

London College of Music Examinations

Popular Music Vocals Recorded Exams

Qualification specifications for:

Steps, Grades, Recital Grades and Leisure Play

Valid from:

2026 until further notice

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Popular Music Vocals Recorded Exam Requirements

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London College of Music Examinations
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Popular Music Vocals Recorded Requirements

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1. Information and general guidelines

1.1 Introduction

This document outlines the requirements for Recorded Grades, Recital Grades and Leisure Play in Popular Music Vocals 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 [Popular Music Vocals 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 Popular Music Vocals exams (Steps, Grades, Recital Grades and Leisure Play) 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 songs	4 or 5 songs	3 or 4 or 5 songs
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	Grades 6 to 8

Introductory examinations

LCME also offers two levels of introductory examinations in Popular Music Vocals: 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 [Popular Music Vocals 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 **Popular Music Vocals 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

• Audio files

Audio files and other supporting material can be downloaded for free from our website:

[click here to download](#) 

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Popular Music Vocals 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

Candidates sing the scales and arpeggios and perform the riffs from the handbook as per the requirements of the grade.

• Component 2: Performance

Performance of two contrasting songs. At least one song must be from the set list provided and one own choice.

Component weightings

Technical Work	Performance
20%	80%

Recorded Grades 1–8

• Component 1: Technical Work

Candidates sing the scales, arpeggios and perform the riffs and prepared improvisations from the handbook as per the requirements of the grade.

• Component 2: Performance

Performance of a selection of songs from the relevant grade. At least one song must be from the set list provided and one own choice. A written programme and the lyric sheet must be submitted upon entry.

• Component 3: Discussion

The candidate responds to a given set of topics about the music performed including techniques applied in the performance, as appropriate to the grade.

Component weightings

	Technical Work	Performance 1	Performance 2	Performance 3	Discussion
Grades 1 and 2	20%	35%	35%	-	10%
Grades 3–8	15%	25%	25%	25%	10%

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 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 songs. At least one song must be from the set list of the grade. A written programme and the lyric sheet must be submitted upon entry.

• Component 2: Performance or Discussion

Candidates choose one of the following options:

- Option 1: Performance of an additional song. At least one song must be from the set list of the 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 Leisure Play

Leisure Play Grades 1–3

• Component 1: Performance

Candidates must perform three songs not exceeding 10 minutes. At least one song must be from the set list of the grade. The programme should be varied and balanced. If an own-choice song is significantly easier than the grade level, this may be reflected in the marking.

Leisure Play Grades 4 and 5

• Component 1: Performance

Candidates must perform four songs not exceeding 15 minutes. At least one song must be from the set list of the grade. The programme should be varied and balanced. If an own-choice song is significantly easier than the grade level, this may be reflected in the marking.

Leisure Play Grades 6–8

• Component 1: Performance

Candidates must perform five songs not exceeding 20 minutes. At least one song must be from the set list of the grade. The programme should be varied and balanced. If an own-choice song is significantly easier than the grade level, this may be reflected in the marking.

Component weightings

	Performance 1	Performance 2	Performance 3	Performance 4	Performance 5
Grades 1 to 3	30%	30%	40%	–	–
Grades 4&5	25%	25%	25%	25%	–
Grades 6 to 8	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

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

Component 1: Technical Work

20 marks

Candidates perform scales, broken chord and riffs. Scales and broken chords to be performed from memory and unaccompanied. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

Riffs must be performed alongside a backing track, available to download from our website:

[click here to download](#) 

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scale		
One major scale	up to a 5th, ♩ = 84	ascending and descending
Broken chord		
Major broken chord	up to a 5th, ♩ = 84	ascending and descending
Riffs		
8-bar passage containing four short riffs	♩ = 138	in $\frac{4}{4}$

Component 2: Performance

80 marks

Performance of two contrasting songs not exceeding 7 minutes. At least one song must be from the list below. A written programme and the lyric sheet for each song must be submitted upon entry.

Composer	Title	Publication
Vanessa Carlton	A Thousand Miles	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Steps 1 & 2 (LCME)
The Cure	Friday I'm in Love	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Steps 1 & 2 (LCME)
Bill Withers	Lean on Me	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Steps 1 & 2 (LCME)
ABBA	I Have a Dream	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Steps 1 & 2 (LCME)

Step 2

Component 1: Technical Work

20 marks

Candidates perform scales, arpeggios and riffs. Scales and arpeggios to be performed from memory and unaccompanied. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

Riffs must be performed alongside a backing track, available to download from our website:

[click here to download](#) .

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scale		
One major scale	1 octave, ♩ = 88	ascending
Arpeggio		
One major arpeggio	1 octave, ♩ = 88	ascending
Riffs		
8-bar passage containing four short riffs	♩ = 96	in $\frac{4}{4}$

Component 2: Performance

80 marks

Performance of two contrasting songs not exceeding 7 minutes. At least one song must be from the list below. A written programme and the lyric sheet for each song must be submitted upon entry.

Composer	Title	Publication
Years & Years	Eyes Shut	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Steps 1 & 2 (LCME)
Owl City	Fireflies	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Steps 1 & 2 (LCME)
Corinne Bailey Rae	Put Your Records On	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Steps 1 & 2 (LCME)
Katy Perry	Roar	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Steps 1 & 2 (LCME)

Grade 1

Component 1: Technical Work

20 marks

Candidates perform scales, arpeggios and riffs. Scales and arpeggios to be performed from memory and unaccompanied. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

Riffs must be performed alongside a backing track, available to download from our website:

[click here to download](#) 

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scale		
One major scale One major scale	1 octave, ♩ = 90	ascending descending
Arpeggio		
One major arpeggio One major arpeggio	1 octave, ♩ = 90	ascending descending
Riffs		
16-bar passage containing four short riffs	♩ = 162	in $\frac{4}{4}$

Component 2: Performance

70 marks

Performance of two contrasting songs not exceeding 8 minutes. At least one song must be from the list below. A written programme and the lyric sheet for each song must be submitted upon entry.

Composer	Title	Publication
Taylor Swift	Shake It Off	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 1 (LCME)
George Ezra	Blame It on Me	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 1 (LCME)
The La's	There She Goes	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 1 (LCME)
Nancy Sinatra	These Boots Are Made for Walkin'	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 1 (LCME)
Natalie Imbruglia	Torn	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 1 (LCME)
The Beatles	Love Me Do	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 1 (LCME)
Billie Eilish	Birds Of A Feather	(any reliable edition)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- What attracted you to perform these songs?
- Which performer is associated with a recording of one of these songs?

Grade 2

Component 1: Technical Work

20 marks

Candidates perform scales, arpeggios and riffs. Scales and arpeggios to be performed from memory and unaccompanied. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

Riffs must be performed alongside a backing track, available to download from our website:

[click here to download](#) 

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
One major scale	1 octave, ♩ = 94	ascending and descending
Minor (harmonic or melodic)	1 octave, ♩ = 94	ascending
Arpeggios		
One major arpeggio	1 octave, ♩ = 94	ascending and descending
One minor arpeggio		ascending
Riffs		
8-bar passage containing four short riffs	♩ = 110	in $\frac{4}{4}$

Component 2: Performance

70 marks

Performance of two contrasting songs not exceeding 8 minutes. At least one song must be from the list below. A written programme and the lyric sheet for each song must be submitted upon entry.

Composer	Title	Publication
Bob Dylan	Make You Feel My Love	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 2 (LCME)
Dolly Parton	Jolene	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 2 (LCME)
Lady Antebellum	Need You Now	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 2 (LCME)
A Great Big World	Say Something	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 2 (LCME)
Christina Aguilera	Beautiful	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 2 (LCME)
Luke Bryan	Fast	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 2 (LCME)
Billie Eilish	Birds Of A Feather	(any reliable edition)
Miley Cyrus	Flowers	(any reliable edition)
Taylor Swift	Guilty As Sin	(any reliable edition)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- What attracted you to perform these songs?
- Which performer is associated with a recording of one of these songs?
- Can you describe how you feel when you sing one of these songs?

Grade 3

Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates perform scales, arpeggios and riffs. Scales and arpeggios to be performed from memory and unaccompanied. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

Riffs must be performed alongside a backing track, available to download from our website:

[click here to download](#) 

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
One major scale	1 octave, ♩ = 100	ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
One minor scale (harmonic or melodic)	1 octave, ♩ = 100	ascending
One minor scale (harmonic or melodic)		descending
Arpeggios		
One major arpeggio	1 octave, ♩ = 100	ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
One minor arpeggio	1 octave, ♩ = 100	ascending
One minor arpeggio		descending
Riffs		
8-bar passage containing four short riffs	♩ = 74	in $\frac{4}{4}$

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three contrasting songs from memory not exceeding 8 minutes. At least one song must be from the list below. A written programme and the lyric sheet for each song must be submitted upon entry. The use of a microphone is compulsory and all songs must be verbally introduced.

Composer	Title	Publication
Alicia Keys	No One	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 3 (LCME)
Ellie Goulding	Love Me like You Do	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 3 (LCME)
Snow Patrol	Run	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 3 (LCME)
Blondie	The Tide is High	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 3 (LCME)
Bob Marley	Three Little Birds	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 3 (LCME)
Keane	Somewhere Only We Know	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 3 (LCME)
Shawn Mendes	Heart Of Gold	(any reliable edition)
Shawn Mendes	Why Why Why	(any reliable edition)
Shawn Mendes	Stitches	(any reliable edition)
Paramore	Still Into You	(any reliable edition)
Billie Eilish	No Time To Die	(any reliable edition)
The Weeknd	Dancing In The Flames	(any reliable edition)
Haim	If I Could Change Your Mind	(any reliable edition)
Ed Sheeran	Eyes Closed	(any reliable edition)
Ed Sheeran	American Town	(any reliable edition)

Paramore	Ain't It Fun	(any reliable edition)
Teddy Swims	Bad Dreams	(any reliable edition)
Olivia Dean	Nice To Each Other	(any reliable edition)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Which performer is associated with a recording of one of these songs?
- Can you describe how you feel when you sing one of these songs?
- Talk through the differences in style in your selection of songs?

Grade 4

Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates perform scales, arpeggios and prepared improvisation. Scales and arpeggios to be performed from memory and unaccompanied. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

The prepared improvisation must be performed alongside a backing track, available to download from our website: [click here to download](#) ↓

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
One major scale One minor scale (harmonic or melodic)	1 octave, ♩ = 100	ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
Chromatic Scales		
One chromatic scale One chromatic scale	1 octave, ♩ = 100	ascending descending
Arpeggios		
One major arpeggio One minor arpeggio	1 octave, ♩ = 100	ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
Improvisation		
Improvisation along to a 16-bar backing track	♩ = 110	

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three contrasting songs from memory not exceeding 14 minutes. At least one song must be from the list below. A written programme and the lyric sheet for each song must be submitted upon entry. The use of a microphone is compulsory and all songs must be verbally introduced.

Composer	Title	Publication
Adele	Set Fire to the Rain	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 4 (LCME)
Rag'n'Bone Man	Human	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 4 (LCME)
Birdy	Skinny Love	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 4 (LCME)
R.E.M.	Everybody Hurts	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 4 (LCME)
Doris Day	Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 4 (LCME)
Dean Martin	Sway	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 4 (LCME)
Haim	If I Could Change Your Mind	(any reliable edition)
Paramore	Ain't It Fun	(any reliable edition)
Olivia Dean	Nice To Each Other	(any reliable edition)
Olivia Dean	Man I Need	(any reliable edition)
Shawn Mendes	Why Why Why	(any reliable edition)
Ariana Grande	Twilight Zone	(any reliable edition)
Dua Lipa	Houdini	(any reliable edition)
Leon Bridges	If It Feels Good	(any reliable edition)

Chappell Roan	Pink Pony Club	(any reliable edition)
The Weeknd	Open Hearts	(any reliable edition)
Khalid	Better	(any reliable edition)
Hozier	Sweet Music	(any reliable edition)
Charlie Puth	I Don't Think That I Like Her	(any reliable edition)
Teddy Swims	The Door	(any reliable edition)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Can you describe how you feel when you sing one of these songs?
- Talk through the differences in tempo in your selection of songs
- Talk about the original artist and any other recordings of one of these songs

Grade 5

Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates perform scales, arpeggios and prepared improvisation. Scales and arpeggios to be performed from memory and unaccompanied. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

The prepared improvisation must be performed alongside a backing track, available to download from our website: [click here to download](#) ↓

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
One major scale One minor scale (harmonic or melodic)	1 octave, ♩ = 110	ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
Chromatic Scales		
One chromatic scale	1 octave, ♩ = 110	ascending and descending (with a two-beat rest)
Arpeggio		
One major arpeggio One minor arpeggio	1 octave, ♩ = 110	ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
Intervals		
All intervals in a major scale	1 octave, ♩ = 110	ascending and descending (with a two-beat rest)
Improvisation		
Improvisation along to a 16-bar backing track	♩ = 96	

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three contrasting songs from memory not exceeding 14 minutes. At least one song must be from the list below. A written programme and the lyric sheet for each song must be submitted upon entry. The use of a microphone is compulsory and all songs must be verbally introduced.

Composer	Title	Publication
Mark Ronson feat. Bruno Mars	UpTown Funk!	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 5 (LCME)
Adele	Rolling in the Deep	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 5 (LCME)
Jamelia	Superstar	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 5 (LCME)
Gladys Knight & the Pips	Midnight Train to Georgia	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 5 (LCME)
Otis Redding	(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 5 (LCME)
Robbie Williams	Love My Life	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 5 (LCME)
Olivia Dean	Man I Need	(any reliable edition)
Leon Bridges	If It Feels Good	(any reliable edition)
Ariana Grande	We Can't Be Friends	(any reliable edition)
Dua Lipa	Don't Start Now	(any reliable edition)

Taylor Swift	The Tortured Poets Department	(any reliable edition)
Hozier	Movement	(any reliable edition)
Justin Timberlake	Drown	(any reliable edition)
Justin Bieber	Ghost	(any reliable edition)
Justin Bieber	Anyone	(any reliable edition)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Can you describe how you feel when you sing one of these songs?
- Talk through the differences in tempo, style and mood in your song selection
- Can you tell me more about the original artist and any other recordings of one of these songs?
- Can you give some basic information about the songwriters of one of your chosen songs?

Grade 6

Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates perform scales, arpeggios and prepared improvisation. Scales and arpeggios to be performed from memory and unaccompanied. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

The prepared improvisation must be performed alongside a backing track, available to download from our website: [click here to download](#) ↓

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
One major scale One minor scale (harmonic or melodic)	1 octave, ♩ = 128	ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
Chromatic Scales		
One chromatic scale	1 octave, ♩ = 128	ascending and descending (with a two-beat rest)
Arpeggios		
One major arpeggio One minor arpeggio	1 octave, ♩ = 128	ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
Intervals		
All intervals in a major scale All intervals in a minor scale (harmonic or melodic)	1 octave, ♩ = 128	ascending and descending (with a two-beat rest)
Improvisation		
Improvisation along to a 16-bar backing track		

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three contrasting songs from memory not exceeding 18 minutes. At least one song must be from the list below. A written programme and the lyric sheet for each song must be submitted upon entry. The use of a microphone is compulsory and all songs must be verbally introduced.

Composer	Title	Publication
Florence + The Machine	Spectrum	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 6 (LCME)
Gnarls Barkley	Crazy	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 6 (LCME)
Jess Glynne	Don't Be So Hard on Yourself	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 6 (LCME)
Ed Sheeran	Photograph	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 6 (LCME)
Al Green	Let's Stay Together	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 6 (LCME)
Ann Peebles	I Can't Stand the Rain	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 6 (LCME)
Justin Bieber	Anyone	(any reliable edition)
Ariana Grande	Past Life	(any reliable edition)
Justin Timberlake	No Angels	(any reliable edition)
Charlie Puth	Light Switch	(any reliable edition)

The Weeknd	Cry For Me	(any reliable edition)
Teddy Swims	Lose Control	(any reliable edition)
Hozier	From Eden	(any reliable edition)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Can you describe how you feel when you sing one of these songs?
- Can you tell me more about the original artist and any other recordings of one of these songs?
- Can you tell me something about the differences in tempo, style and mood in your song selection?
- Can you tell me something about two of the different genres performed?

Grade 7

Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates perform scales, arpeggios and prepared improvisation. Scales and arpeggios to be performed from memory and unaccompanied. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level.

The prepared improvisation must be performed alongside a backing track, available to download from our website: [click here to download](#) ↓

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
One major scale One minor scale (harmonic or melodic)	1 octave, ♩ = 134	ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
Chromatic Scales		
One chromatic scale	1 octave, ♩ = 134	ascending and descending (with a two-beat rest)
Arpeggio		
One major arpeggio One minor arpeggio	1 octave, ♩ = 134	ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
Intervals		
All intervals in a major scale	1 octave, ♩ = 134	ascending and descending (with a two-beat rest)
All intervals in a minor scale (harmonic or melodic)	1 octave, ♩ = 134	ascending and descending (with a two-beat rest)
All intervals in a chromatic scale	1 octave, ♩ = 134	ascending
Improvisation		

Improvisation along to a 16-bar backing track

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three contrasting songs from memory not exceeding 18 minutes. At least one song must be from the list below. A written programme and the lyric sheet for each song must be submitted upon entry. The use of a microphone is compulsory and all songs must be verbally introduced.

Composer	Title	Publication
Coldplay	Clocks	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 7 (LCME)
U2	With or Without You	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 7 (LCME)
Alannah Myles	Black Velvet	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 7 (LCME)
Bill Withers	Ain't No Sunshine	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 7 (LCME)
Ariana Grande	Touch It	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 7 (LCME)
Train	Play That Song	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 7 (LCME)
Hozier	From Eden	(any reliable edition)
Olivia Rodrigo	Driver's License	(any reliable edition)
Charli XCX	Talk Talk	(any reliable edition)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Can you tell me the story of one of these songs?
- Talk about the original artist and any other recordings of one of these songs
- Talk through the differences in tempo, style and mood in your song selection
- Explain two of the different genres performed
- What vocal discoveries have you made personally whilst preparing these songs for your performance?

Grade 8

Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidates perform scales, arpeggios and prepared improvisation. Scales and arpeggios to be performed from memory and unaccompanied. Tempo markings reflect the capabilities expected at this level

The prepared improvisation must be performed alongside a backing track, available to download from our website: [click here to download](#) .

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
One major scale Harmonic minor scale Melodic minor scale Natural minor scale	1 octave, ♩ = 146	ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
Chromatic Scales		
One chromatic scale	1 octave, ♩ = 146	ascending and descending (with a two-beat rest)
Arpeggios		
One major arpeggio One minor arpeggio	1 octave, ♩ = 146	ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
Intervals		
All intervals in a major scale All intervals in an harmonic minor scale All intervals in a melodic minor scale All intervals in a chromatic scale	1 octave, ♩ = 146	ascending and descending (with a two-beat rest)
Improvisation		
Improvisation along to a 16-bar backing track		

Component 2: Performance

75 marks

Performance of three contrasting songs from memory not exceeding 18 minutes. At least one song must be from the list below. A written programme and the lyric sheet for each song must be submitted upon entry. The use of a microphone is compulsory and all songs must be verbally introduced.

Composer	Title	Publication
Sam Smith	I'm Not the Only One	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 8 (LCME)
Beyoncé	If I Were a Boy	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 8 (LCME)
Shirley Bassey	Diamonds Are Forever	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 8 (LCME)
Meat Loaf	Bat Out of Hell	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 8 (LCME)
Future Islands	Ran	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 8 (LCME)
Laura Marling	Soothing	Popular Music Vocals Handbook: Grade 8 (LCME)
Olivia Rodrigo	Vampire	(any reliable edition)

Component 3: Discussion

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Talk about the original artist and any other recordings of one of these songs
- Talk through the differences in tempo, style and mood in your song selection
- Explain two of the different genres performed
- What vocal discoveries have you made whilst preparing these songs for your performance?
- Explain your performance style (including microphone technique), how you would like to improve it for the future and some aspects about learning the songs



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