

GUITAR (Subject Code: 07)

- a This syllabus is valid from 2009 until further notice.
- b This syllabus is only appropriate for the standard classical instrument fitted with nylon strings. Candidates may use a capo at the 3rd fret for the pieces in Grades 7 and 8 that require F# tuning; no other use of the capo is permitted.
- c Candidates in all grades must tune their own instrument. The examiner will not do so.
- d Candidates should provide their own footstool (or other form of guitar support) and a music stand if required.

e Schedule of maximum marks for all grades:

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

- f Accuracy of notes and rhythm, quality and projection of tone, tuning, articulation, posture and hand positions will all be taken into account in the marking of the pieces and scale requirements.
- g Candidates should use their discretion in the choice of pieces in order to present a contrasted and balanced programme.
- h In Grades 1 and 2, candidates may perform *up to two* pieces accompanied by another guitar (or, if necessary, a piano). These pieces are marked † in the syllabus. In Grade 3, *only one* such piece may be performed.
- i Candidates are not compelled to adhere to the fingering indicated in any of the pieces: any good practical fingering will be accepted.
- j Candidates should have acquired some skill in vibrato by Grade 5.
- k All the scale requirements should be played legato and from memory, ascending and descending according to the specified range, at a tempo that is appropriate to the technical demands of the grade and that achieves a clean, uniform tone and a rhythmic flow without undue accentuation. In Grades 1–4, candidates may choose to play ‘fingers-only’ scales either *tirando* (free stroke) or *apoyando* (rest stroke); from Grade 5, these scales must be prepared with *both* right-hand techniques. The *tirando* stroke is expected for all other requirements. Any combination of alternating right-hand fingers may be used for ‘fingers-only’ scales; those involving the ring finger are no longer compulsory. Any practical and systematic left-hand fingering will be accepted, but candidates are expected to observe the requirements regarding over-ringing and non-over-ringing for broken chords and arpeggios from Grade 3. Examiners will usually ask for at least one of each type of scale requirement set for the grade.
- l 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).

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 *Guitar Prep Test*.