody/aural memory rhythm/sight-reading/improvisation)							

** 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. The music input in part one of the examination may not be used as the backing track for the performance element. The performance to own backing track must be a solo performance.

Composing Paper

School authorities are reminded that all candidates presenting for the Leaving Certificate Examinations in Music will be expected to use the suffix '°' to indicate diminished chords and '⁺' to indicate augmented chords as exemplified below for the keys of C major and C minor".

Key: C major

Chord Symbol	C	D m	E m	F	G	A m	B°
Roman Numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°

Key: C minor

Chord Symbol	C m	D°	E♭⁺	F m	G	A♭	B°
Roman Numeral	i	ii°	III⁺	iv	V	VI	vii°

Syllabus clarifications

1. Modulation is only a requirement in the melody-writing questions and only in major keys.
2. **The** use of non-chord notes by candidates is only a requirement in questions 1, 2, 3 and 6. However, candidates are expected to recognise non-chord notes and take them into account when choosing chordal support in harmony questions.
3. In Q3 (Composing to a given dance rhythm or metre or form), questions may be set on the following dances - gavotte, reel, minuet, waltz, *gigue*, jig.

Composing Elective

1. Candidates choosing this option will, in addition, also sit the core composing paper (100 marks) giving a total of 200 marks for composing.
2. Candidates submit two short compositions/songs/pieces/arrangements/orchestrations. (See syllabus page 9 for full details of requirements)
3. The composing elective material, supported by a full written description (see Syllabus, page 9) of the compositions/arrangements/orchestrations, must be submitted to the school authority by 24 April 2020.
4. The school authority must safely store the composing elective material and pass it to the Superintendent of the Composing (core) examination at the time of that exam.
5. Where electro-acoustic music is being submitted, a prepared CD/MP3 sound file is a necessary requirement (see Syllabus, page 9).
6. The candidate must complete Form P2, certifying the authenticity of the work. The class Teacher and the school Principal must also sign the form.

Listening Elective

Candidates choosing this elective

1. sit a Listening Elective paper of 45 minutes duration (in addition to the core Listening paper).
2. prepare a recording, in advance of the examination, containing ten excerpts of music studied for the elective.

Candidates should note the following:

a) Source references listed as required on the Examination paper must be sufficiently detailed to allow for verification e.g. internet web addresses, publication details etc.
b) The recording is submitted to the Superintendent at the time of taking the Listening elective paper.
c) The candidate's examination number should be written clearly on the recording and on the inlay card.
d) The titles of all ten recorded excerpts should be clearly listed on the inlay card.
e) Each excerpt should be between twenty and thirty seconds long.
   As the Listening elective is intended to assess the personal response of a candidate to the topic of his/her choice (see Syllabus, page 12), the copying / dubbing of recordings by groups of students is not permitted.