

**London College of Music Examinations**

# Ukulele Syllabus

**Qualification specifications for:**

Steps, Grades, Recital Grades, Performance Awards, Ensemble

**Valid from:**

2019 until further notice



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## 1.1 Introduction

### **London College of Music Examinations (LCME)**

External examinations have been awarded by the London College of Music since the institution's founding in 1887. Today, examinations are held throughout the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and at many overseas centres; they are unique in the graded examinations sector in being awarded by a university, ensuring the added quality assurance of the University of West London (UWL), who is the issuer of certificates. Graded and diploma exams in most subjects are regulated by Ofqual and other UK regulators. Candidates applying to UK universities through the UCAS system are eligible to claim UCAS points if they achieve a pass or higher at Grades 6 to 8 in a regulated subject.

### **What makes LCM Examinations distinctive**

LCME's graded and diploma qualifications make a distinctive contribution to education in music, drama and communication, because of the emphasis placed upon:

- creative thinking
- an encouragement to think technically and critically about the repertoire performed, and the opportunity to communicate this in practical examinations
- a distinctively broad stylistic range of tasks and repertoire, with a strong emphasis towards the acquisition and demonstration of skills and understandings that are of contemporary relevance to the performing arts
- the provision of assessment in areas not traditionally included within the scope of graded examinations
- the provision of flexible examination formats and arrangements

### **Syllabus objectives**

A course of study based on this syllabus is intended to provide:

- a balanced combination of performing skills, supported by knowledge and understanding
- an enduring love, enjoyment and understanding of the performing arts, from the perspective of both participants and audience
- the basis to develop relevant and usable skills and concepts
- skills in organisation, planning, problem solving and communication
- enhanced ability in acquiring the personal disciplines and motivation necessary for lifelong learning
- opportunities for mastery learning that are structured and directly related to the repertoire published for each grade
- opportunities for learning and assessment that are creatively challenging
- a progressive and unified assessment system, enabling candidates to plan and obtain an effective education in the arts, equipping candidates with added-value to enhance career routes, educational opportunities and decision-making

## 1.2 Syllabus validity

This syllabus is valid for Steps, Grades, Recital Grades, Performance Awards and Ensemble exams in Ukulele from Spring 2019 until further notice.

## 1.3 Changes to the syllabus

This syllabus replaces the Ukulele Syllabus (2014 until further notice), Ukulele Playing Exam Information Booklet (2014 until further notice), and Ukulele Ensemble Information Booklet (2015 until further notice).

These are now combined into one syllabus. Major changes to the syllabus are as follows:

- The levels Initial and Preliminary have been renamed Step 1 and Step 2.
- Live Performance Awards have been renamed Recital Grades.
- A Grade 5 qualification (Graded Exam, Recital Grade, Performance Award and Ensemble) has been added.
- The Level 5 Performance Award specification has been revised.

There are redesigned handbooks available for all levels; the content is unchanged and candidates with copies of the existing handbooks can still use these for the exams.

## 1.4 Exam options

The following is an overview of the solo graded examinations and performance awards contained in this syllabus:

	Grades	Recital Grades	Performance Awards (Filmed or Recorded)
<b>Rhythm Study</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Performance</b>	1 piece OR 1 additional rhythm study	1 piece OR 1 additional rhythm study	1 piece OR 1 additional rhythm study
<b>Free Choice Specialism</b>	1 piece: either own choice OR additional piece from the handbook OR additional rhythm study OR fingerstyle study (Grades 1 to 3 only)	2 pieces: either own choices OR additional pieces from the handbook OR additional rhythm studies OR fingerstyle study (Grades 1 to 3 only)	2 pieces: either own choices OR additional pieces from the handbook OR additional rhythm studies OR fingerstyle study (Levels 1 to 3 only)
<b>Prepared Accompaniment</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Musicianship</b>	✓	✗	✗
<b>Structure</b>	Grades 1 to 5	Levels 1 to 5	Levels 1 to 5
<b>Prerequisites</b>	✗	✗	✗
<b>Assessment</b>	Examination	Examination	Filmed: Video recording Recorded: Audio recording
<b>Grading</b>	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%
<b>Regulation</b>	✓	✗	✗

### Introductory examinations

LCME also offer two levels of introductory examinations in Ukulele: Step 1 and Step 2. The pass bands

are the same as for the graded examinations: Distinction (85–100% of the total marks available), Merit (75–84%) and Pass (65–74%). These exams are not regulated.

## 1.5 Exam entry

### Exam dates, locations and fees

Details of exam dates, locations, fees and how to book an exam are available on our website:

[lcme.uwl.ac.uk/enter](http://lcme.uwl.ac.uk/enter)

### Age groups and requirements for prior learning

LCM Examinations are open to all and there are no minimum age restrictions. There are no prerequisite qualifications required for entering any step or graded exam; candidates can enter at any level provided they have the required knowledge, skills and understanding.

### Exam durations

Step 1	Step 2	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
10 mins	10 mins	15 mins	15 mins	15 mins	20 mins	20 mins

### Marking

Qualifications are awarded by University of West London Qualifications (UWLQ). Exams are conducted by trained external examiners and are held at approved centres in the UK and overseas. Candidates will be assessed on their technical accomplishment, musicality, musical knowledge and communication. In awarding marks, examiners will take into account the extent to which each of these assessment domains is demonstrated within the individual exam components; the assessment criteria used by the examiners for graded examinations is given in Section 5: Assessment. A Pass in each individual exam component is not required to pass overall.

### Issue of results

A written report will be compiled for each examination. Candidates will be informed of the result of examinations as soon as possible. Results are available online within days and will be sent by post not later than four weeks after the examination date. Certificates for successful candidates are normally dispatched within eight weeks of the date of the examination, but very often they will be received sooner than this. This time is necessary to ensure that all results are properly standardised and have been checked by LCM Examinations.

### Reasonable adjustments and special considerations

Information on assessment, examination and entry requirements for candidates with specific needs is published in the Equality of Opportunity, Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration policy available on our website.

## **Enquiries, complaints and appeals**

Information on how to make an enquiry, complaint or appeal is published in the Enquiries and Appeals policy and the Complaints Procedure documents available on our website.

## **1.6 Exam regulations**

Full details of all general exam regulations are published in the Regulations and Information document available on our website.

## **1.7 Performance guidelines**

### **Instruments**

The syllabus caters for Soprano (standard), Concert and Tenor ukuleles that use standard GCEA tuning.

### **Use of music in the examination**

Candidates must use published editions of all music performed in the examination, whether published by LCME or by other publishers — legal downloads are acceptable. Candidates should ensure that they have obtained all the necessary music before submitting an entry. Where a candidate wishes to perform from memory, published editions of the music must still be available for the examiner's reference.

### **Repeats**

All repeats are to be observed at all grades.

### **Tuning**

For exam purposes instruments should be tuned to standard concert pitch (A=440Hz). The use of an electronic tuner or other tuning aid is permitted. The examiner will offer an E or A note to tune to on request.

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## 2. Summary of subject content

### 2.1 Introductory and graded examinations

Full information about each exam component is given in Section 4: Exam requirements.

#### Exam components

##### Component 1: Rhythm Study

##### Component 2: Performance

Option 1: Melody / Solo Piece

Option 2: Rhythm Study

##### Component 3: Free Choice Specialism

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Option 2: Melody / Solo Piece

Option 3: Rhythm Study

Option 4: Fingerstyle Study (Grades 1 to 3 only)

##### Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment

##### Component 5: Musicianship

#### Component weightings

Rhythm Study	Performance	Free Choice Specialism	Prepared Accompaniment	Musicianship
20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

### 2.2 Recital Grades

#### Exam components

The requirements for each exam component are the same as for the equivalent graded exam (see Section 4: Exam requirements) unless specified otherwise below.

##### Component 1: Rhythm Study

##### Component 2: Performance

Option 1: Melody / Solo Piece

Option 2: Rhythm Study

##### Component 3: Free Choice Specialism

Candidates select and perform two of the following, chosen from any mix of the options listed (including choosing both pieces from the same option if preferred).

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Option 2: Melody / Solo Piece

Option 3: Rhythm Study

Option 4: Fingerstyle Study (Grades 1 to 3 only)

## Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment

### Component weightings

Rhythm Study	Performance	Free Choice Specialism	Prepared Accompaniment
20%	20%	40%	20%

### Regulation

Please note, recital grades in ukulele are not currently regulated.

## 2.3 Performance Awards

### Summary

There are two types of performance award:

- **Filmed:** candidates submit a video recording of their performance (a slightly higher standard of performance will be expected than for the equivalent live exam)
- **Recorded:** candidates submit an audio recording (a significantly higher standard of performance will be expected than for the equivalent live exam)

There are seven levels (Steps 1 and 2, Levels 1 to 5), each equivalent to the standard of the graded exams (Performance Award Level 3 is equivalent to Grade 3). Performances are assessed by trained LCM examiners, using the same standards and criteria as are used for graded exams (Section 5: Assessment), offering candidates a reliable and independent assessment of their performance standard, while benefitting from the flexibility allowed by the submission process.

### Entry details

Candidates may enter for performance awards at any time; the standard closing dates are not applicable.

To find out how to enter, visit [lcme.uwl.ac.uk/enter](http://lcme.uwl.ac.uk/enter).

The procedure for issuing results and certificates for performance awards is as detailed for graded examinations (see Section 1.5: Exam entry).

### Exam components

The requirements for each exam component are the same as for the equivalent graded exam (see Section 4: Exam requirements) unless specified otherwise below.

#### Component 1: Rhythm Study

#### Component 2: Performance

Option 1: Melody / Solo Piece

Option 2: Rhythm Study

#### Component 3: Free Choice Specialism

Candidates select and perform two of the following, chosen from any mix of the options listed (including choosing both pieces from the same option if preferred).

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Option 2: Melody / Solo Piece

Option 3: Rhythm Study

Option 4: Fingerstyle Study (Grades 1 to 3 only)

#### **Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment**

Candidates perform an accompaniment to a melody played via a recording. The melody is chosen by the candidate from a selection in the handbook.

### **Component weightings**

<b>Rhythm Study</b>	<b>Performance</b>	<b>Free Choice Specialism</b>	<b>Prepared Accompaniment</b>
20%	20%	40%	20%

### **Requirements**

#### **Filmed Performance Awards**

Candidates should please note the following requirements:

1. Candidates must supply details of the pieces they are performing; this information should be provided in Section 4 of the entry form or on the upload work page on the website. Candidates are not required to submit scores of any pieces performed.
2. The camera must be of sufficient quality that the examiner will be able to see and hear the candidate's performance clearly enough to enable a reliable assessment to be made. The quality of the filming itself will not be part of the assessment.
3. The microphone must be of sufficient quality to allow assessment of all aspects of the performance, including tone quality, dynamic range etc.
4. Each piece should be filmed without edits.
5. Because of the opportunity for candidates to record multiple attempts and then submit their best take, the performance standard expected is slightly higher than for the equivalent grade.
6. If submitting a DVD, the disc must be in a format which will play on a standard DVD player and labeled clearly with the candidate's name. Candidates are advised to retain a copy in case of damage during transit. The DVD will not be returned.
7. The entry form and the upload work page on the website includes a declaration indicating that the performances were given by the candidate. This must be signed and dated by the candidate and by an adult witness (who may be the candidate's teacher).

#### **Recorded Performance Awards**

Candidates should please note the following requirements:

1. Candidates must supply details of the pieces they are performing; this information should be provided in Section 4 of the entry form or on the upload work page on the website. Candidates are not required to submit scores of any pieces performed.
2. Edits, overdubs and drop-ins are permitted. Where these are used the results should be seamless; where they are poorly executed and sound obvious, the marking may be adversely affected.
3. The microphone must be of sufficient quality to allow assessment of all aspects of the performance, including tone quality, dynamic range etc.
4. Because of the opportunity for candidates to record multiple attempts, use edits and overdubs, and then submit their best take, the performance standard expected is significantly higher than for the equivalent grade.

5. If submitting a CD, the disc must be in a format which will play on a standard CD player and labeled clearly with the candidate's name. Candidates are advised to retain a copy in case of damage during transit. The CD will not be returned.
6. The entry form and the upload work page on the website includes a declaration indicating that the performances were given by the candidate. This must be signed and dated by the candidate and by an adult witness (who may be the candidate's teacher).

## **Regulation**

Please note, performance awards in ukulele are not currently regulated.

## 3.1 Introductory examinations

### **Steps 1 and 2**

The musical material selected for these grades is of an elementary nature. Only the most basic chords and structures are used. Melodic and rhythmic material will be simple.

## 3.2 Graded examinations

### **Grades 1 and 2**

The musical material selected for these grades is of an essentially elementary nature. Only basic chords and structures are used. Melodic and rhythmic material will be relatively simple. Expectations of dynamics are limited to occasional use. The keys and chords required are limited to the least demanding examples. Technical accomplishment is a more important element of assessment than musicality, and expectations of musical communication are limited.

### **Grades 3 to 5**

The musical material selected for these grades is of a more demanding nature. Melodic and rhythmic material will be more complex than earlier grades. There will be expectations of clear phrasing. The range of keys and chords required is expanded in number and includes more taxing examples. Musicality is an increasingly important element of assessment in relation to technical accomplishment, and expectations of musical communication are higher.

## Step 1

### **Component 1: Rhythm Study**

**20 marks**

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

- Chords: C, F, G, Am
- Time signatures: 4/4

### **Component 2: Performance**

**20 marks**

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

#### **Option 1: Melody**

Candidates perform one of the melodies listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

When the Saints Go Marching In	C major
On Top of Old Smokey	C major
Michael Row the Boat Ashore	C major
Kumbaya	C major

#### **Option 2: Rhythm Study**

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

### **Component 3: Free Choice Specialism**

**20 marks**

Candidates should select either Option 1, 2, or 3.

#### **Option 1: Own Choice Piece**

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the handbook.

#### **Option 2: Melody**

Candidates can select and perform an additional melody from those provided in Component 2.

#### **Option 3: Rhythm Study**

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

### **Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment**

**20 marks**

Candidates perform an accompaniment to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner (either live or via a

recording). The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

### **Component 5: Musicianship**

**20 marks**

Candidates will be given four tests that involve identifying whether the second of two notes is higher or lower in pitch than the first note.

## **Step 2**

### **Component 1: Rhythm Study**

**20 marks**

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

- Chords: C, F, G, Am, Dm, C7, G7
- Time signatures: 3/4, 4/4

### **Component 2: Performance**

**20 marks**

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

#### **Option 1: Melody**

Candidates perform one of the melodies listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

This Old Man	C major
For He's a Jolly Good Fellow	C major
Worried Man Blues	F major
Aura Lea	F major

#### **Option 2: Rhythm Study**

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

### **Component 3: Free Choice Specialism**

**20 marks**

Candidates should select either Option 1, 2, or 3.

#### **Option 1: Own Choice Piece**

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the handbook.

### **Option 2: Melody**

Candidates can select and perform an additional melody from those provided in Component 2.

### **Option 3: Rhythm Study**

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

## **Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment**

**20 marks**

Candidates perform an accompaniment to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner (either live or via a recording). The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

## **Component 5: Musicianship**

**20 marks**

### **Pitch Tests**

Candidates will be given two tests that involve identifying whether the second of two notes played by the examiner is higher or lower in pitch than the first note.

### **Rhythm and Chord Tests**

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 1-bar rhythm pattern and identify the chord types in a progression as either all major or all minor.

# **Grade 1**

## **Component 1: Rhythm Study**

**20 marks**

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping; some rhythmic variation of the candidate's choosing is expected during the second playthrough. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

- Chords: C, F, G, A, D, Am, Dm, Gm, C7, G7, A7, E7
- Time signatures: 3/4, 4/4

## **Component 2: Performance**

**20 marks**

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

### **Option 1: Melody**

Candidates perform one of the melodies listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

The Bear Dance	D minor
The Warriors Return	D minor
Daisy Bell	G major
Oh, Susanna	D major

### **Option 2: Rhythm Study**

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

## **Component 3: Free Choice Specialism**

**20 marks**

Candidates should select either Option 1, 2, 3 or 4.

### **Option 1: Own Choice Piece**

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the handbook.

### **Option 2: Melody**

Candidates can select and perform an additional melody from those provided in Component 2.

### **Option 3: Rhythm Study**

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

### **Option 4: Fingerstyle Study**

Candidates perform the fingerstyle study from the handbook.

## **Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment**

**20 marks**

Candidates perform an accompaniment to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner (either live or via a recording). The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

## **Component 5: Musicianship**

**20 marks**

### **Aural Awareness**

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 1-bar rhythm pattern and identify chord types.

### **Musical Knowledge**

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures.

### **Knowledge of the Instrument**

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele and to identify the location of parts of the ukulele.

# Grade 2

## Component 1: Rhythm Study

20 marks

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping; some rhythmic variation of the candidate's choosing is expected during the second playthrough. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

- Chords: C, F, G, A, D, B $\flat$ , Am, Dm, Gm, Em, F $\sharp$ m, C7, G7, A7, E7, D7, Cmaj7, Gm7
- Time signatures: 3/4, 4/4

## Component 2: Performance

20 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

### Option 1: Melody

Candidates perform one of the melodies listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Autumn Lament	A minor
Home on the Range	F major
Drunken Sailor	E minor (dorian)
Galway Gallop	G major

### Option 2: Rhythm Study

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

## Component 3: Free Choice Specialism

20 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1, 2, 3 or 4.

### Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the handbook.

### Option 2: Melody

Candidates can select and perform an additional melody from those provided in Component 2.

### Option 3: Rhythm Study

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

### Option 4: Fingerstyle Study

Candidates perform the fingerstyle study from the handbook.

## Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment

20 marks

Candidates perform an accompaniment to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner (either live or via a recording). The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

## Component 5: Musicianship

20 marks

### Aural Awareness

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 1-bar rhythm pattern and identify chord types.

### Musical Knowledge

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures.

### Knowledge of the Instrument

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele and to identify the location of parts of the ukulele.

## Grade 3

### Component 1: Rhythm Study

20 marks

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping; some rhythmic variation of the candidate's choosing is expected during the second playthrough. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

- Chords: C, F, G, A, D, B $\flat$ , Am, Dm, Gm, Em, F $\sharp$ m, Bm, Fm, C7, G7, A7, E7, D7, B7, Cmaj7, Dmaj7, Gmaj7, Gm7, Em7, Edim7
- Time signatures: 3/4, 4/4, 6/8

### Component 2: Performance

20 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

#### Option 1: Solo piece

Candidates perform one of the pieces listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Lovely as Moonlight	C major
A Whale of a Time	A major
Atholl Highlanders	D major
Waltzing Matilda	F major

#### Option 2: Rhythm Study

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

### **Component 3: Free Choice Specialism**

**20 marks**

Candidates should select either Option 1, 2, 3 or 4.

#### **Option 1: Own Choice Piece**

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the handbook.

#### **Option 2: Solo piece**

Candidates can select and perform an additional piece from those provided in Component 2.

#### **Option 3: Rhythm Study**

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

#### **Option 4: Fingerstyle Study**

Candidates perform the fingerstyle study from the handbook.

### **Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment**

**20 marks**

Candidates perform an accompaniment to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner (either live or via a recording). The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

### **Component 5: Musicianship**

**20 marks**

#### **Aural Awareness**

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 1-bar rhythm pattern and identify chord types and time signatures of a chord progression.

#### **Musical Knowledge**

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures.

#### **Knowledge of the Instrument**

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele and to identify the location of parts of the ukulele.

## **Grade 4**

### **Component 1: Rhythm Study**

**20 marks**

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping; some rhythmic variation of the candidate's choosing is expected during the second playthrough. The types of chords and time signatures that will

occur at this grade are as follows:

- Chords: full/partial barre chords, higher position chords, chords in a range of voicings and a variety of other chord types are included
- Time signatures: 3/4, 4/4, 6/8

## **Component 2: Performance**

**20 marks**

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

### **Option 1: Solo piece**

Candidates perform one of the pieces listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Auld Lang Syne	F major
Troubadour	G minor
Walking in the Sun	G major
Greensleeves	G minor

### **Option 2: Rhythm Study**

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

## **Component 3: Free Choice Specialism**

**20 marks**

Candidates should select either Option 1, 2, or 3.

### **Option 1: Own Choice Piece**

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the handbook.

### **Option 2: Solo piece**

Candidates can select and perform an additional piece from those provided in Component 2.

### **Option 3: Rhythm Study**

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

## **Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment**

**20 marks**

Candidates perform an accompaniment to a melody (8 to 12 bars in length) played by the examiner (either live or via a recording). The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

## Component 5: Musicianship

20 marks

### Aural Awareness

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 1-bar rhythm pattern, identify chord types and identify the time signature of a chord progression.

### Musical Knowledge

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures. Candidates will also be asked questions about the dynamics, tempo, mood and style of the pieces performed.

### Knowledge of the Instrument

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele.

## Grade 5

### Component 1: Rhythm Study

20 marks

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using set rhythm patterns. The chart should be played through twice without stopping; some rhythmic variation of the candidate's choosing is expected during the second playthrough. The types of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

- Chords: full/partial barre chords, higher position chords, chords in a range of voicings and a variety of other chord types are included
- Time signatures: 3/4, 4/4, 6/8

### Component 2: Performance

20 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

#### Option 1: Solo piece

Candidates perform one of the pieces listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Jacob's Ladder	C major
Ka Makani Ka'iili Aloha	F major
Winnie's Waltz	G major
The Ten Penny Bit	C major (dorian)

#### Option 2: Rhythm Study

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

### Component 3: Free Choice Specialism

20 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1, 2, or 3.

#### Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece

or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the handbook.

### **Option 2: Solo piece**

Candidates can select and perform an additional piece from those provided in Component 2.

### **Option 3: Rhythm Study**

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

## **Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment**

**20 marks**

Candidates perform an accompaniment to a melody (8 to 12 bars in length) played by the examiner (either live or via a recording). The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

## **Component 5: Musicianship**

**20 marks**

### **Aural Awareness**

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 2-bar rhythm pattern, identify chord types and identify the time signature of a chord progression.

### **Musical Knowledge**

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures. Candidates will also be asked questions about the dynamics, tempo, mood and style of the pieces performed.

### **Knowledge of the Instrument**

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele.

## 5.1 Assessment domains

### Assessment objectives

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate mastery of the following.

**Technical accomplishment:** Accuracy of pitch and rhythm, and the ability to manipulate the instrument with respect to fluency, articulation, dexterity, tempo, clarity, dynamics and rhythmic invention.

**Musicality:** The ability to make sensitive and musical performance decisions, resulting in a sense of individual interpretative skill, so that the music is performed in a manner reflecting a degree of sensitivity and empathy, and an emerging musical personality; the ability to play with a sense of stylistic awareness.

**Musical Knowledge:** An understanding of the notation, including chord symbols and other musical signs/symbols; evidence of a sense of established performance practice and an understanding of the stylistic content.

**Communication:** The ability to engage the listener, and to communicate a sense of style and personality.

### Coverage of the assessment domains

The following table shows the assessment domains which apply within each exam component:

	Technical Accomplishment	Musicality	Musical Knowledge	Communication
Rhythm Study Performance Free Choice Specialism Prepared Accompaniment	✓	✓	✓	✓
Musicianship			✓	

### Approximate weighting of the assessment domains

The following table shows the approximate weighting of the relevant assessment domains within each component of the exam:

	Technical Accomplishment	Musicality	Musical Knowledge	Communication
Rhythm Study Performance Free Choice Specialism Prepared Accompaniment				
Steps, Grades 1 and 2	55%	10%	25%	10%
Grades 3 to 5	45%	15%	25%	15%
Musicianship			100%	

## 5.2 Attainment band descriptions

The guidelines below are not intended to be mutually exclusive, but should function interrelatedly. Thus for any particular attainment band, one or more criteria might exceed those specified, while one or more others might fail to meet the requirements. The specific criteria for each component of the examination are as follows.

	<b>Distinction</b> 85–100%	<b>Merit</b> 75–84%	<b>Pass</b> 65–74%	<b>Below Pass</b> 0–64%
<b>Rhythm Study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly accurate and rhythmically secure chord playing.</li> <li>Fluent and assured performance with a high level of clarity and technical control, with only small and very occasional lapses in any of these.</li> <li>The notated rhythm is accurately reproduced and, as the grades progress, musically effective rhythmic variations are demonstrated.</li> <li>As the grades progress, expressive qualities and some versatility are clearly displayed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accuracy, timing, clarity, fluency and technical control are generally secure, with occasional lapses.</li> <li>As the grades progress, the performance displays some confidence and musical expression.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accuracy and timing mostly secure, with some lapses in fluency, technical control and clarity.</li> <li>Musical expression may be limited.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious or numerous lapses in accuracy.</li> <li>Frequent lapses in timing, fluency, technical control and clarity.</li> <li>Limited evidence of musical expression and style.</li> </ul>
<b>Performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly accurate, rhythmically secure, fluent and assured performance with a high level of clarity and technical control, with only small and very occasional lapses in any of these.</li> <li>Secure understanding of the musical notation.</li> <li>As the grades progress, musically expressive qualities are clearly displayed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accuracy, timing, clarity, fluency and technical control are generally secure, with occasional lapses.</li> <li>As the grades progress, the performance displays some confidence and musical expression.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accuracy and timing mostly secure, with some lapses in fluency, technical control and clarity.</li> <li>Musical expression may be limited.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious or numerous lapses in accuracy.</li> <li>Frequent lapses in timing, fluency, technical control and clarity.</li> <li>Limited evidence of musical expression and style.</li> </ul>

	<b>Distinction</b> 85–100%	<b>Merit</b> 75–84%	<b>Pass</b> 65–74%	<b>Below Pass</b> 0–64%
<b>Free Choice Specialism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly accurate, rhythmically secure, fluent and assured performance with a high level of clarity and technical control, with only small and very occasional lapses in any of these.</li> <li>Secure understanding of the musical notation.</li> <li>As the grades progress, musically expressive qualities are clearly displayed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accuracy, timing, clarity, fluency and technical control are generally secure, with occasional lapses.</li> <li>As the grades progress, the performance displays some confidence and musical expression.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accuracy and timing mostly secure, with some lapses in fluency, technical control and clarity.</li> <li>Musical expression may be limited.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious or numerous lapses in accuracy.</li> <li>Frequent lapses in timing, fluency, technical control and clarity.</li> <li>Limited evidence of musical expression and style.</li> </ul>
<b>Prepared Accompaniment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly accurate and confident performance that relates very well to the melody, with only small and very occasional lapses in chord accuracy, fluency, timing or clarity.</li> <li>Stylistic awareness, inventiveness and creativity are clearly displayed as the grades progress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accuracy, timing, clarity, fluency and technical control are generally secure, with occasional lapses.</li> <li>The performance demonstrates some empathy with the melody.</li> <li>As the grades progress, the performance displays some confidence, stylistic interpretation and creativity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accuracy and timing mostly secure, with some lapses in fluency, technical control and clarity.</li> <li>Musical expression may be limited.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious or numerous lapses in accuracy.</li> <li>Frequent lapses in timing, fluency, technical control and clarity.</li> <li>Limited evidence of musical expression and style.</li> </ul>
<b>Musicianship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses were accurate and presented with confidence and clarity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses were mostly accurate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A sufficient degree of accuracy, containing some errors in places.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A variety of errors in the responses.</li> </ul>

## 5.3 Awards of Pass, Pass with Merit or Pass with Distinction

### Distinction (85–100%)

A candidate who achieves a Pass with Distinction will have offered a highly accurate, fluent and musical response in all or most of the components. They will have demonstrated secure technical accomplishment on their instrument, and will have shown evidence of excellent musicality. They will have demonstrated a thorough knowledge and understanding of topics as specified for the grade.

### Merit (75–84%)

A candidate who achieves a Pass with Merit will have offered an accurate, fluent and musical response in all or most of the components. They will have demonstrated a good standard of technical accomplishment on their instrument, and will have shown significant evidence of musicality. They will have demonstrated a largely assured knowledge and understanding of topics as specified for the grade. They will have communicated, through performance, some sense of engagement and understanding.

**Pass (65–74%)**

A candidate who achieves a Pass will have offered a mostly accurate, fluent and musical response in all or most of the components. They will have demonstrated an acceptable standard of technical accomplishment on their instrument, and will have shown some evidence of musicality. They will have demonstrated some knowledge and understanding of topics as specified for the grade. They will have communicated, through performance, a basic sense of understanding and ability to engage the listener.

**Below pass, upper level (55–64%)**

A candidate who achieves a mark in this band will have demonstrated some inaccuracy, lack of fluency, and lack of musicality in all or most of the components. They will not have demonstrated an acceptable standard of technical accomplishment on their instrument, nor will they have shown much evidence of musical instinct. Their knowledge and understanding of topics as specified for the grade will have been judged to be below the standard required to pass. They will have failed to communicate, through performance, any significant degree of understanding or ability to engage the listener.

**Below pass, lower level (0–54%)**

A candidate who achieves a mark in this band will have demonstrated significant inaccuracy, lack of fluency and lack of musicality in all or most of the components. Their standard of technical accomplishment on their instrument will have been judged as significantly below that required for the grade, and they will not have shown any significant evidence of sufficient musicality. Their knowledge and understanding of topics as specified for the grade will have been minimal in relation to the requirements of the grade. They will have failed to communicate, through performance, a sense of understanding or ability to engage the listener.

## 6. Regulated qualifications

### 6.1 Regulated qualification information

The table below shows the qualification number, title, Guided Learning Hours (GLH), Total Qualification Time (TQT) and credit value of each grade. The awarding organisation is University of West London Qualifications (UWLQ). Please contact us, or consult the Register of Regulated Qualifications: [register.ofqual.gov.uk](http://register.ofqual.gov.uk), for further details.

#### Graded examinations

Level	Qualification Number	Qualification Title	GLH	TQT	Credit
Grade 1	501/1985/0	UWLQ Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1)	12	60	6
Grade 2	501/2002/5	UWLQ Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2)	18	90	9
Grade 3	501/2004/9	UWLQ Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3)	18	120	12
Grade 4	501/2003/7	UWLQ Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 4)	24	150	15
Grade 5	501/2006/2	UWLQ Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 5)	24	180	18

### 6.2 RQF levels

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) has eight levels plus entry level. The table below shows the broad equivalences between UWLQ qualifications and other qualifications within the RQF and higher education.

RQF Level	UWLQ Qualification	Equivalent Standard
1	Grades 1, 2 and 3	GCSE Grades D to G
2	Grades 4 and 5	GCSE Grades A* to C
3	Grades 6, 7 and 8	A Level
4	DipLCM in Music Performance and Teaching	First year undergraduate degree module
5	ALCM in Music Performance and Teaching	Second year undergraduate degree module
6	LLCM in Music Performance and Teaching	Final year undergraduate degree module
7	FLCM in Music Performance	Masters degree module

## 7.1 Information and general guidelines

### Ensemble size

The minimum number of ukulele players that can enter together for an ensemble exam is two. There is no maximum number.

### Exam types and format

Ukulele ensembles can enter for graded exams and performance awards; the exam components are identical for both. Performance awards can be submitted at any time of the year — details on how to enter and submit a filmed or recorded performance award can be found in Section 2.3: Performance Awards.

### Exam options

The following is an overview of the ensemble graded examinations and performance awards contained in this syllabus:

	Ensemble exams	Performance Awards (Filmed or Recorded)
<b>Rhythm Playing</b>	1 rhythm study from the handbook OR 1 own choice piece	1 rhythm study from the handbook OR 1 own choice piece
<b>Prepared Accompaniment</b>	1 prepared accompaniment from the handbook OR 1 own choice accompaniment	1 prepared accompaniment from the handbook OR 1 own choice accompaniment
<b>Free Choice Pieces</b>	<b>Step 1, Step 2, Level 1:</b> 1 piece <b>Levels 2 to 5:</b> 2 pieces (own choice pieces OR additional rhythm playing pieces OR prepared accompaniments)	<b>Step 1, Step 2, Level 1:</b> 1 piece <b>Levels 2 to 5:</b> 2 pieces (own choice pieces OR additional rhythm playing pieces OR prepared accompaniments)
<b>Structure</b>	Steps 1 and 2 Levels 1 to 5	Steps 1 and 2 Levels 1 to 5
<b>Prerequisites</b>	x	x
<b>Assessment</b>	Examination	Filmed: Video recording Recorded: Audio recording
<b>Grading</b>	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%
<b>Regulation</b>	x	x

### Exam durations

Step 1	Step 2	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
20 mins	20 mins	20 mins	25 mins	25 mins	25 mins	30 mins

These timings include some allowance for entrance of candidates, adjustments of positioning, departure of candidates from the exam room etc. Where additional setting up time may be required (for instance for larger ensembles) candidates should liaise with LCME when submitting the exam entry.

## Marking and issue of results

Examiners will use the same assessment criteria as for solo graded exams; the assessment criteria used by the examiners for graded examinations is given in Section 5: Assessment. A Pass in each individual exam component is not required to pass overall. An ensemble certificate will be issued to each ensemble achieving the 65% pass mark or above and, in addition, similar individual certificates will be issued for each candidate within the successful ensemble.

## Additional information

One person within the ensemble must be designated to be in charge of the ensemble. This person should be the sole communicator with the examiner and should also be responsible for ensuring that the ensemble are all in position and ready to perform, and that the exam room is set up correctly in time for the scheduled exam start time.

## 7.2 Summary of subject content

### Exam components

Component 1: Rhythm Playing

Component 2: Prepared Accompaniment

Component 3: Free Choice Pieces

### Component weightings

Rhythm Playing	Prepared Accompaniment	Free Choice Pieces
30%	30%	40%

## 7.3 Exam requirements

### Component 1: Rhythm Playing

**30 marks**

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

#### Option 1: Rhythm Study

Each ukulele grade handbook provides a choice of four chord charts with a notated rhythm pattern. Ensembles perform one of these charts together, using the notated rhythm pattern provided. The chord chart should be played through twice without stopping. From Grade 1 onwards, some rhythmic variation of the notated rhythm pattern of the ensemble's own choosing is expected during the second playthrough. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at each grade are listed in Section 4: Exam requirements.

#### Option 2: Free Choice Rhythm Playing

Ensembles perform a piece of their own choosing. The piece can be from any style of music and the performance should be of the rhythm playing that accompanies the piece. Although it is not compulsory, the ensemble performance for this option can include a melody, sung or played live (on any instrument),

but only the ukulele rhythm playing, and its empathy with any melody, will be assessed. When selecting an own choice piece, ensembles should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and chordal range to the rhythm studies in the handbook. The piece should not exceed 3 minutes in duration.

## **Component 2: Prepared Accompaniment**

**30 marks**

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

### **Option 1: Prepared Accompaniment**

Each ukulele grade handbook provides a choice of three melodies with chord charts. Ensembles select one of these tunes and play a suitable chordal accompaniment. The selected tune can be played via the audio recording provided with the handbook or, if preferred, a member of the ensemble can play the melody (although only the accompaniment will be assessed). The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

### **Option 2: Prepared Accompaniment of a Free Choice Melody**

Ensembles can select a melody of their own choosing to accompany. The ensemble can perform either a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment, or a combination of both within the ensemble. The melody can be either sung or played live (on any instrument), but only the ukulele accompaniment playing, and its empathy with any melody, will be assessed. When selecting an own choice piece, ensembles should ensure that the accompaniment performance is of at least a similar range and standard to the prepared accompaniment chord charts presented in the handbook. The accompaniment should not exceed 3 minutes in duration.

## **Component 3: Free Choice Pieces**

**40 marks**

Step 1, Step 2 and Grade 1: Ensembles select and perform one piece from the options listed below. The piece should not exceed 3 minutes in duration.

Grades 2 to 5: Ensembles select and perform two pieces chosen from any mix of the options listed below, including choosing both pieces from the same option if preferred. The maximum duration of the performance of both pieces should be 7 minutes.

### **Option 1: Free Choice Piece**

Ensembles can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. The piece can be in the format of an accompaniment to a melody (the accompaniment can be either strummed or fingerstyle, or a combination of both within the ensemble) OR a combination of rhythm playing and melody, with the melody being played on ukulele by at least one member of the ensemble. When selecting an own choice piece, ensembles should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and range to the rhythm studies and/or melodies in the handbook.

### **Option 2: Rhythm Playing**

Ensembles can select and perform an additional prepared accompaniment from either option outlined in Component 1 (Rhythm Playing).

### **Option 3: Prepared Accompaniment**

Ensembles can select and perform an additional prepared accompaniment from either option outlined in Component 2 (Prepared Accompaniment).