

London College of Music Examinations

Acoustic Guitar

Requirements for Recorded Exams:
Steps & Grades 1-8

Valid from:
Spring 2020 until further notice

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1. Overview

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, London College of Music Examinations is offering recorded alternatives in order to assess the work candidates have prepared for the Spring 2020 exam session.

The following exam alternatives provide the opportunity for the assessment of musical performance, whereby candidates upload a video file of their performance, rather than attending an examination venue. Performances are assessed by trained LCME examiners, using the same standards and criteria as are used for face-to-face, live exams. This offers candidates a reliable, independent, regulated assessment of their performance standard, while benefitting from the flexibility allowed by the submission process.

2. Entry Details

Candidates entered for a face-to-face exam may choose to switch to a recorded exam at no additional cost. Once candidates have recorded their exams, they can be uploaded via the LCME website. Please see *submission guidelines (page 5)* for details.

3 Recorded Exam Requirements

3.1 Pre-grade 1

A recorded submission alternative for candidates who have entered for Step exams

Component 1: Technical Work (25 marks)

Candidates play a selection of technical work. Please see the *Technical Work and Discussion Questions* document on the LCME website.

Component 2: Rhythm Study (25 marks)

Candidates perform one rhythm study, chosen from the studies in the LCME handbook.

Component 3: Melodies (50 marks)

Candidates perform two melodies. At least one must be chosen from the melodies contained in the LCME handbook or from the set list for the equivalent level syllabus of another accredited exam board. One of the melodies can be an own choice melody, provided it is of at least similar technical standard and duration to those within the handbook.

Weighting for examination components

Technical Work	Rhythm Study	Melodies
25 %	25 %	50 %

Assessment

Performances are assessed according to the same standards and criteria as for LCME's face-to-face exams. Refer to the details listed under Performance, in the section *How marks are awarded* in the relevant syllabus.

Submission

Please see *submission guidelines* (page 5)

3.2 Grades 1-8

A recorded submission alternative for candidates who have entered for graded exams (grades 1-8). Candidates who have entered for Recital Grades may transfer to this regulated recorded exam (please note the additional discussion component).

Component 1: Performance (50 marks)

Grades 1 & 2: One Rhythm Study AND either a Melody OR Fingerstyle Study

Grades 3-5: One Rhythm Study AND one Solo Piece

Grades 6-8: Two solo pieces

All pieces must be selected from the set list from the relevant LCME grade or from the set list for the equivalent grade syllabus of another accredited exam board. At grades 6, 7 and 8 one of the pieces may be a free choice piece.

Component 2: Technical Work, Accompaniment OR Performance (40 marks)

TWO of EITHER:

- **Performance of set Fingerboard Knowledge** (see *Technical Work and Discussion Requirements* on the LCME website for details).
- **Prepared Accompaniment:** Candidates should choose one of the accompaniment examples from the LCME Acoustic Guitar syllabus 2020 and play their chord accompaniment along to the audio recording of the melody. Melodies, chord charts and audio recordings of the melodies can be downloaded from LCME website.
- **Additional Melody OR Fingerstyle Study Or Piece:** The Melody and Solo Piece may be either chosen from the relevant handbook or free choice.

Component 3: Discussion (10 marks)

Set questions for each grade in response to the pieces the candidate has performed and their instrument. Candidates should present their responses orally before or after their performance. (see *Technical Work and Discussion Requirements* on the LCME website for details on the Discussion component).

Weighting for examination components

Performance 1	Performance 2	Technical Work/ Accompaniment/ Performance 3	Technical Work/ Accompaniment/ Performance 3	Discussion
25 %	25 %	20 %	20 %	10 %

Assessment

Performances are assessed according to the same standards and criteria as for LCME's graded exams. Refer to the details listed under Performance, in the section *How marks are awarded* in the relevant syllabus.

Regulation

LCME's recorded exams are regulated in England by Ofqual, and by the corresponding authorities in Wales (Qualifications Wales) and Northern Ireland (CCEA). They have been placed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at Levels 1, 2 and 3.

Submission

Please see *submission guidelines* (page 5).

4. Submission Guidelines

1. Music which is published with an accompaniment must be performed with that accompaniment. The accompaniment can be performed live on a piano/ keyboard or a backing track may be used.
2. Candidates must supply details of the pieces they are performing (titles and composers) verbally before each piece. Candidates are not required to submit scores of any pieces performed.
3. Each piece must be recorded in a single, uninterrupted take.
4. Performances must be recorded using a static camera, which should be positioned in such a way as to show the performer clearly.
5. The recording device's microphone must be of sufficient quality to allow assessment of all aspects of the performance, including tone quality, dynamic range, etc.
6. The microphone should be positioned in such a way as to ensure good sound balance between candidate and accompanist (if applicable).
7. When uploading a file to the website, the file must be either avi, flv, wmv, mov or mp4 format and should not exceed 150MB . The file must be labelled clearly with the candidate's name.
8. When completing the file upload on the LCME website, candidates must declare that the performances in the video are that of the candidate named on the submission.