

London College of Music Examinations

# Piano Recorded Exams

**Qualification specifications for:**  
Steps, Grades and Recital Grades

**Valid from:**  
2026 until further notice

updated 13.05.2026

This document was released on May 13, 2026

Piano Recorded Exam Requirements

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London College of Music Examinations  
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Piano Recorded Requirements 2026

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# 1. Information and general guidelines

# 1.1 Introduction

This document outlines the requirements for Recorded Grades and Recital Grades in Piano from Step 1 to Grade 8, including technical work, set repertoire, and discussion questions. For information about in-person exams, the full performance guidelines, assessment criteria, and the Popular Piano repertoire list, please refer to the [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#).

## Recorded Exams

Recorded exams provide the opportunity for the assessment of musical performance through the submission of a video recording, rather than attendance at an examination venue. Performances are assessed by trained LCME examiners using the same standards and criteria as for in-person examinations.

# 1.2 Validity

These specifications apply to Recorded Piano exams (Steps, Grades, and Recital Grades) from 1 September 2026 until further notice. The 2021 syllabus and recorded requirements remain valid until 31 July 2027.

# 1.3 Exam entry

## Submission guidelines

Details of fees and how to book a digital exam are available on our website: [lcme.uwl.ac.uk](http://lcme.uwl.ac.uk)

## Recording requirements

Details of what to include and how to film and upload recorded exams are available on our website: [lcme.uwl.ac.uk](http://lcme.uwl.ac.uk)

## Age groups and requirements for prior learning

LCME graded exams are open to all and there are no minimum age restrictions, however it is unlikely that candidates below the age of 12 will possess the musical maturity for success at grades 6 to 8. There are no prerequisite qualifications required for entering any exam; candidates can enter at any level provided they have the required knowledge, skills and understanding.

## Equality, Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration

Information on assessment, examination and entry requirements for candidates with specific needs is published in the Equality, Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration policy available on our website: [lcme.uwl.ac.uk](http://lcme.uwl.ac.uk)

## 1.4 Exam options

	Grades	Recital Grades
<b>Technical Work</b>	✓	✗
<b>Performance</b>	3 pieces	4 or 5 pieces
<b>Discussion</b>	✓	Optional for Component 2
<b>Sight Reading</b>	✗	✗
<b>Keyboard Harmony Test</b>	✗	✗
<b>Aural Tests</b>	✗	✗
<b>Structure</b>	Grades 1 to 8	Grades 1 to 8
<b>Prerequisites</b>	✗	✗
<b>Assessment</b>	Digital Recorded	Digital Recorded
<b>Grading</b>	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%
<b>Regulation</b>	✓	✓
<b>UCAS points</b>	Grades 6 to 8	Grades 6 to 8

### Introductory examinations

LCME also offers two levels of introductory examinations in Piano: 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 by Ofqual.

## 1.5 Assessment and results

### Assessment

Exams are assessed according to the same standards and criteria as for LCME's graded exams. Refer to the details listed in the assessment and regulations section in the [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#).

### Marking

Qualifications are awarded by the University of West London (UWL). Exams are conducted by trained examiners. Candidates will be assessed on their technical accomplishment, musical knowledge, musicality and communication. In awarding marks, examiners will take into account the extent to which each of these assessment objectives is demonstrated within each exam component.

### Issue of results

Candidates will be informed of the result of examinations as soon as possible. Results are available soon after the examination and certificates for successful candidates are normally

dispatched within eight weeks of the date of the examination.

## Enquiries, complaints and appeals

Information on how to make an enquiry, complaint or appeal is published in the relevant policies available on our website: [lcmewwl.ac.uk](https://lcmewwl.ac.uk)

## Exam regulations

Full details of all general exam regulations are published in the Regulations and Information document available on our website: [lcmewwl.ac.uk](https://lcmewwl.ac.uk)

# 1.6 Performance guidelines

Refer to the relevant details listed in the [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#).

# 1.7 Publications

The following materials are available to purchase or download:

## Physical publications

### • LCME repertoire handbooks


Hard-copy handbooks containing the repertoire needed for each level are available from all major retailers: [click here to purchase](#)

### • Piano Anthology series


Further repertoire for Lists B and C, across all grades, can be found in the piano anthology series of books available from all major retailers: [click here to purchase](#)

## Digital publications

### • LCME repertoire handbooks

Piano 2026 repertoire handbooks are also available as PDF downloads to purchase from digital retailers: [click here to download](#) 

### • Technical Work material

A free booklet with scales, arpeggios and other sample materials for Component 1 (Technical Work) for all grades is available on the LCME website: [click here to download](#) 

### • Popular Piano repertoire

For a list with links to purchase, see the [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#).

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# 2. Recorded Exam requirements



## 2.1 Recorded Grade Exams

This overview outlines the components that candidates will encounter in the exam. For detailed information, please refer to the requirements on the following pages.

### Recorded Steps 1 and 2

#### • Component 1: Scales and Exercises

Performance of the scales and exercises listed as per the requirements of the grade.

#### • Component 2: List A Pieces

Performance of any two of the pieces from List A.

#### • Component 3: List B Pieces

Performance of any two of the pieces from List B.

#### Component weightings

Exercises	List A Pieces	List B Pieces
30%	30%	40%

### Recorded Grades 1–8

#### • Component 1: Technical Work

- Option 1: Scales and arpeggios
- Option 2: Study

#### • Component 2: Performance

Performance of three pieces, one from each of Lists A, B and C, with up to two substitutions from the Popular Piano list. At least one piece must be from the LCME Piano Handbook 2026.

#### • Component 3: Discussion

The candidate will respond to a given set of topics about the music performed including instrument specific knowledge and techniques applied in the performance, as appropriate to the grade.

#### Component weightings

Technical Work	Performance 1	Performance 2	Performance 3	Discussion
15%	25%	25%	25%	10%

## 2.2 Recorded Recital Grades

### Recorded Recital Grades 1–8

Recital grades are performance-focused graded exams, using the same repertoire and supplementary test requirements, with the format set out below.

#### • Component 1: Performance

Candidates perform four pieces selected from the set lists (A, B and C) for the equivalent grade. There is no requirement to select pieces from different lists. Where a study is listed for the equivalent grade, this may not be included in the programme. Candidates may select any number of pieces from the Popular Piano repertoire in the [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#).

#### • Component 2: Performance or Discussion

Candidates choose one of the following options:

- Option 1: Performance of an additional piece from any list of the same grade, including the Popular Piano repertoire or an own choice piece of similar standard
- Option 2: Discussion, as per the corresponding grade

#### Component weightings

Performance 1	Performance 2	Performance 3	Performance 4	Performance 5
20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

If discussion is selected in component 2 weightings are as follows:

Performance 1	Performance 2	Performance 3	Performance 4	Discussion
22%	22%	22%	22%	12%

#### 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 and attract UCAS points accordingly.



# Step 1

A handbook containing all the required materials for this level is available to purchase in both physical and digital formats: [Piano Handbook 2026: Step 1 \(LCME\)](#) | [digital download](#)

## Component 1: Scales and Exercises

**30 marks**

Performance from memory of the following five-finger scales:

- C and G major; A minor: over a perfect 5th, hands separately and together

Performance of any four of the following exercises:

- Hop and Jump
- Magic Mirror
- Raspberry Smoothie
- Bamboo Breeze
- Popcorn Poppin'
- Mysterious Echo
- Woodpecker
- Footsteps

## Component 2: List A Pieces

**30 marks**

Performance of any two of the following:

- Kaeru No Uta
- Blueberry Jam
- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- Seadog Shanty
- Cloudfall
- Calypso Song

## Component 3: List B Pieces

**40 marks**

Performance of any two of the following:

- Return of the Knights
- Tabby Cat Blues
- Ode to Joy
- Lilly's Lullaby
- Mysterious Path
- Pineapple Island

## Step 2

A handbook containing all the required materials for this level is available to purchase in both physical and digital formats: [Piano Handbook 2026: Step 2 \(LCME\)](#) | [digital download](#)

### Component 1: Scales and Exercises

**30 marks**

Performance from memory of the following scales:

- C, G and D major; A harmonic minor: one octave, hands separately and together

Performance of any four of the following exercises:

- Jumping Jacks
- Back Chat
- Seesaw
- Cascade
- The Detective
- Call and Response
- Evening Song
- Quaver Chase

### Component 2: List A Pieces

**30 marks**

Performance of any two of the following:

- Little Clouds Lullaby
- Lazy Day Blues
- Étude in C major
- Hornpipes Ahoy!
- Ruffs and Reef
- Make a Wish

### Component 3: List B Pieces

**40 marks**

Performance of any two of the following:

- Aura Lee
- Rock 'n' Bread Roll!
- Rainbow Waltz
- The King's Caper
- Le baptême
- Minuetto in C major

# Grade 1

## Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates prepare either Option 1: Scales and Arpeggios, or Option 2: Study.

### Option 1: Scales and arpeggios

All are to be performed ascending and descending, from memory. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
<b>Scales</b>		
C or G major D major A or D minor (harmonic or melodic)	1 octave, ♩ = 69	hands together left hand right hand
<b>Contrary motion scale</b>		
C major	1 octave, ♩ = 69	hands together
<b>Broken chords</b>		
C major A minor	1 octave, ♩ = 100	right hand left hand
<b>Arpeggios</b>		
C major A minor	1 octave, ♩ = 100	left hand right hand

A free digital booklet with materials for this component is available on the LCME website:

[click here to download](#) 

### Option 2: Study

Pam Wedgwood    **The Snake Charmer**




Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 1 (LCME) |  digital download

## Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. Up to two pieces may be substituted with selections of the same grade from the Popular Piano list (see [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#)). In addition, further List B and List C options can be found in the *Piano Anthology series (LCME)* for the appropriate grade and list. At least one piece must be from the *Piano Handbook 2026 (LCME)*.

### List A

Composer	Title	Publication
Ignatius Sancho	Les Matadors	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 1 (LCME)    digital download
Samuel Arnold	Gigue	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 1 (LCME)    digital download
Béla Bartók	Conversation III & IV	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 1 (LCME)    digital download
Georges Bizet	March of the Toreadors	Just For Kids... The Superhero Piano Book ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
George Frideric Handel	See the Conquering Hero	Just For Kids... The Superhero Piano Book ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Barbara Kreader	Rustic Dance	Piano Lessons Book 4 ( <i>Hal Leonard</i> )
Minuet in C	The Highlander	Piano Adventures Literature Book 1 ( <i>Hal Leonard</i> )
Alexander Reinagle	Minuet in C	24 Short and Easy Pieces ( <i>Schott</i> )
Pam Wedgwood	The Detective	Piano For Fun ( <i>Faber Music</i> )

### List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Victoria Proudler	The Wellerman	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 1 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Florence Price	A Morning Sunbeam	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 1 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Robert Schumann	Little Piece	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 1 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Mike Cornick	Waltz	Jazz After Hours (Universal Edition)
James W Johnson arr Claibourne	Lift Every Voice and Sing	Piano Music of Black Composers Level 1 (Hal Leonard)
Andrew Lloyd Webber	Close Every Door	Graded Piano Player Book 1 (Faber Music)
Karen Marshall	Eve's Fiddle	Get Set! Piano Tutor Book 2 (Collins)
Alan Menken	Beauty and the Beast	Gradebusters Piano Mixtape Grades 1–5 (Hal Leonard)
Fritz Spindler	Song without Words	The Intermediate Pianist Book 1 (Faber Music)

### List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Keith Beniston	Moody Boogie	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 1 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Alan Gritton	Creepy Crawly	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 1 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Christopher Norton	Stairway	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 1 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Alison Bowditch	Feeling Lucky	Upbeat For Piano Level 1 (Subject Publications)
Katrina Fox	Struttin' his Fluff	Pawprints (bhpiano)
Roman Ledenev	A Jolly Game	The Russian School of Piano Playing Vol 1 (Boosey & Hawkes)
Karen Marshall	The Sorcerer's Mirror	Get Set! Piano Pieces Book 2 (Collins)
Victoria Proudler	Sunshine Stroll	Piano Grades are Go! Initial to Grade 1 (EVC)
John Williams arr Walker	Hedwig's Theme (Harry Potter)	Just For Kids... The Magic Piano Book (Faber Music)

## Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you performed today is your favourite and why?
- For each piece you have played, describe the mood of the piece.
- Show and explain examples of any three of the following from the pieces you have played: pitches of individual notes (including accidentals), rhythmic values of notes and rests, key signature, time signature, accidentals, dynamics, articulation
- Name different parts of the instrument (keys, pedals, etc.), or for a digital piano, settings, controls, speaker, etc.)
- Describe and demonstrate good posture (sitting position, height of piano bench, distance from keys, basic hand position)
- Demonstrate how to achieve dynamic variation on the piano

# Grade 2

## Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates prepare either Option 1: Scales and Arpeggios, or Option 2: Study.

### Option 1: Scales and arpeggios

All are to be performed ascending and descending, from memory. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.


Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
<b>Scales</b>		
F major D or A major A or E minor (harmonic or melodic) D minor (harmonic or melodic)	2 octaves, ♩ = 72	left or right hand hands together hands together hands together
<b>Contrary motion scales</b>		
G major	2 octaves, ♩ = 72	hands together
<b>Broken chords</b>		
G major E minor	1 octave, ♩ = 40	left hand right hand
<b>Arpeggio</b>		
C major A minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 40	left hand right hand

A free digital booklet with materials for this component is available on the LCME website:

[click here to download](#) 

### Option 2: Study

Félix Le Couppey Study 1 from L'Alphabet Op17




Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 2 (LCME) |  digital download

## Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. Up to two pieces may be substituted with selections of the same grade from the Popular Piano list (see [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#)). In addition, further List B and List C options can be found in the *Piano Anthology series (LCME)* for the appropriate grade and list. At least one piece must be from the *Piano Handbook 2026 (LCME)*.

### List A

Composer	Title	Publication
W A Mozart	German Dance, Sleighride	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 2 (LCME)    digital download
Friedrich Burgmüller	Arabesque Op 100 No 2	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 2 (LCME)    digital download
Elisabetta de Gambarini	Minuetto	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 2 (LCME)    digital download
J S Bach	Musette in D BWV Anh 126	EPTA UK Teachers' Choice Piano Collection Book 1 (Faber Music)
Anonymous	Allegro in A minor	Diverse: Studio 21 2nd Series Vol 1 (Universal Edition)
Glenda Austin	Hayride Howdown	The Willis Student Recital Collection (Willis Music)
George Frideric Handel	La Rejouissance	The Foundation Pianist Book 2 (Faber Music)

### List A

Joseph Haydn	Gipsy Dance	Faber Music Piano Anthology ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Jean-Philippe Rameau	Menuet en Rondeau	Menuet en Rondeau ( <i>Hal Leonard</i> )

### List B

Composer	Title	Publication
M H "Mel" Bonis	Madrigal	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 2 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> digital download
Carl Reinecke	Prelude	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 2 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> digital download
Cornelius Gurlitt	Night Journey	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 2 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> digital download
William Gillock	Moonlight	The Willis Student Recital Collection ( <i>Willis Music</i> )
Lionel Bart	Where is Love? (Oliver)	Graded Piano Player Book 1 ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Elissa Milne	Lost	Little Peppers ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Lin-Manuel Miranda	How Far I'll Go (Moana)	Gradebusters Grade 2 - Piano ( <i>Hal Leonard</i> )
Lynn Freeman Olson	Cloud Paintings	The Willis Student Recital Collection ( <i>Willis Music</i> )
Dobrinka Taneva	The Garden	Mosaic Vol 2 ( <i>Musica Ferrum</i> )

### List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Glenda Austin	Jivin' Around	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 2 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> digital download
Dmitri Kabalevsky	Folk Dance	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 2 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> digital download
Mona Rejino	Clowns on Unicycles	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 2 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> digital download
Gustav Holst	Mars, the Bringer of War	The Foundation Pianist Book 2 ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Frank Mills	Music Box Dancer	Romantic Pop Piano Collection 1-5 ( <i>Bosworth</i> )
Pam Wedgwood	Tarantella	Up-Grade! Piano Grades 1-2 ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Sergei Prokofiev arr Barratt	The Cat from Peter and the Wolf	Grade by Grade Piano Grade 2 ( <i>Boosey &amp; Hawkes</i> )
Teresa Richert	On the Move	Just Kidding ( <i>Teresa Richert</i> )
Medieval Christmas carol arr Blackwell	Gaudete	The Foundation Pianist Book 2 ( <i>Faber Music</i> )

## Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you performed today is your favourite and why?
- For each piece you have played, describe the mood of the piece
- Show and explain examples of any three of the following from the pieces you have played: key signature, time signature, accidentals, dynamics, articulation, phrases, ornaments, any additional markings
- Name different parts of the instrument (keys, pedals, etc.), or for a digital piano, settings, controls, speaker, etc.)
- Describe and demonstrate good posture (sitting position, height of piano bench, distance from keys, basic hand position)
- Demonstrate how to achieve dynamic variation on the piano

# Grade 3

## Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates prepare either Option 1: Scales and Arpeggios, or Option 2: Study.

### Option 1: Scales and arpeggios

All are to be performed ascending and descending, from memory. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
<b>Scales</b>		
E or F major Bb or Eb major G minor or C minor (harmonic or melodic)	2 octaves, ♩ = 84	hands together, <i>forte</i> hands together, <i>piano</i> hands together, <i>forte</i>
<b>Contrary motion scales</b>		
Eb major	2 octaves, ♩ = 84	hands together, <i>piano</i> and <i>forte</i>
<b>Broken chords</b>		
F major D minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 72	left hand, <i>forte</i> right hand, <i>forte</i>
<b>Arpeggios</b>		
G or D major E minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 72	left hand, <i>forte</i> right hand, <i>forte</i>


A free digital booklet with materials for this component is available on the LCME website:

[click here to download](#) 

### Option 2: Study

Carl Czerny

Op 261 No 22




Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 3 (LCME) |  [digital download](#)

## Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. Up to two pieces may be substituted with selections of the same grade from the Popular Piano list (see [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#)). In addition, further List B and List C options can be found in the *Piano Anthology series (LCME)* for the appropriate grade and list. At least one piece must be from the *Piano Handbook 2026 (LCME)*.

### List A

Composer	Title	Publication
Muzio Clementi	Allegro	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 3 (LCME)    <a href="#">digital download</a>
Anna Robinson	Unleashed	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 3 (LCME)    <a href="#">digital download</a>
Carl Reinecke	Vivace	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 3 (LCME)    <a href="#">digital download</a>
Anna Robinson	Sunrise Walk (Bark Prelude)	Pooches at the Piano ( <i>Flying Ivories Music</i> )
Alexander Goedicke	Sonatina in C major Op 36 No 20	60 Simple Piano Pieces for Beginners ( <i>Michael Kravchuk</i> )
J S Bach	Menuet in G Minor BWV Anh 115	Menuet in G Minor ( <i>Schirmer</i> )
Albert Loeschhorn	Study in F Op 65 No 25	Real Repertoire Studies Grades 2-4 ( <i>Faber Music</i> )

### List A

Charles Mayer	Study in A Minor Op 340 No 2	Best of Grade 3 Piano ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Teresa Richert	Sniffing Around	The Puppy Inventions - Intermediate Piano Solos ( <i>Red Leaf Piano Works</i> )

### List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Friedrich Burgmüller	Sighing	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 3 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Jakub Metelka	Snowflake	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 3 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Elena Kats-Chernin	Eliza's Aria	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 3 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Mike Cornick	Blues in Two	Best of Grade 3 Piano ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Trad arr Johnson	Hand Drum Song	Chinese Folk Songs Collection ( <i>Hal Leonard</i> )
Adele/Greg Kurstin arr Keveren	Water Under the Bridge	Water Under the Bridge ( <i>Hal Leonard</i> )
Carolyn C Setliff	Full of Grace	The Willis Student Recital Collection ( <i>Willis Music</i> )
Nikki Iles	Willow	Best of Grade 3 Piano ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Camille Saint-Saëns	L'éléphant	Carnival of the Animals ( <i>Schott Music Digital</i> )

### List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Heather Hammond	Blast Off	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 3 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
John McLeod	Dragon Dance	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 3 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Nannie Louise Wright	The Banjo	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 3 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Béla Bartók	Dance Song	For Children ( <i>Boosey &amp; Hawkes</i> )
Mikhail Glinka	Mazurka in C	Mazurka in C major ( <i>Michael Kravchuk</i> )
W A Mozart	Presto in Bb K15 II	Succeeding with the Masters 2 ( <i>FJH Music Company</i> )
Pam Wedgwood	Funk it!	Easy Jazzin' About ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Robert Schumann	The Wild Horsemen Op 68 No 8	Music through Time Book 2 ( <i>OUP</i> )
Melanie Spanswick	Woman in White	Ghostly Piano Tales ( <i>Schott</i> )

## Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- For each piece you have played, describe the mood or character of the piece using appropriate descriptive words, and identify if there are any contrasts of moods.
- Show and explain examples of any three of the following from the pieces you have played: key signature, time signature, accidentals, dynamics, articulation, phrases, ornaments, any additional markings
- Name different parts of the instrument (keys, pedals, etc.), or for a digital piano, settings, controls, speaker, etc.)
- Demonstrate how to achieve staccato and legato touch on the piano

# Grade 4

## Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates prepare either Option 1: Scales and Arpeggios, or Option 2: Study.

### Option 1: Scales and arpeggios

All are to be performed ascending and descending, from memory. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
<b>Scales</b>		
C or B major Ab or Db major B or F#minor (harmonic or melodic) F minor (harmonic or melodic)	2 octaves, ♩ = 96	hands together, <i>forte</i> hands together, <i>piano</i> hands together, <i>forte</i> hands together, <i>piano</i>
<b>Contrary motion scales</b>		
G or D major A harmonic minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 96	hands together, <i>forte</i> hands together, <i>piano</i>
<b>Chromatic scales</b>		
Beginning on any note	2 octaves, ♩ = 96	left or right hand, <i>forte</i>
<b>Chromatic contrary motion scales</b>		
Beginning on D or Ab	2 octaves, ♩ = 96	hands together, <i>piano</i>
<b>Broken chords</b>		
C major A minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 76	left hand, <i>forte</i> right hand, <i>forte</i>
<b>Arpeggios</b>		
A or E major Bb or Eb major D or G minor F# minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 76	hands together, <i>forte</i> left hand, <i>forte</i> left hand, <i>forte</i> left hand, <i>forte</i>

A free digital booklet with materials for this component is available on the LCME website:

[click here to download](#) 

### Option 2: Study

Louise Farrenc Étude, Op 50 No 1



Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 4 (LCME) |  digital download

## Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. Up to two pieces may be substituted with selections of the same grade from the Popular Piano list (see [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#)). In addition, further List B and List C options can be found in the *Piano Anthology series (LCME)* for the appropriate grade and list. At least one piece must be from the *Piano Handbook 2026 (LCME)*.

### List A

Composer	Title	Publication
J S Bach	Invention 1 in C	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 4 (LCME)    digital download
Georg Benda	Sonatina III in A minor	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 4 (LCME)    digital download
Henry Purcell	Rondeau	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 4 (LCME)    digital download

### List A

Melody Bober	The Chase	The Willis Student Recital Collection ( <i>Willis Music</i> )
Cornelius Gurlitt	Impromptu Op 224 No 5	Hours With The Masters Book 2 Grade 3 ( <i>Hal Leonard</i> )
Domenico Scarlatti	Sonata in G Kk391 L79	Domenico Scarlatti Sonata in G ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Robert Schumann	Sonata in G Op 118 No 1 1st movt	Intermediate Piano Sonata Collection ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Bernard Stevens	Syncopation	Five by Ten Grade 3 ( <i>Lengnick</i> )
Daniel Gottlob Türk	Gigue	Keith Snell Piano Repertoire Baroque & Classical Level 4 ( <i>Kjos Music Company</i> )

### List B

Composer	Title	Publication
George Gershwin	Embraceable You	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 4 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> digital download
Gennary Karganoff	Valse Miniature	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 4 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> digital download
Traditional arr Önaç	Deep River	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 4 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> digital download
Béla Bartók	Romance, Sz 42 II:19	For Children Vol 2 ( <i>Boosey &amp; Hawkes</i> )
Heather Hammond	Upon Reflection	EPTA Teachers' Choice Piano Collection 1 ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Helen Madden	Returning	Jazz and Contemporary Pieces for Piano Volume 1 ( <i>Clifton Edition</i> )
Jakub Metelka	Little Nocturne	Modern Piano Studies ( <i>Bärenreiter</i> )
Igor Stravinsky	Larghetto	Les Cinq Doigts No 4 ( <i>Chester Music</i> )
Sam Wedgwood	Follow the Wind	Sam Wedgwood's Project Piano Ballads Book 3 (EVC)

### List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Angeline Bell	Mango Merengue	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 4 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> digital download
Dennis Alexander	El Zapateado	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 4 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> digital download
William Gillock	Journey in the Night	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 4 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> digital download
June Armstrong	Pegasus	Stars: Fourteen Constellations ( <i>Pianissimo Publishing</i> )
Malcolm Arnold	Giants	8 Children's Pieces for Piano ( <i>Queen's Temple Publications</i> )
Eric Baumgartner	Goblin Dance	The Willis Student Recital Collection ( <i>Willis Music</i> )
Louise Chamberlain	Tickety-Boo	Step it up! ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Elena Gnesina	The Spinning Top	Her Story: The Piano Collection ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Martha Mier	Mr Trumpet Man	Jazz, Rags & Blues 4 ( <i>Alfred Music</i> )

## Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- For each piece you have performed, give basic details of the composer and/or artists associated with the music, including their nationality and approximate dates
- For each piece you have performed, discuss your approach to learning the piece and identify any particular difficulties (musical or technical) which were encountered
- Show and explain examples of any three of the following from the pieces you have played: key signature, time signature, accidentals, dynamics, articulation, phrases, ornaments, intervals up to and including an octave by numerical value only, any additional markings
- Name another instrument in the keyboard family and describe some similarities and differences with the piano (dynamic capabilities, sound production, range, action, etc.)

# Grade 5

## Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates prepare either Option 1: Scales and Arpeggios, or Option 2: Study.

### Option 1: Scales and arpeggios

All are to be performed ascending and descending, from memory. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
<b>Scales</b>		
G or B major Bb or F# major C# or Bb harmonic minor A, D or C melodic minor G major E or Ab major	2 octaves, ♩ = 108	hands together, <i>forte</i> , <i>legato</i> hands together, <i>piano</i> , <i>legato</i> hands together, <i>forte</i> , <i>legato</i> hands together, <i>forte</i> left hand, <i>forte</i> , <i>staccato</i> right hand, <i>piano</i> , <i>staccato</i>
<b>Contrary motion scales</b>		
A, B or F major E, D or C harmonic minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 108	hands together, <i>forte</i> , <i>legato</i> hands together, <i>piano</i> , <i>legato</i>
<b>Chromatic scales</b>		
Beginning on any note	2 octaves, ♩ = 108	hands together, <i>forte</i> , <i>legato</i>
<b>Chromatic contrary scales</b>		
Beginning on C/E or F#/A#	2 octaves, ♩ = 108	Hands together, <i>forte</i> , <i>legato</i>
<b>Broken chords</b>		
G major E minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 90	left hand, <i>forte</i> right hand, <i>piano</i>
<b>Arpeggios</b>		
C or B major Ab or Db major C or B minor G# or C# minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 90	hands together, <i>forte</i> hands together, <i>piano</i> hands together, <i>forte</i> hands together, <i>piano</i>

A free digital booklet with materials for this component is available on the LCME website:

[click here to download](#) 

### Option 2: Study

Stephen Heller Study in A flat, Op 47/23

Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 5 (LCME) |  digital download

## Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. Up to two pieces may be substituted with selections of the same grade from the Popular Piano list (see [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#)). In addition, further List B and List C options can be found in the *Piano Anthology series (LCME)* for the appropriate grade and list. At least one piece must be from the *Piano Handbook 2026 (LCME)*.

### List A

Composer	Title	Publication
J S Bach	Prelude in D major	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 5 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Amy Beach	Promenade	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 5 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
G F Handel	Toccatina in G minor	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 5 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Muzio Clementi	Sonatina in C Op 36No 3, 1st movt	Sonatine Album (Peters)
Jacques Duphly	Rondeau	Duphly Pièces de Clavecin Vol 1 (Heugel)
Anthony Hedges	Concert Piece No 1	5 Concert Pieces (Universal Edition)
W A Mozart	Viennese Sonatina K439b No 2 Menuetto and Trio	6 Viennese Sonatinas K439b (Universal Edition AG)
Jean-Philippe Rameau	La Joyeuse Rondeau	La Joyeuse (Schott)
John Thompson	Scherzando in G major	The Willis Student Recital Collection (Willis Music)

### List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Stephen Schwartz	For Good	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 5 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Sergey Prokofiev	The Moon Strolls Over the Meadows	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 5 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Charles Camilleri	Cantilena	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 5 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Angeline Bell	Lounging by the Pool	My Seaside Notebook (Musica Ferrum Editions)
Ludovico Einaudi	Night	Ludovico Einaudi: Graded Pieces For Piano (Chester Music)
Naoko Ikeda	The Glacial Mermaid	The Willis Student Recital Collection (Willis Music)
Pam Wedgwood	My Valentine	After Hours Book 1 (Faber Music)
Robert Schumann	Von Fremden Landen und Menschen Op 15 No 1	Kinderszenen (Scenes from Childhood) Op 15 (Bärenreiter)
Ralph Vaughan Williams	A Winter Piece for Genia	Birthday Gifts (Stainer & Bell)

### List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Franz Schubert	Valse Sentimentale	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 5 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Dmitri Kabalevsky	Cavalerie	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 5 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Victoria Proudler	Turnabout Rag	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 5 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Eric Baumgartner	Bossa Rio	The Willis Student Recital Collection (Willis Music)
Friedrich Burgmüller	La Tarantella Op 100 No 20	25 Progressive Studies Op 100 (Schirmer)
Cécile Chaminade	Scherzo-Valse Op 126 No 6	Scherzo-Valse (Peters)
Brian Chapple	The Blue Pool	On the Cool Side (Chester Music)
John Crawford/Tim Richards	Milonga for Astor	Exploring Latin Piano (Schott)
Edvard Grieg	Norsk (Norwegian Melody) Op 12 No 6	A Piano Treasury (Peters)

## Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- For each piece you have performed, identify the historical period or genre of the music

- For any one piece you have performed, discuss the basic formal structure (e.g. highlight contrasting or repeated sections)
- For any one piece you have performed, identify a modulation by naming the new key or its relationship to the home key
- Show and explain examples of any three of the following from the pieces you have played: key signature, time signature, dynamics, articulation, phrases, ornaments, intervals up to and including an octave by number and type, major or minor harmony occurring as chords or melodic patterns, any additional markings
- Describe ways a pianist can perform as part of an ensemble (accompanying, duet, chamber ensemble, concerto, jazz band, rock band, etc.)

# Grade 6

## Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates prepare either Option 1: Scales and Arpeggios, or Option 2: Studies.

### Option 1: Scales and arpeggios

All are to be performed ascending and descending, from memory. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
<b>Scales</b>		
E or F major Bb, Eb, Ab major E or F harmonic minor Bb, Eb or G# melodic minor	4 octaves, ♩ = 76	hands together, <i>forte, legato</i> hands together, <i>piano, legato</i> hands together, <i>forte, legato</i> hands together, <i>piano, legato</i>
<b>Contrary motion scales</b>		
Bb, Ab or Db major B, G or F harmonic minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 76	hands together, <i>forte, legato</i> hands together, <i>piano, legato</i>
<b>Chromatic scales</b>		
Beginning on any note	4 octaves, ♩ = 76	hands together, <i>forte, legato</i>
<b>Chromatic contrary scales</b>		
Beginning on E or Bb	2 octaves, ♩ = 76	hands together, <i>piano, legato</i>
<b>Arpeggios</b>		
E or F major Bb, Eb or Ab major E or F minor Bb, Eb or G#minor	4 octaves, ♩ = 48	hands together, <i>forte</i> hands together, <i>piano</i> hands together, <i>forte</i> hands together, <i>piano</i>

A free digital booklet with materials for this component is available on the LCME website:

[click here to download](#) 

### Option 2: Studies

Candidates perform both of the following studies:

**Hélène de Montgeroult** 6th Étude des deux mains Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 6 (LCME) |  [digital download](#)



**Jeffery Wilson** Thirds and Sixths Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 6 (LCME) |  [digital download](#)

## Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. Up to two pieces may be substituted with selections of the same grade from the Popular Piano list (see [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#)). In addition, further List B and List C options can be found in the *Piano Anthology series (LCME)* for the appropriate grade and list. At least one piece must be from the *Piano Handbook 2026 (LCME)*.

#### List A

Composer	Title	Publication
W A Mozart	Rondo, K.545	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 6 (LCME)    <a href="#">digital download</a>
Aram Khachaturian	Étude from Pictures of Childhood	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 6 (LCME)    <a href="#">digital download</a>

### List A

Maria T Agnesi-Pinottini	Allegro Moderato	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 6 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">digital download</a>
Ludwig van Beethoven	Bagatelle in A, Op 33 No 4	Bagatelles Op 33 (Henle Verlag)
Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach	Presto in C minor Helm 66/VI H230	Presto in C minor (Hal Leonard)
Louis-Claude Daquin	Le vent en Couroux	Pièces de Clavecin (Faber Music)
J S Bach	Invention in A minor BWV 784	Invention A minor BWV 784 (Schott)
W A Mozart	Viennese Sonatina K439b No 6	6 Viennese Sonatinas K439b (Universal Edition AG)
Domenico Scarlatti	Sonata in C minor Kk11 L352	Two Sonatas for Keyboard (Bärenreiter)

### List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Friedrich Burgmüller	L'Orage	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 6 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">digital download</a>
Emily Pedersen	Now Think	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 6 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">digital download</a>
Bohuslav Martinů	The Sick Puppet	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 6 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">digital download</a>
Johannes Brahms	Waltz in B minor, Op 39 No 11	Romantic Real Repertoire (Faber Music)
Frank Bridge	Miniature Pastoral No 3	Miniature Pastorals (Boosey & Hawkes)
Edvard Grieg	Lonely Wanderer, Op 43 No 2	A Piano Treasury (Peters)
Agathe Backer Grøndahl	Summer Song, Op 45 No 3	At the Piano with Women Composers (Alfred Publishing)
Naoko Ikeda	Shooting Stars in Summer	The Willis Student Recital Collection (Willis Music)
Franz Liszt	Klavierstück No 2 S189a/1	Album Leaves and Short Piano Pieces (Schott)

### List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Frédéric Chopin	Mazurka in G minor	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 6 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">digital download</a>
Philip Lane	Private Detective	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 6 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">digital download</a>
William Gillock	A Memory of Vienna	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 6 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">digital download</a>
Klaus Badelt	He's a Pirate (Pirates Of The Caribbean Theme)	He's A Pirate (Faber Music)
Valerie Capers	Mister Satchmo	Portraits in Jazz (OUP)
Nikki Iles	Balulalow	Jazz On A Winter's Night (OUP)
John Lunn	Fashion (Downton Abbey Theme)	Fashion (Hal Leonard)
Christopher Norton	Hungarian Stomp	Microjazz Collection 3 (Boosey & Hawkes)
Pam Wedgwood	Sirius	Piano Dreaming (Faber Music)

## Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Show and explain examples of any three of the following from the pieces you have played: melodic and harmonic features (sequence, melodic inversion, circle of 5ths, pedal points, etc.); formal structure (ternary, binary, rondo etc.); intervals up to and including an octave by number and type; major or minor harmony occurring as chords or melodic patterns

- For any one piece you have performed, discuss your personal response to the music, the extent to which you like or dislike it, or find it challenging or rewarding, and why; and describe your approach to learning the piece, including the use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation
- Provide a critique of your performance in the exam today, indicating which aspects of your performance you were happy or unhappy with, and why
- Describe any techniques or exercises you have focused on in practice, the purpose of doing so, and the effect this has had on your performance
- Describe and demonstrate different kinds of pedalling techniques (full, half, legato, una corda, etc.) and in what contexts they might be applied

# Grade 7

## Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates prepare either Option 1: Scales and Arpeggios, or Option 2: Studies.

### Option 1: Scales and arpeggios

All are to be performed ascending and descending, from memory. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.



Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
<b>Scales</b>		
B major Db major A melodic minor B harmonic minor, C# harmonic minor	4 octaves, ♩ = 80	left hand, <i>forte, staccato</i> hands together, <i>piano, legato</i> right hand, <i>forte, staccato</i> left hand, <i>piano, staccato</i>
<b>Contrary motion scales</b>		
D or A major B, F# or Db B, D or C harmonic minor F# C# or F harmonic minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 80	hands together, <i>forte, legato</i> hands together, <i>piano, legato</i> hands together, <i>forte, staccato</i> hands together, <i>piano, staccato</i>
<b>Scales in 3rds</b>		
C# harmonic minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 120	right hand, <i>piano, legato</i>
<b>Chromatic scale in minor thirds</b>		
Beginning on D/F	2 octaves, ♩ = 80	hands together a minor third apart <i>forte, staccato</i>
<b>Arpeggios</b>		
D, A or E major B, F# or Db major D, C or F minor B, F# or C# minor	4 octaves, ♩ = 52 root position followed by 1st inversion	hands together, <i>forte, legato</i> hands together, <i>piano, legato</i> hands together, <i>forte, legato</i> hands together, <i>piano, legato</i>
<b>Dominant 7th arpeggio</b>		
In the key of G, F, D or E	3 octaves, ♩ = 52	hands together, <i>forte, legato</i>
<b>Diminished 7th arpeggio</b>		
Beginning on C#, D or Eb	3 octaves, ♩ = 52	left hand, <i>forte, legato</i>

A free digital booklet with materials for this component is available on the LCME website:

[click here to download](#) 

### Option 2: Studies

Candidates perform both of the following studies:

Louise Farrenc	Étude in D minor	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 7 (LCME)    digital download
Hélène de Montgeroult	7th Étude des deux mains	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 7 (LCME)    digital download

## Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. Up to two pieces may be substituted with selections of the same grade from the Popular Piano list (see [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#)). In addition, further List B and List C options can be found in the *Piano Anthology series (LCME)* for

the appropriate grade and list. At least one piece must be from the *Piano Handbook 2026 (LCME)*.

### List A

Composer	Title	Publication
J S Bach	Sinfonia, BWV 796	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 7 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓ digital download</a>
Ludwig van Beethoven	Allegro cantabile, WoO47 No 1	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 7 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓ digital download</a>
Louis-Claude Daquin	Le Coucou	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 7 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓ digital download</a>
Muzio Clementi	Sonata in G WO14 2nd movt	Sonata in G WO14 (Henle Verlag)
François Couperin	Les Sylvains Rondeau	Clavichord Pieces Volume 1 (Kalmus Edition)
Edward Gregson	Adam's Allemande	An Album for my Friends (Novello)
Marianne Martinez	Sonata in E major 1st movt	Women Composers (Schott)
W A Mozart	Sonata in F K280 3rd movt	Sonata in F K280 (Henle Verlag)
Domenico Scarlatti	Sonata in E Kk380 L23	48 Sonatas and Pieces (Schott)

### List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Clara Schumann	Eintritt	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 7 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓ digital download</a>
Elfrida Andrée	Om Kvällen	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 7 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓ digital download</a>
Alec Rowley	Into the Icy Blast	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 7 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓ digital download</a>
Amy Beach	Scottish Legend Op 54 No 1	Women Composers Piano Anthology (Faber Music)
J S Bach/Charles-Valentin Alkan	Siciliano from Flute Sonata BWV 1031	Sonate Siciliano (MuseScore)
Fanny Hensel	Melodie, Op 4 No 2	Piano Music by Female Composers (Schott)
Paula Szalit	Rêverie, Op 2 No 1	Rêverie Op 2 No 1 (Rick Robertson)
Alan Richardson	Sonatina in F 2nd movt	Sonatina in F (Josef Weinberger)
Nitzan Vardi	Nocturne As They Come and Go	22 Nocturnes for Chopin (EVC)

### List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Ernesto Nazareth	Odeon	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 7 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓ digital download</a>
Nikki Iles	Mwanzo	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 7 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓ digital download</a>
Felix Mendelssohn	Song Without Words	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 7 (LCME)   <a href="#">↓ digital download</a>
Cécile Chaminade	Scarf Dance, Op 37 No 3	At the Piano with Women Composers (Alfred Publishing)
Cheryl Frances-Hoad	Commuterland	Commuterland (Cadenza Music)
Frédéric Chopin	Mazurka in A minor, Op 68 No 2	20 Selected Mazurkas (Schott)
John McLeod	Dance to your Shadow	Hebridean Dances (Scottish Music Centre)
Mark Tanner	Look Before you Leap	Jazz hands Book 4 (Syrinx Music)
Mark-Anthony Turnage	Edward's Refrain	True Life Stories (Schott)

## Component 3: Discussion

**10 marks**

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Show and explain examples of any three of the following from the pieces you have played:

melodic and harmonic features (sequence, melodic inversion, circle of 5ths, pedal points, etc.); formal structure (ternary, binary, rondo etc.); major, minor or more complex harmony, including 7ths and dissonances, occurring as chords or melodic patterns; cadences

- For any one piece you have performed, discuss your personal response to the music, the extent to which you like or dislike it, or find it challenging or rewarding, and why; and describe your approach to learning the piece, including the use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation
- For any one piece you have performed, give basic biographical information about the composer and/or artist(s) associated with the music, and the historical and stylistic context, demonstrating a widening musical awareness a little beyond the music performed
- Explain how different styles and historical periods have a bearing on approaches to performance

# Grade 8

## Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates prepare either Option 1: Scales and Arpeggios, or Option 2: Studies.

### Option 1: Scales and arpeggios

All are to be performed ascending and descending, from memory. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
<b>Scales</b>		
G or F major Bb, Eb or Ab major G or F harmonic minor Bb, Eb or G# melodic minor	4 octaves, ♩ = 88	hands together, <i>forte, legato</i> hands together, <i>piano, legato</i> hands together, <i>forte, staccato</i> hands together, <i>piano, staccato</i>
<b>Contrary motion scales</b>		
G or F major Bb, Eb or Ab G, C or F harmonic minor Bb, Eb or G# harmonic minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 88	hands together, <i>forte, legato</i> hands together, <i>piano, legato</i> hands together, <i>forte, staccato</i> hands together, <i>piano, staccato</i>
<b>Scales in thirds</b>		
A or Eb major D harmonic minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 120	right hand, <i>forte, legato</i> left hand, <i>piano, legato</i>
<b>Chromatic Scale in minor thirds</b>		
Beginning on D/F	1 octave, ♩ = 120	hands separately, <i>forte, legato</i>
<b>Chromatic Scale in major sixths</b>		
Beginning on F/D	4 octaves, ♩ = 88	hands together a major 6th apart, <i>piano, staccato</i>
<b>Arpeggios</b>		
C, G or F major Bb, Eb or Ab major C, G or F minor Bb, Eb or G# minor	4 octaves, ♩ = 60 root position followed by 1st inversion followed by 2nd inversion	hands together, <i>forte, legato</i> hands together, <i>piano, legato</i> hands together, <i>forte, legato</i> hands together, <i>piano, legato</i>
<b>Dominant 7th Arpeggios</b>		
In the key of F#, Bb or Eb In the key of Ab or Db	4 octaves, ♩ = 60	hands together, <i>forte, legato</i> hands together, <i>piano, legato</i>
<b>Diminished 7th Arpeggios</b>		
Beginning on F#, G or Ab	4 octaves, ♩ = 60	hands together, <i>piano, legato</i>

A free digital booklet with materials for this component is available on the LCME website:

[click here to download](#) 

### Option 2: Studies

Candidates perform both of the following studies:

Louise Farrenc	Étude	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">digital download</a>
Sterndale Bennett	Op 11 no 5	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">digital download</a>

## Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. Up to two pieces may be substituted with selections of the same grade from the Popular Piano list (see [Piano 2026 Syllabus](#)). In addition, further List B and List C options can be found in the *Piano Anthology series (LCME)* for the appropriate grade and list. At least one piece must be from the *Piano Handbook 2026 (LCME)*.

### List A

Composer	Title	Publication
Ludwig van Beethoven	Allegro, Op 2 No 1	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Clara Schumann	Prelude & Fugue in G minor, Op 16 No 1	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Joseph Haydn	Rondo, Hob XVI/48	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Julian Nott, Paul Ayres	A Miniature Prelude Adagio & Fugue (Peppa Pig)	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
J S Bach	Prelude and Fugue in C minor No 2 BWV 847	The Well-Tempered Clavier Book 1, BWV 846-869 (Bärenreiter)
Claude Debussy	Dr Gradus ad Parnassum	Dr Gradus ad Parnassum (Editions Bourges)
Girolamo Frescobaldi	Toccata Terza F203	Toccatte e partite d'intavolatura, Libro 1 (Bärenreiter)
Dmitri Kabalevsky	Prelude and Fugue in C Op 61 No 2	6 Preludes and Fugues (Schirmer)
W A Mozart	Sonata in D K284 1st movt	Sonata in D K 284 (Henle Verlag)
Edvard Grieg	Holberg Suite Op 40 Prelude	Holberg Suite (Peters)
Jean-Philippe Rameau	Les Cyclopes	Les Cyclopes & Les Sauvages for Keyboard (Bärenreiter)
Erik Satie	Sonatine bureaucratique	(Schott Music)
Domenico Scarlatti	Sonata in D Kk443 L418	Scarlatti Sonata in D Kk443 (Peters)
Franz Schubert	Sonata in E D459 1st movt	Miscellaneous Piano Works (Peters)

### List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Isaac Albéniz	Sous le Palmier	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
John Ireland	The Darkened Valley	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Anatoly Lyadov	Prelude in Db	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Bosba Panh	Le peu de temps qu'il nous reste	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Anton Arensky	Impromptu, Op 25 No 1	Four Pieces (Jurgenson)
Natalie Boulanger	D'un vieux jardin, No 1	Trois Morceaux Pour Piano (Schirmer)
Johannes Brahms	Intermezzo, Op 118 No 1	Brahms Selected Piano Pieces (Bärenreiter)
Ferruccio Busoni	Prelude in G sharp minor Op 37 No 12	Busoni 24 Preludes Op 37 Vol 1 (Ricordi)
George Gershwin	The Man I Love	Meet George Gershwin at the Keyboard (Faber Music)
Kate Jenkins	Nocturne Cerddorieth I Bronwyn	22 Nocturnes for Chopin (EVC)
Olivier Messiaen	Plainte calme Prélude No 7	The Best of Olivier Messiaen (Editions Durand)
Zoe Rahman	Nocturne	22 Nocturnes for Chopin (EVC)
María Szymanowska	Nocturne in B flat major	Szymanowska Nocturne (Schott)
Judith Weir	Chorale for Steve	Judith Weir Chorale for Steve (Chester Music)

### List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Béla Bartók	From the Diary of a Fly	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Christopher Norton	Jingo	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Teresa Carreño	Mi Teresita	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Nora Douglas Holt	Nora's Dance	Piano Handbook 2026: Grade 8 (LCME)   <a href="#">↕</a> digital download
Lennox Berkeley	Six Preludes No 1	Prelude No 1 ( <i>Hal Leonard</i> )
William Bolcom	Graceful Ghost Rag	Graceful Ghost Rag ( <i>Hal Leonard</i> )
Ronald Center	Toccata	Giglot and Toccata ( <i>Roberton Publications</i> )
Frédéric Chopin	Waltz in B minor, Op 69 No 2	( <i>Schirmer</i> )
Edward Gregson	Six Little Piano Pieces No 2	Six Little Piano Pieces ( <i>Novello</i> )
Nikolai Kapustin	Sonatina Op 100	Sonatina Op 100 ( <i>Schott</i> )
Aram Khachaturian	Dance	Two Pieces No 2 ( <i>Boosey &amp; Hawkes</i> )
Florence Price	Nimble Feet	Dances in the Canebreaks ( <i>Clar Nan Editions</i> )
Peter Sculthorpe	Djilile, 3 Pieces, No 1	Three Pieces for Piano ( <i>Faber Music</i> )
Adaline Shepherd	Wireless Rag	Wireless Rag ( <i>Standard Music Publishing Co</i> )

### Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Show and explain examples of any three of the following from the pieces you have played: melodic and harmonic features (sequence, melodic inversion, circle of 5ths, pedal points, etc.); formal structure (ternary, binary, rondo etc.); major, minor or more complex harmony, including 7ths and dissonances, occurring as chords or melodic patterns; cadences
- For any one piece you have performed, discuss your personal response to the music, the extent to which you like or dislike it, or find it challenging or rewarding, and why; and describe your approach to learning the piece, including the use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation
- For any one piece you have performed, give some biographical information about the composer and/or artist(s) associated with the music, including other music by the same composer or associated with the same artist(s), and the wider historical and stylistic context, demonstrating a rounded musical awareness beyond the music performed
- Identify at least two well-known pianists and discuss their significance, approaches to performance, and any influence they have had on your own playing
- Briefly demonstrate an understanding of the history and development of the piano



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