

PERCUSSION (*Subject Code: 44*)

- a This syllabus is valid from 1990 until further notice.
- b All candidates will be required to perform on one Tuned Percussion instrument *and*, at their choice, either Timpani or Snare Drum.
- c Percussion examinations are held at premises provided by the Applicant without cost to the Board and visited by the examiner in accordance with the regulations and requirements for Visits (see Reg. 7 in the *Examination Information & Regulations*, in particular the requirement to arrange for a steward to be present according to ABRSM's instructions and to provide a suitable piano for the Aural Tests). They may either be held independently of other examinations or as part of a larger Visit that includes other subjects/grades. The premises visited by the examiner should normally be accessible from one of the Board's local examination centres: the full address should be given when the entry is submitted. If requested, transport for the examiner should be provided without cost to the Board. The teacher or candidate should ensure that the percussion instruments are set up in advance of the examination so that the examination can begin at the scheduled time.
- d Schedule of maximum marks for all grades:

Tuned Percussion

Scales and Arpeggios	21
Piece 1	30

Timpani or Snare Drum

Study	30
Piece 2	30
Sight-Reading	21
Aural Tests	18

Total	150
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- e When marking, the examiner will pay attention not only to accuracy of notes and rhythm, but also to other elements inherent in a good performance, including quality of touch, variety and gradation of tone, choice of tempo and details of expression, phrasing and accent.
- f Candidates will be expected to use the correct sticks and mallets for the instruments they have chosen to play.

Tuned Percussion

- g Candidates may play the requirements on the xylophone, marimba or vibraphone (with motor off), or, in Grades 1 and 2 only, on the glockenspiel provided that the range of the instrument used is appropriate to cover the range of the scale requirements and the chosen piece.
- h All the scale requirements should be played from memory, ascending and descending according to the specified range, at a pace appropriate to the technical demands of the grade, consistent with accuracy and distinctness, and without undue accentuation. The repeat indications in the scale and arpeggio examples in the syllabus should be noted and observed.
- i A selection of the pieces published by ABRSM Publishing are provided with optional piano accompaniments. Candidates may, however, play any of the set pieces with an accompaniment contained in any other published edition.

Timpani

- j Either hand- or pedal-tuned drums may be used. In order to accommodate hand-tuned drums, tuning changes in the studies and pieces have been arranged to occur at pauses, which should be kept as short as possible.
- k Tuning in Grades 1 and 2 may be done by the teacher. In all other grades candidates will be required to tune their own timpani. Candidates should provide their own tuning forks or pitch sources, and these should be used only before the beginning of each study or piece.

PERCUSSION

- l* Candidates may, if they wish, omit damping crotchet and quaver rests in Grades 1–3, although they should damp the longer rests and at the end of a piece or study. From Grade 4 onwards rests should be damped whenever feasible.
- m* The different roll notations should be played according to the notes contained in the examination material published by ABRSM Publishing.

Snare Drum

- n* Candidates may use either traditional or matched grip.
- o* The different roll notations should be played according to the notes contained in the examination material published by ABRSM Publishing.

Sight-Reading

- p* Candidates should be prepared to play a test for either tuned percussion or the other instrument offered for examination, as directed by the examiner.
- q* 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.

Aural Tests

- r* The standard aural tests as set for all other Practical subjects will be given, but candidates may choose to play the pulse-tapping test (Grades 1 to 3) if they wish.

Percussion GRADE 1

All candidates will be required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument **and**, at their choice, *either* timpani *or* snare drum.

TUNED PERCUSSION

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS: from memory, in the following keys:

C, G, F majors; A, E, D minors (one octave)

Scales: in the above keys (minors in melodic *or* harmonic form at candidate's choice):

(i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example below:



(ii) even notes, as example below:



Arpeggios: the common chords of the above keys:

(i) even notes, as example below:



(ii) even notes with repeated tonic, as example below:



ONE PIECE (or set combination): chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1 **Anon.** American Shaker melody 'Simple Gifts'

2 **Anon.** John Brown's Body

and

Anon. Deck the hall with boughs of holly

3 **Anon.** Men of Harlech*

and

S. C. Foster Oh! Susanna*

4 **Anon.** Waltzing Matilda

and

Hook The Lass of Richmond Hill

5 **Haydn** Scherzo, from Sonata in F, Hob. XVI/9*

Graded Music for Tuned Percussion, Book 1
(ABRSM Publishing)

TIMPANI

STUDY: No. 1 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 1* (ABRSM Publishing)

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1 March Past

2 Fanfare

3 Allegretto

4 Prelude

Graded Music for Timpani, Book 1 (ABRSM Publishing)

* Published with optional accompaniment † Specimen Sight-Reading Tests included in the *Graded Music* books

§ Specimen Aural Tests published by ABRSM Publishing

Percussion: GRADE 1

SNARE DRUM

STUDY: No. 1 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 1 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 1 Marking Time | } | <i>Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 1 (ABRSM Publishing)</i> |
| 2 On Parade | | |
| 3 Stick together | | |
| 4 Two Step | | |
| 5 Tempo Timekeeper | | |
| 6 Step lightly | | |

SIGHT-READING†: one short piece in simple time, either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. The test for tuned percussion will be within the keys, notes and overall range of the scale requirements set for the grade. Some accidentals, dotted and tied notes may be included. See also para *q* on p. 57.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE§: see p. 83

Percussion GRADE 2

All candidates will be required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument **and**, at their choice, *either* timpani *or* snare drum.

TUNED PERCUSSION

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS: from memory, in the following keys:

D, B♭ majors; B, G minors (one octave)

Scales: in the above keys (minors in melodic *or* harmonic form at candidate's choice):

- (i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1
- (ii) even notes, as example in Grade 1

Arpeggios: the common chords of the above keys:

- (i) even notes, as example in Grade 1
- (ii) even notes with repeated tonic, as example in Grade 1

ONE PIECE (or set combination): chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1 **Anon.** The Ash Grove
and

H. C. Work Marching through Georgia

2 **J. S. Bach** Menuet in G, BWV Anh.116*

3 **Bizet** 'Je vais danser en votre honneur', from 'Carmen'
and

Sullivan 'Poor wand'ring one', from 'The Pirates of Penzance'

4 **Handel** Bourrée, from 'Music for the Royal Fireworks'

5 **Léhar** Gold and Silver Waltz, Op. 75*
and

Johann Strauss Beliebte Annen-Polka, Op. 137*

} *Graded Music for Tuned Percussion, Book 1*
(ABRSM Publishing)

TIMPANI

STUDY: No. 2 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 1 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1 Step Three

2 Alla Marcia

3 Contrasts

4 Rondino

} *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 1 (ABRSM Publishing)*

SNARE DRUM

STUDY: No. 2 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 1 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1 Beat it out

2 Mind the Accent

3 Three Step

4 Ben marcato

5 Flam and Drag

} *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 1 (ABRSM Publishing)*

SIGHT-READING†: one short piece in simple time, either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. The test for tuned percussion will be within the keys, notes and overall range of the scale requirements set up to and including this grade. Some accidentals, dotted and tied notes may be included. See also para *q* on p. 57.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE§: see p. 83

* Published with optional accompaniment † Specimen Sight-Reading Tests included in the *Graded Music* books

§ Specimen Aural Tests published by ABRSM Publishing

Percussion GRADE 3

All candidates will be required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument **and**, at their choice, *either* timpani *or* snare drum.

TUNED PERCUSSION

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS: from memory, in the following keys:

A, E♭ majors; F♯, C minors (one octave)

Scales: in the above keys (minors in melodic *or* harmonic form at candidate's choice):

- (i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1
- (ii) even notes, as example in Grade 1

Arpeggios: the common chords of the above keys:

- (i) even notes, as example in Grade 1
- (ii) even notes with repeated tonic, as example in Grade 1

ONE PIECE (or set combination): chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Anon. Greensleeves
<i>and</i>
Anon. The White Cockade2 Anon. 'Put up your dagger, Jamie'*
<i>and</i>
Anon. Londonderry Air*3 J. S. Bach Menuet in D minor, BWV Anh.1324 Beethoven Minuet in G, WoO 10 No. 2*5 Delibes Waltz, from 'Coppelia'6 J. L. Dussek Minuetto, from Sonatina in G, Op. 19 No. 17 Kevin Hathway 3 Short Pieces8 Hummel Gigue in D | } | <p><i>Graded Music for Tuned Percussion, Book 2</i>
(ABRSM Publishing)</p> |
|---|---|--|

TIMPANI

STUDY: No. 3 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 2 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Maestoso and Allegro2 Mazurka3 Rondo vivace4 Galop | } | <p><i>Graded Music for Timpani, Book 2 (ABRSM Publishing)</i></p> |
|---|---|---|

SNARE DRUM

STUDY: No. 3 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 2 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Rhythmic Accents2 Slow Waltz3 Marche grandioso4 Five Stroke5 Flam Waltz6 Three Wheeler | } | <p><i>Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 2 (ABRSM Publishing)</i></p> |
|---|---|--|

SIGHT-READING†: one short piece in simple time, either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. The test for tuned percussion will be within the keys, notes and overall range of the scale requirements set up to and including this grade. See also para *q* on p. 57.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE§: see pp. 83 and 84

Percussion GRADE 4

All candidates will be required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument **and**, at their choice, *either* timpani *or* snare drum.

TUNED PERCUSSION

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS: from memory, in the following keys:

E, A \flat majors; C \sharp , F minors (one octave)

Scales: in the above keys (minors in melodic *or* harmonic form at candidate's choice):

(i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1

(ii) even notes, as example in Grade 1

Arpeggios: the common chords of the above keys:

(i) even notes, as example in Grade 1

(ii) even notes with repeated tonic, as example in Grade 1

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- 1 **Camidge** Scherzando, from Sonata No. 1 in G
- 2 **Clementi** Allegro, from Sonatina in C, Op. 36 No. 1
- 3 **Gossec** Gavotte
- 4 **Kevin Hathway** Prelude
- 5 **Mozart** Minuetto and Trio, from 'Eine kleine Nachtmusik', K. 525*
- 6 **Johann and Josef Strauss** Pizzicato Polka*
- 7 **Tchaikovsky** Dance of the Reeds, from 'The Nutcracker', Op. 71

} *Graded Music for Tuned Percussion, Book 2*
(ABRSM Publishing)

TIMPANI

STUDY: No. 4 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 2 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- 1 6/8 Variations
 - 2 Alleluia
 - 3 Waltz
 - 4 Prelude and Scherzo
- } *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 2 (ABRSM Publishing)*

SNARE DRUM

STUDY: No. 4 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 2 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- 1 Mazurka
 - 2 Vienna Woods
 - 3 Amazing Grace Notes
 - 4 Rock steady
 - 5 Interrupted Waltz
 - 6 Con spirito
 - 7 Constant Quaver
- } *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 2 (ABRSM Publishing)*

SIGHT-READING[†]: one short piece in simple or compound time, either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. The test for tuned percussion will be within the keys, notes and overall range of the scale requirements set up to and including this grade. See also para *q* on p. 57.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE[§]: see pp. 83 and 84

* Published with optional accompaniment † Specimen Sight-Reading Tests included in the *Graded Music* books

§ Specimen Aural Tests published by ABRSM Publishing

Percussion GRADE 5

All candidates will be required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument **and**, at their choice, *either* timpani *or* snare drum.

TUNED PERCUSSION

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS: from memory, in the following keys:

B, D \flat majors; G \sharp , B \flat minors (one octave)

G, F major *scales only* (two octaves)

Scales: in the above keys (minors in melodic *or* harmonic form at candidate's choice):

- (i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1, but two-octave scales without repeat
- (ii) one-octave scales in even notes, as example in Grade 1; two-octave scales in even notes, as example below:



Chromatic Scale: starting on C, as example below (one octave):



Arpeggios: the common chords of the one-octave keys as set above:

- (i) even notes, as example in Grade 1
- (ii) even notes with repeated tonic, as example in Grade 1

Dominant Sevenths: in the keys of C, G and F, as example below (one octave):



Diminished Sevenths: starting on C, E \flat , F \sharp and A, even notes, as example below (one octave):



ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- 1 Anon. 2 Scottish Dances: The De'il among the Tailors *and* Meg Merrilees
- 2 J. S. Bach Invention No. 4 in D minor, BWV 775
- 3 Clementi Allegretto, from Sonatina in G, Op. 36 No. 2*
- 4 Dvořák Humoresque, Op. 101 No. 7*
- 5 Gossec Tambourin, from 'Le Camp de Grand-Pré'
- 6 Schubert Moment Musical (Air Russe), Op. 94 No. 3, D.780/3
- 7 Steibelt Rondo in G

} *Graded Music for Tuned Percussion,
Book 3 (ABRSM Publishing)*

TIMPANI

STUDY: No. 5 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 3 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- 1 Sea Storm
 - 2 Beethoven Plus
 - 3 Marche Funèbre
 - 4 Fives and Threes
- } *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 3 (ABRSM Publishing)*

(continued overleaf)

SNARE DRUM

STUDY: No. 5 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 3 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- 1 Sophisticated Syncopation
- 2 Radetsky
- 3 Tarantella
- 4 Alborada
- 5 Allegro energico

} *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 3 (ABRSM Publishing)*

SIGHT-READING†: one short piece in simple or compound time, either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. The test for tuned percussion will be in any one of the keys of the scale requirements set up to and including this grade. See also para *q* on p. 57.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE§: see pp. 83 and 85

* Published with optional accompaniment † Specimen Sight-Reading Tests included in the *Graded Music* books

§ Specimen Aural Tests published by ABRSM Publishing

Percussion GRADE 6

All candidates will be required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument **and**, at their choice, *either* timpani *or* snare drum.

THEORY OF MUSIC, PRACTICAL MUSICIANSHIP OR SOLO JAZZ SUBJECT: Grade 5 must have been passed.

TUNED PERCUSSION

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS: from memory, in the following keys:

F \sharp , C \sharp majors; E \flat minor (one octave)

D, B \flat major *scales only*; B, G minor *scales only* (two octaves)

Scales: in the above keys (minors in melodic *or* harmonic form at candidate's choice):

- (i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1, but two-octave scales without repeat
- (ii) one-octave scales in even notes, as example in Grade 1; two-octave scales in even notes, as example in Grade 5

Chromatic Scales: starting on any natural, as example in Grade 5 (one octave)

Arpeggios: the common chords of the one-octave keys as set above:

- (i) even notes, as example in Grade 1
- (ii) even notes with repeated tonic, as example in Grade 1

Dominant Seventh: in the keys of D, A, B \flat and E \flat , as example in Grade 5 (one octave)

Diminished Seventh: starting on D \flat , E, G, and B \flat , as example in Grade 5 (one octave)

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 J. S. Bach Invention No. 10 in G, BWV 7812 Handel Allegro, from Sonata in F, Op. 1 No. 12*3 Joplin Maple Leaf Rag*4 Mendelssohn Song without Words, Op. 102 No. 35 Johann Strauss Radetsky March, Op. 2286 Telemann Vivace, from Fantasia No. 5 in F (1st Dozen) | } | <i>Graded Music for Tuned Percussion, Book 3</i>
(ABRSM Publishing) |
|---|---|--|

TIMPANI

STUDY: No. 6 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 3 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Unsquare Dance2 Square Dance3 Diversions4 Scherzoid | } | <i>Graded Music for Timpani, Book 3 (ABRSM Publishing)</i> |
|--|---|--|

SNARE DRUM

STUDY: No. 6 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 3 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Malvern March2 Con anima3 Fanfare and Dance4 Waltz Variations5 Midsummer Dream6 Con forza | } | <i>Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 3 (ABRSM Publishing)</i> |
|--|---|---|

SIGHT-READING[†]: one piece either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. See also para *q* on p. 57.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE[§]: see pp. 83 and 85

Percussion: GRADE 7

SIGHT-READING[†]: one piece either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. See also para *q* on p. 57.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE[§]: see pp. 83 and 86

Percussion GRADE 8

All candidates will be required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument **and**, at their choice, *either* timpani *or* snare drum.

THEORY OF MUSIC, PRACTICAL MUSICIANSHIP OR SOLO JAZZ SUBJECT: Grade 5 must have been passed.

TUNED PERCUSSION

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS: from memory:

Scales: in all keys, major and minor (minors in melodic *or* harmonic form at candidate's choice) (two octaves):

- (i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1, but without repeat
- (ii) even notes, as example in Grade 5

Chromatic Scales: starting on any note, as example in Grade 5 (two octaves)

Arpeggios: the common chords of all keys, major and minor (two octaves):

- (i) even notes, as example in Grade 7
- (ii) broken chords, as example in Grade 7

Dominant Sevenths: in all keys, as example in Grade 5 but with only one repeat (two octaves)

Diminished Sevenths: starting on any note, as example in Grade 5 but with only one repeat (two octaves)

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- 1 **J. S. Bach** Gigue, from Violin Partita No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004
- 2 **Bizet** Danse Bohème, from 'Carmen'
- 3 **George Botsford** Black and White Rag*
- 4 **Kreisler** Schön Rosmarin
- 5 **Monti** Czardas
- 6 **Mozart** Alla Turca, from Sonata in A, K. 331*
- 7 **Johann and Josef Strauss** Pizzicato Polka
- 8 **Vivaldi** Allegro, from Concerto in A minor, Op. 3 No. 6

} *Graded Music for Tuned Percussion, Book 4*
(ABRSM Publishing)

TIMPANI

STUDY: No. 8 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 4 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- 1 Bacchanale
- 2 Modern Times
- 3 Burlesque
- 4 Waltz Variations

} *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 4 (ABRSM Publishing)*

SNARE DRUM

STUDY: No. 8 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 4 (ABRSM Publishing)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- 1 Sicilienne
- 2 Overture to Accents
- 3 A Bar from Mars
- 4 Scheherazadia

} *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 4 (ABRSM Publishing)*

SIGHT-READING†: one piece either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. See also para *q* on p. 57.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE§: see pp. 83 and 86

* Published with optional accompaniment † Specimen Sight-Reading Tests included in the *Graded Music* books

§ Specimen Aural Tests published by ABRSM Publishing