

London College of Music Examinations

Classical Guitar Recorded Exams

Qualification specifications for:

Steps, Grades, Recital Grades and Leisure Play

Valid from:

2026 until further notice

updated 01.09.2026

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Classical Guitar Recorded Exam Requirements

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London College of Music Examinations
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Classical Guitar Recorded Requirements

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1. Information and general guidelines

1.1 Introduction

This document outlines the requirements for Recorded Grades and Recital Grades in Classical Guitar from Step 1 to Grade 8, including technical work, set repertoire, and discussion questions. For information about in-person exams, the full performance guidelines and assessment criteria, please refer to the current [Classical Guitar 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 Classical Guitar exams (Steps, Grades, and Recital Grades) from 1 September 2026 until further notice.

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

Recording requirements

Details of what to include and how to film and upload recorded exams are available on our website: 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. No prerequisite qualifications are required for entering any exam; candidates can enter at any level provided they have the required knowledge, skills and understanding.

Equity, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration

Information on assessment, examination and entry requirements for candidates with specific needs is published in the Equity, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration policy available on our website: lcme.uwl.ac.uk

1.4 Exam options

	Grades	Recital Grades	Leisure Play
Technical Work	✓	✗	
Performance	3 pieces	4 or 5 pieces	4 pieces
Discussion	✓	Optional for Component 2	✗
Structure	Grades 1 to 8	Grades 1 to 8	Grades 1 to 8
Prerequisites	✗	✗	✗
Assessment	Digital Recorded	Digital Recorded	Digital Recorded
Grading	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%
Regulation	✓	✓	✓
UCAS points	Grades 6 to 8	Grades 6 to 8	✗

Introductory examinations

LCME also offers two levels of introductory examinations in Classical Guitar: 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 in-person exams. Refer to the details listed in the assessment and regulations sections in the current [Classical Guitar 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 results 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 available on our website:

lcme.uwl.ac.uk

Exam regulations

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

1.6 Performance guidelines

Refer to the relevant details listed in the current [Classical Guitar Syllabus](#).

1.7 Recording requirements

Please refer to the relevant guidance on our website: lcme.uwl.ac.uk. This covers essential information on how to film your exam, as well as advice on preparation, equipment, and recording quality.

1.8 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](#)

Digital publications

• Alternative pieces

Digital editions of the alternative works listed as “available to download from the LCME website” are available on the LCME website: [click here to download](#) 

• Duos teacher's parts

The accompaniment or teacher's part of those guitar duos featured in the 2022 Classical Guitar Handbooks can be found on the LCME website: [click here to download](#) 

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Classical Guitar Recorded Requirements

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: Technical Work**

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

Technical Work	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 from the relevant grade. At least one piece must be from the current classical guitar handbooks.

- **Component 3: Discussion**

The candidate responds 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%

Regulation

LCME's Recorded Grades 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 to 7 and attract UCAS points accordingly.

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.

• 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
- 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 Recital 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 to 7 and attract UCAS points accordingly.

2.3 Recorded Leisure Play

Recorded Leisure Play Grades 1–8

Candidates must perform four pieces. At least three pieces must be chosen from the set lists for the relevant LCME grade.

Pieces do not need to be taken from different lists, but the programme should be varied and balanced. The fourth piece may be an own-choice work, which may be in any genre, or an original composition. If an own-choice piece is significantly easier than the grade level, this may be reflected in the marking.

Component weightings

Performance 1	Performance 2	Performance 3	Performance 4
25%	25%	25%	25%

Regulation

LCME's Recorded Leisure Play 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 to 7 and attract UCAS points accordingly.

Step 1

A handbook containing all the required materials for this level is available to purchase in physical format from all major retailers: [Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Step 1 \(LCME\)](#)

Component 1: Exercises

30 marks

Performance of any five of the following exercises from the handbook:

- String Walk
- String Hop
- Every, Brilliant, Guitarist, Deserves, Applause, Eventually
- Frog Hop
- One Banana, Two
- The Bass-ics
- Old Castle Harp
- Pedal Tones
- Sounding Spanish
- Sonar Echoes

Component 2: List A Melodies

30 marks

Performance of any two of the following melodies from the handbook, arranged for guitar duo. Each melody can be performed as either a duet or a solo:

- Lotus Flower
- Cradle Song
- Unicorn Waltz
- Pease Pudding Hot
- London Bridge

Component 3: List B Pieces

40 marks

Performance of any two of the following:

- Blue Danube Waltz
- Fiddleful
- Rigaudon
- Raise the Sail, Chase the Whale!
- Knocking

Step 2

A handbook containing all the required materials for this level is available to purchase in physical format from all major retailers: [Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Step 2 \(LCME\)](#)

Component 1: Exercises

30 marks

Performance from memory of the following scales and arpeggios:

- C major scale: one octave ascending only, *i* and *m*; ♩ = 76
- E harmonic minor scale: up to 5th, *p* (thumb only); ♩ = 76
- G major: up to a 5th, *i* and *m*; ♩ = 76
- C major arpeggio: up to 5th, *pimip*; ♩ = 76

Performance of any six of the following exercises from the handbook:

- Tango for Two and Fingers
- Flamenc'ole
- All Fingers and Thumbs
- Pima-licius
- Fever Groove
- Choppy Cs
- Down South
- Bondai James
- At the Carnival
- Staccato Codebreaker

Component 2: List A Melodies

30 marks

Performance of any two of the following melodies from the handbook, arranged for guitar duo. Each melody can be performed as either a duet or a solo:

- Snake Charmer
- El testament d'Amelia
- Romance
- Westminster Quarters
- Calen-o

Component 3: List B Pieces

40 marks

Performance of any two of the following:

- Beyond the Moon
- The Carnival's in Town
- Hen Fenyw Fach Cydweli
- Minitune No 1
- Poor Wayfaring Stranger

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
Scales		
C and G major E harmonic minor	1 octave, ♩ = 80	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> using <i>p</i>
Arpeggios		
C major A minor E minor	1 octave, ♩ = 160	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> thumb only <i>pimamip</i>

Option 2: Study

Stuart Wheaton C major in three positions (C to C) Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 1 (LCME)

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. At least one piece must be from the current classical guitar handbook for the grade. Arrangements for guitar duo are marked with an *

List A

Composer	Title	Publication
Antonio Vivaldi	Winter*	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 1 (LCME)
Trad. English arr. Helen Sanderson	The Wraggle Taggle Gypsies, O!	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 1 (LCME)
Adrian Le Roy	Bransle de Poitou	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 1 (LCME)
John Whitworth	Friar Tuck	The Robin Hood Pieces (Holley Music)
Trad. Congolese arr. Stuart Wheaton	Banaha	(available to download from the LCME website)
Vincent Lindsey-Clark	Minitune No. 2	Simply Guitar (Montague Music MM123)

List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Giuseppe Verdi	La donna è mobile*	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 1 (LCME)
Ferdinando Carulli	Etude	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 1 (LCME)
Oliver Manning	The Gondolier's Dream	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 1 (LCME)
Klaus Bedalt and Hans Zimmer	He's a Pirate	Pirates of the Caribbean, Guitar Basics Repertoire (Faber)
Peter Nuttall	Rocky Road	On the Way (Holley Music)
Trad. American arr. Helen Sanderson	All the Pretty Little Horses	(available to download from the LCME website)

List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Mark Currey	What a Charming Snake	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 1 (LCME)
Lennon & McCartney	Eleanor Rigby	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 1 (LCME)
Laura Snowden	Slap, Whack and Ping	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 1 (LCME)
Joep Wanders	Chicago Blues	Go for Guitar Vol. 1 (Broekmans BP1646)
Roland Chadwick	Green and Pleasant	A Fantastical Fiesta of First Grade Fireworks (Bergmann Edition)
Debbie Cracknell	Pepe's Sombrero	Enjoy Playing Guitar Solos (OUP)

Component 3: Discussion**10 marks**

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the mood of this piece?
- What does the dynamic marking at the beginning of this piece mean?
- Name and point to four different parts of the guitar

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
Scales		
D, F major D harmonic minor Chromatic Scale beginning on G	1 octave, ♩ = 84	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i>
G major A harmonic minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 84	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i>
Arpeggios		
F major D major D minor	1 octave, ♩ = 170	thumb only <i>pimamip</i> <i>pimamip</i>
G major A minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 170	thumb and fingers

Option 2: Study

Declan Zapala

12th Fret Harmonics

Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 2 (LCME)

Candidates selecting the study option should also play the following scales and arpeggios:

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
D major Chromatic Scale beginning on G	1 octave, ♩ = 84	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i>
A harmonic minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 84	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i>
Arpeggios		
D minor G major	1 octave, ♩ = 170 2 octaves, ♩ = 170	<i>pimamip</i> thumb and fingers

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. At least one piece must be from the current classical guitar handbook for the grade. Arrangements for guitar duo are marked with an *

List A

Composer	Title	Publication
Gaspar Sanz	Españoleta	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 2 (LCME)
Trad. arr. Stuart Wheaton	Mango Walk*	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 2 (LCME)
Carlo Calvi	Canario	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 2 (LCME)
Ailbhe McDonagh	Prelude to a Duel	(available from www.ailbhemcdonagh.com)
Trad. arr. Stuart Wheaton	Greensleeves	(available to download from the LCME website)

List A

Trad. arr. Stuart Wheaton	La Cucaracha	(available to download from the LCME website)
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List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Mark Houghton	Prelude No. 5 'The Wish-ing Well'	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 2 (LCME)
Jaime Mirtenbaum Zenamon	Torito	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 2 (LCME)
Traditional Chinese arr. Steve Goss	Wa Ha Ha	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 2 (LCME)
Thomas Fellow	Crispy Nachos	Children's Corner (Schott)
Gabriel Fauré	Dolly Suite	(available to download from the LCME website)
Isaac Albéniz	Asturias	(available to download from the LCME website)

List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Laura Snowden	Up in the Air	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 2 (LCME)
David Cottam	Knock Down Ginger	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 2 (LCME)
Traditional Japanese arr. Garcia & Whitworth	Sakura	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 2 (LCME)
Takashi Ogawa	Gajitsu	(Les Productions D'Oz)
Tatiana Stachak	Ragtime	First Class Guitar (Euterpe/Schott)
Trad. Nicaraguan	Pajarito	Chanson et Danses d'Amerique Latine Vol. D (Lemione)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Name the key and time signature of your favourite piece and describe the dynamics used in the piece
- Name two other related instruments to the guitar
- Demonstrate a good sitting position, use of the footstool, and a good right-hand position
- Name and point to three different parts of the guitar

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
Scales		
Chromatic scale beginning on F	1 octave, ♩ = 88	thumb only
A and D major	2 octaves, ♩ = 88	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
A melodic minor		
E melodic minor		
Harmonised Scale		
C major in 3rds	1 octave, ♩ = 88	<i>p</i> and <i>i</i>
Arpeggios		
A and C major	2 octaves, ♩ = 180	thumb and fingers
E minor		
Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of E	2 octaves, ♩ = 88	thumb and fingers

Option 2: Study

Declan Zapala

Slurs

Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 3 (LCME)

Candidates selecting the study option should also play the following scales and arpeggios:

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
Chromatic scale beginning on F	1 octave, ♩ = 88	thumb only
A major	2 octaves, ♩ = 88	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
A melodic minor		
Harmonised Scale		
C major in 3rds	1 octave, ♩ = 88	<i>p</i> and <i>i</i>
Arpeggios		
C major	2 octaves, ♩ = 180	thumb and fingers
Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of E	2 octaves, ♩ = 88	thumb and fingers

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. At least one piece must be from the current classical guitar handbook for the grade. Arrangements for guitar duo are marked with an *

List A

Composer	Title	Publication
Jan Antonín Losy	Gigue	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 3 (LCME)
Debbie Cracknell	Robin's Revel	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 3 (LCME)

List A

Henry Purcell arr. Helen Sanderson	The Fairest Isle*	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 3 (LCME)
Mauro Giuliani	Op. 51, No. 1	Complete Giuliani Studies (Mel Bay)
Johann Gottfried Conradi	Menuet	(available to download from the LCME website)
Fernando Sor	Op. 35, No. 1	Fernando Sor: The Complete Studies for Guitar (Chanterelle)

List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Gloria Villanueva	Guitar Constellation No 1	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 3 (LCME)
Johann Kasper Mertz arr. Drew Henderson	Übungsstück No. 3	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 3 (LCME)
Aram Khachaturian arr. Chris Susans	The Little Horse*	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 3 (LCME)
Stephen Goss	Ragtime / Habanera	Guitar Highlights 1 (Helbing Verlag)
Peter Nuttall	Romantica	First Performance Pieces (Countryside Music)
Cees Hartog	Recuerdo	Tapas de España (Alsbach-Educa)

List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Carlo Domeniconi	Klangbild 13	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 3 (LCME)
Helen Sanderson	Midnight Milonga	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 3 (LCME)
Jasper Smith	At the Ice Cream Parlour	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 3 (LCME)
Celso Machado	Marchinha de Carnaval	Modinha Brasileira duos (Editions Henry Lemoine)
Richard Charlton	Drifting	Four Duos for Guitar (www.richardcharlton.com)
Kevin Love	No Worries	(available from www.music4classicalguitar.com)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Explain and demonstrate how to move smoothly between 1st and 2nd position
- What is the mood of the pieces you played, and how do they contrast?
- What do the dynamic markings in your favourite piece mean?
- Explain and demonstrate the difference between legato and staccato playing

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
Scales		
E major D harmonic and melodic minor Chromatic scale beginning on E	2 octaves, ♩ = 88	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
Arpeggios		
E major D minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 180	thumb and fingers
Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of G	2 octaves, ♩ = 88	thumb and fingers
Harmonised Scale		
A major in 3rds C major in octaves G major in 10ths	1 octave, ♩ = 88	<i>p</i> and <i>i/m</i>

Option 2: Study

Declan Zapala Syncopation and Half Barres Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 4 (LCME)

Candidates selecting the study option should also play the following scales and arpeggios:

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
E major D melodic minor Chromatic scale beginning on E	2 octaves, ♩ = 88	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
Arpeggios		
D minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 180	thumb and fingers
Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of G	2 octaves, ♩ = 88	thumb and fingers
Harmonised Scale		
A major in 3rds G major in 10ths	1 octave, ♩ = 88	<i>p</i> and <i>i/m</i>

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. At least one piece must be from the current classical guitar handbook for the grade. Arrangements for guitar duo are marked with an *

List A

Composer	Title	Publication
Traditional Catalan arr. Helen Sanderson	El noi de la mare*	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 4 (LCME)
Traditional arr. John Whitworth	Kemp's Jig	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 4 (LCME)

List A

Antonio Cano arr. Keith Murray	Ejercicio No. 7	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 4 (LCME)
Mark Currey	Paseo de Ribera	(available from www.lathkillmusic.co.uk)
Georg Friedrich Handel	Air, Water Music Suite No. 1	Handel for Guitar (Schott)
Francis Cutting	Bockington's Pound	Easy Pieces from Shakespeare's Time (Universal Edition)

List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Matteo Carcassi	Study Op. 60, No. 7	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 4 (LCME)
Felix Hortecky arr. Chris Susans	Divertimento No. 3	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 4 (LCME)
Robert Schumann arr. Norbert Kraft	Little Piece Op. 68, No.5	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 4 (LCME)
Gloria Villanueva	Guitar Constellation No. 6	Guitar Constellations (Dobermann)
Maria Linnemann	Souvenir	Suite for Lovers (Ricordi/Berlin SY2579)
Arne Brattland	Lullaby	(www.debra-adamson-brattland.com)

List C

Composer	Title	Publication
David Cottam	Fancy Pants	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 4 (LCME)
Will McNicol	Lamplight	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 4 (LCME)
Roland Chadwick	Roses for La*	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 4 (LCME)
Marc Andes	Cancion	Suite Folklore (Edition Peters EP8559)
Leo Brouwer	Study No. IV	Simple Studies (Editions Max Eschig)
Traditional Spanish	Boleros Sevillanas	Album of South American Folk Songs (Schott)

Component 3: Discussion**10 marks**

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Discuss the composer of your favourite piece, their nationality, and their approximate dates
- Which was the most technically difficult part of one of your pieces to learn and why?
- Explain how to play a half barre, and how to achieve a clear sound
- Discuss why you should keep the guitar away from any cold or hot sources, and why keeping it in tune is important

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
Scales		
Bb major B melodic minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 96	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
E major Chromatic scale beginning on E	3 octaves, ♩ = 96	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
Arpeggios		
Bb major G minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 190	thumb and fingers
E major	3 octaves, ♩ = 190	thumb and fingers
Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of Bb	2 octaves, ♩ = 96	thumb and fingers
Harmonised Scale		
G major in 3rds F major in octaves G major in 6ths	2 octaves, ♩ = 96	<i>p</i> and <i>i/m</i>

Option 2: Study

Declan Zapala **Cross-String Articulation** Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 5 (LCME)

Candidates selecting the study option should also play the following scales and arpeggios:

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
D major Chromatic Scale beginning on G	1 octave, ♩ = 84	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i>
A harmonic minor	2 octaves, ♩ = 84	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i>
Arpeggios		
D minor G major	1 octave, ♩ = 170 2 octaves, ♩ = 170	<i>pimamip</i> thumb and fingers

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. At least one piece must be from the current classical guitar handbook for the grade. Arrangements for guitar duo are marked with an *

List A

Composer	Title	Publication
Antonio Vivaldi arr. Chris Susans	Largo*	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 5 (LCME)
John Dowland arr. Karl Scheit	Lady Laiton's Almaine	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 5 (LCME)

List A

Santiago de Murcia	Allegro	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 5 (LCME)
J. S. Bach	Prelude BWV 999	Bach Lute Suites for Guitar (Ariel Publications)
Robert de Visée	La Montfemeil, Rondeau	Baroque Guitar Anthology 2 (Schott ED13437D)
Francis Pilkington	Echo for Two Lutes	Duets for Fun: Guitars (Schott)

List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco	Appunti No. 1	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 5 (LCME)
Francesco Molino arr. Chris Susans	Rondo	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 5 (LCME)
Maria Linnemann	Sempre Solo	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 5 (LCME)
Catharina Pratten	Marche Funèbre	Pratten's Guitar School (Werner Guitar Editions)
Fernando Sor	B minor Study Op. 35, No. 5	Complete Studies for Guitar (Chanterelle 491)
Matteo Carcassi	Andantino Op. 60, No. 3	Venticinque Studie Melodici Progressivi (Suvini Zerboni ESZ8461)

List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Manuel Ponce	Prelude No. 1	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 5 (LCME)
Jürg Kindle	Valse	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 5 (LCME)
Tatiana Stachak	Bluesy Étude	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 5 (LCME)
Will McNicol	The Nightwatchman	(available to download from the LCME website)
Vincent Lindsey-Clark	Shadow of the Moon	(Les Productions D'oz)
Astor Piazzolla	Vuelvo al Sur	Play Piazzolla (Boosey)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Discuss how to perform ascending or descending slurs
- Tell me about your approach to learning your favourite of the three pieces you played today, were there any difficulties you had to overcome? (Musical or technical)
- Choose another piece and describe the structure of this piece?
- Which historical period do each of the pieces you performed today come from?

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
Scales		
A major in four positions A melodic minor in four positions	1 octave, ♩ = 100	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
G major E melodic minor Chromatic scale beginning on G	3 octaves, ♩ = 100	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
Arpeggios		
G major E minor	3 octaves, ♩ = 200	thumb and fingers
Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of F#	2 octaves, ♩ = 100	thumb and fingers
Harmonised Scale		
D major in 3rds D major in 6ths	2 octaves, ♩ = 100	<i>p</i> and <i>i/m</i>
Chords		
G major in root position triads G minor in root position triads	2 octaves, ♩ = 100	<i>p, i, m</i>

Option 2: Study

Declan Zapala F# minor using harp harmonics and full barres Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 6 (LCME)

Candidates selecting the study option should also play the following scales and arpeggios:

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
A major in four positions A melodic minor in four positions	1 octave, ♩ = 100	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
E melodic minor Chromatic scale beginning on G	3 octaves, ♩ = 100	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
Arpeggios		
E minor	3 octaves, ♩ = 200	thumb and fingers
Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of F#	2 octaves, ♩ = 100	thumb and fingers
Harmonised Scale		
D major in 3rds	2 octaves, ♩ = 100	<i>p</i> and <i>i/m</i>
Chords		
G minor in root position triads	2 octaves, ♩ = 100	<i>p, i, m</i>

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. At least one piece must be from the current classical guitar handbook for the grade. Arrangements for guitar duo are marked with an *

List A

Composer	Title	Publication
Gaspar Sanz	Canarios	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 6 (LCME)
Silvius Leopold Weiss	Prelude from Lute Suite No. 4	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 6 (LCME)
Luis Milán	Pavane No. 1	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 6 (LCME)
Robert de Visée	Allemande, Suite in D minor	(Universal Edition)
J. S. Bach	Bourrée, Lute Suite BWV 996	Solo Lute Works (Kjos Music)
Francis Cutting	Galliard in E minor No. 1	Cutting: Five Pieces (Tecla Editions)

List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Mark Houghton	The Carousel Waltz	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 6 (LCME)
Trad. Irish arr. Vincent Lindsey-Clark	The Mountains of Mourne	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 6 (LCME)
Catharina Josepha Pratten	Forgotten	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 6 (LCME)
Fernando Sor	Study in Bb Op. 29, No. 13	20 Sor Studies (Segovia Edition)
Erik Satie	Gnossienne No. 1	(available to download from the LCME website)
Francisco Tárrega	Adelita	The Francisco Tárrega Collection (Hal Leonard)

List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Celso Machado	Motivo Barroco*	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 6 (LCME)
Roland Dyens	Babybaião	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 6 (LCME)
Laura Snowden	Song for Maria	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 6 (LCME)
Federico Moreno Torroba	Montemayor	Castles of Spain Vol. 1 (Guitar Solo Publications)
Francis Poulenc	Sarabande	(Ricordi)
Leo Brouwer	Un Día de Noviembre	(Chester Music)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Discuss your responses to the music performed: the extent to which you like or dislike it, or find it challenging or rewarding, and why
- Tell me about your approach to performing another piece you played today, including certain techniques and aspects of interpreting the music
- Describe one melodic and harmonic feature of the music in a different piece you performed today (such as sequence, melodic inversion, circle of 5ths, or pedal points)
- Which historical periods do the pieces you performed today come from?

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
Scales		
E major in four positions	1 octave, ♩ = 104	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
A major	3 octaves, ♩ = 104	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
A melodic minor		
Arpeggios		
A major	3 octaves, ♩ = 210	thumb and fingers
A minor		
Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of A	3 octaves, ♩ = 104	thumb and fingers
Harmonised Scale		
A major in 3rds	2 octaves, ♩ = 104	<i>p</i> and <i>i/m</i>
A major in inverted 6ths		
Chords		
D major in 1st inversion triads	2 octaves, ♩ = 104	<i>p, i, m</i>
D minor in 1st inversion triads		

Option 2: Study

Stuart Wheaton

Rasgueado and Full Barre

Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 7 (LCME)

Candidates selecting the study option should also play the following scales and arpeggios:

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
E major in four positions A melodic minor	1 octave, ♩ = 104 3 octaves, ♩ = 104	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
Arpeggios		
Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of A	3 octaves, ♩ = 104	thumb and fingers
Harmonised Scale		
A major in 3rds A major in inverted 6ths	2 octaves, ♩ = 104	<i>p</i> and <i>i/m</i>
Chords		
D minor in 1st inversion triads	2 octaves, ♩ = 104	<i>p, i, m</i>

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. At least one piece must be from the current classical guitar handbook for the grade. Arrangements for guitar duo are marked with an *

List A

Composer	Title	Publication
Alonso Mudarra	Fantasia No. 10	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 7 (LCME)
John Dowland	Queen Elizabeth's Galliard	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 7 (LCME)
Domenico Scarlatti	Sonata in A K. 208	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 7 (LCME)
J. S. Bach	Allemande, Second movement Suite in E minor BWV 996	Bach Lute Suites for Guitar (Aerial Publications)
Luis de Narváez	Diferencias sobre 'Guárdame las vacas'	Hispane Citharae Ars Viva (Schott)
Carlos Seixas	Sonata No.5 in D	Anthology of Baroque Sonatas (Schott)

List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Francis Kleynjans	Ô Cordula	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 7 (LCME)
José Ferrer	Estudio No. 1 Nostalgia	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 7 (LCME)
Johann Kasper Mertz	Polacca	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 7 (LCME)
Alexandre Tansman	Barcarole	Cavatina (Schott)
Manuel Ponce	Prelude in B, No. 4	12 Preludes (Schott)
Stephen Dodgson	Sarabande	(Ricordi)

List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Trad. arr. Derek Gripper	Jarabi	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 7 (LCME)
Gloria Villanueva	Silent Sunday	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 7 (LCME)
Gerald Garcia	Milonga No. 24	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 7 (LCME)
Roland Chadwick	Mr Sydney Cyclops Prepares for the Day	The Tale of the Terribly Well-Dressed Cyclops of Cyclops Cottage (Bergmann Edition)
Leo Brouwer	Berceuse	(Editions Max Eschig)
Agustín Barrios	Julia Florida	(Schott)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as the use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation
- What is the structure of this piece?
- Describe one melodic and harmonic feature of one of the pieces you performed today (such as sequence, melodic inversion, circle of 5ths, or pedal points)
- What do you know about the composer and the historical and stylistic context of each piece?

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
Scales		
E melodic minor in four positions	1 octave, ♩ = 108	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
B major		
B melodic minor three octaves	3 octaves, ♩ = 108	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
Arpeggios		
B major		
B minor	3 octaves, ♩ = 220	thumb and fingers
Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of B	3 octaves, ♩ = 108	thumb and fingers
Harmonised Scale		
E major in 3rds		
E major in inverted 6ths	2 octaves, ♩ = 108	<i>p</i> and <i>i/m</i>
Chords		
C major in 2nd inversion triads		
C minor in 2nd inversion triads	2 octaves, ♩ = 108	<i>p, i, m</i>

Option 2: Study

Declan Zapala

B minor Using Full barres and Harmonics

Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 8 (LCME)

Candidates selecting the study option should also play the following scales and arpeggios:

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
B major B melodic minor three octaves	3 octaves, ♩ = 108	<i>i</i> and <i>m</i> or <i>m</i> and <i>a</i>
Arpeggios		
B minor Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of B	3 octaves, ♩ = 220 3 octaves, ♩ = 108	thumb and fingers
Harmonised Scale		
E major in inverted 6ths	2 octaves, ♩ = 108	<i>p</i> and <i>i/m</i>
Chords		
C major in 2nd inversion triads C minor in 2nd inversion triads	2 octaves, ♩ = 108	<i>p, i, m</i>

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three pieces, one from each list, A, B and C. At least one piece must be from the current classical guitar handbook for the grade. Arrangements for guitar duo are marked with an *

List A

Composer	Title	Publication
J. S. Bach	Prelude BWV 998	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 8 (LCME)
Domenico Scarlatti	Sonata in A minor K. 175	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 8 (LCME)
Antonio Vivaldi	Allegro*	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 8 (LCME)
George F. Handel	Courante HWV 441	Handel for Guitar (Schott)
Silvius L. Weiss	Fantasie	(available to download from the LCME website)
John Dowland	The Right Honourable Robert, Earl of Essex, His Galliard	(Schott)

List B

Composer	Title	Publication
Niccolò Paganini	Romance	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 8 (LCME)
Emilia Giuliani	Belliniani No. 4	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 8 (LCME)
Francisco Tárrega	Gran Vals	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 8 (LCME)
Fernando Sor	Op. 29, No. 17	Complete Studies for Guitar (Chanterelle 491)
Antonio Lauro	Dansa Negra	Suite Venezuela (Universal Edition)
Astor Piazzolla	Campero, No. 1	Five Pieces (Berben)

List C

Composer	Title	Publication
Manuel de Falla	Homenaje: Le Tombeau de Claude Debussy	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 8 (LCME)
Gary Ryan	Rondo Rodeo	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 8 (LCME)
Roland Chadwick	Send this Message of Love to Earth	Classical Guitar Handbook 2022: Grade 8 (LCME)
Vincent Lindsey-Clark	Pulsar	(www.productionsdoz.com)
Agustín Barrios Mangoré	Valse Op. 8, No. 4	(Schott)
Heitor Villa-lobos	Gavotta-Choro	Suite Populaire Bresilienne (Editions Max Eschig)

Component 3: Discussion**10 marks**

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- For each piece performed, name another piece by the same composer
- Discuss a range of issues arising from the music performed, demonstrating evidence of a rounded musical awareness, in terms of both the repertoire itself and your response to it as a performer
- Discuss the styles and performers which have been influential in the development of your playing
- Explain the difference between free stroke and rest stroke playing and how they would be employed in different pieces
- Explain and demonstrate an artificial harmonic and explain how it differs from a natural harmonic
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rasgueado technique and how to perform it



London College of Music Examinations

University of West London
St Mary's Road
London
W5 5RF

020 8231 2364
lcme.uwl.ac.uk