



Leaving Certificate Examinations in Music, 2018
Practical Examinations

Notes for the Information of Teachers and Candidates

Syllabus clarifications

- NB: For each activity presented, candidates choose
- the performing skill (solo/group) and
 - the medium (voice/instrument) on which they wish to be assessed.

Music to be performed and the presentation on the day should be chosen carefully to ensure that both the performing skill and the candidate's ability on the instrument can be adequately assessed by the examiner.

1. Solo performing – choice of music and presentation

- Candidates presenting solo performing must choose music where they are playing the solo part, either for the **whole piece** or for a **substantial part** of the piece (the length of a verse/chorus).
- Examples of the standard of music required for OL and HL are given in the syllabus itself.
- 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** performing.
- Care should be taken when choosing music to be input in technology. As time rarely allows for a full piece to be input in the examination, it is advisable that all parts to be input start in bar 1 of the piece, or close to bar 1. Similarly, it is best if edits can be made at/near the beginning of the piece so that the effect is heard at a point where all parts have been input.
- Singing to one's own accompaniment is a solo performing activity. Both singing and accompaniment are assessed and other performers may not take part in the performance. The same instrument must be used for playing the accompaniment in all songs.

2. Group performing – choice of music and presentation

- Group performing is specified in the syllabus as "singing or playing **as a member of a musical group**." Candidates must perform as members of a live group on the day of the examination. Two live parts are sufficient but one of these must be the melody line.
- An accompaniment (live or on a backing track) may be added.
- In group performing (singing / instrumental), the maximum number of performers per examinable part is two. This is for examination purposes and **there are no exceptions**.

3. Accompaniment

- a) All performances should be accompanied where appropriate. An accompaniment is backing of a chordal or rhythmic nature for the most part. It can be live or on a backing track. A recording where the solo part is present may not be used as a backing track.
- 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 must be in “hard copy” format (CD/DVD/tape/USB stick/hard disk of laptop or computer etc). **They may not be downloaded or streamed live from the internet during the examination itself.**

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 |

- b) Examiners may, at their discretion, request candidates to stop at appropriate points in their performance.
- c) All songs/pieces in an 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.
- 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, on the rescheduled exam date.
- i) **Instrument 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 + PICCOLO

CONCERT FLUTE + TRADITIONAL FLUTE

TIN WHISTLE + LOW WHISTLE

ACOUSTIC GUITAR + SIX-STRING ELECTRIC GUITAR

BANJO + MANDOLIN

PIANO + 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 permission to do so.

6. Examination Centre & Scheduling

- a) All performing examinations must take place in **one** room/hall in the school. 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.
- b) 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/wifi. School authorities/candidates must ensure that computer speakers are turned on and sound enabled during music technology examinations.
- c) Instruments and/or sound equipment required for performances must also be set up in advance.
- d) 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.
NB Candidates must be made aware that they will not necessarily be examined at a specific time or on a specific day.
- e) **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, and to provide a suitable room for the group meeting.

Performing Activities

Ordinary Level

Candidates choose **one** of the following activities

| GROUP | | | SOLO | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Singing | Playing | Improvising | Singing | Playing | Conducting | Improvising | Technology |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two songs • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two pieces • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two pieces demonstrating one type of improvisation • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two songs • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two pieces • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two pieces or songs • answer questions on unprepared score • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two pieces demonstrating one type of improvisation • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one score of two parts • three edits • show how to print or record • save, close and retrieve • one unprepared test |

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

| | GROUP | | | SOLO | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | Singing | Playing | Improvising | Singing | Playing | Conducting | Improvising | Technology |
| A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three songs • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three pieces • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three pieces demonstrating three types of improvisation or a combination • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three songs • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three pieces • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three pieces or songs • answer questions on unprepared score • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three pieces demonstrating three types of improvisation or combination • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |
| B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two songs • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two pieces • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two pieces demonstrating one type of improvisation • 1 unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two songs • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two pieces • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two pieces or songs • answer questions on unprepared score • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two pieces demonstrating one type of improvisation • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one score of two parts • three edits • show how to print or record • save, close and retrieve • one unprepared test |

All candidates take **one** unprepared test only.

* 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 or **two** from band D

| | GROUP | | | SOLO | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| | Singing | Playing | Improvising | Singing | Playing | Conducting | Improvising | Technology |
| C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six songs • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six pieces • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six pieces demonstrating three types of improvisation or • combination • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six songs • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six pieces • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six pieces or songs • answer questions on unprepared score • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six pieces demonstrating three types of improvisation or combination • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |
| D | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four songs • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four pieces • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four pieces demonstrating one type of improvisation • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four songs • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four pieces • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four pieces or songs • answer questions on unprepared score • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four pieces demonstrating one type of improvisation • one unprepared test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |

All candidates take **one** unprepared test only.

** 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.

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. Perform to the backing track.

***** or perform the required number of pieces from the electronic repertoire.**

General Conditions

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 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).

Edits

1. Acceptable edits are those which change the **sound** of the music when played back on the computer or sequencer. Changes to the lyrics or structure of the piece (e.g. repeat marks) do not fulfil the requirements of the syllabus.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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: info@examinations.ie

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 _b ⁺ | F _m | G | A _b | B° |
| Roman Numeral | i | ii° | III ⁺ | iv | V | VI | vii° |

Listening Elective

Candidates choosing this elective

1. sit a Listening Elective paper of 45 minutes duration (as well as the Core Listening and Composing papers)

and

2. prepare a recording, in advance of the examination, containing ten excerpts of music studied for the elective.

Candidates should note the following:

- 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.
- The 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 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 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 CDs by groups of students is not permitted.

Composing Elective

- 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 27 April 2018.
- 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 on 21 June 2018
- Where electro-acoustic music is being submitted, a prepared tape is a necessary requirement (see Syllabus, page 9).
- The candidate must complete Form P2, certifying the authenticity of the work. The class Teacher and the school Principal must also sign the form.

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.