

**London College of Music Examinations**

# Piano Keyboard Harmony Test

**Example tests for:**

Grades 1 to 8

**Valid from:**

2026 until further notice

updated 13.05.2026

**Piano Keyboard Harmony Test**

This handbook brings together example exercises to practise the Keyboard Harmony component of LCME's Piano exams. It provides structured practice material that reflects the expectations of the examination and supports the development of solid technical fluency. Candidates should always refer to the 2026 *Piano Syllabus* for full and up-to-date requirements.

**Syllabus validity**

This handbook is valid for examinations from 2026 until further notice.

**Exam format**

Examinations in Piano are available in two formats: graded examinations and recital grades, offered both in-person and digitally.

**Entering for an exam**

Exam entries can be made online at [lcme.uwl.ac.uk](http://lcme.uwl.ac.uk)

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**Component 4: 10 marks**

# Grade 1

# Keyboard

# Harmony Test

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## Requirements

Candidates perform a harmonic accompaniment to a 4-bar melody played by the examiner using triads in the right hand and the corresponding bass note in the left hand. Chords will be specified.

Up to one minute is allowed to study the test, during which the candidate may try parts of it if they wish.

The examiner will count in 1 bar at the start of the test in a moderate tempo ( $\downarrow = c.70$ ).

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## Information

### Parameters

The following parameters offer guidance as to what will be tested in the exam.

- chords I and V in the keys of C and G major
- either root positions or inversions at candidate's choice
- $\frac{4}{4}$

### Sample tests

The following are examples of the style and standard of the keyboard harmony tests at this grade.

**Example 1**

*15<sup>ma</sup>*  
♩ = c.70

Examiner

Candidate performs the given harmonic accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using triads in the RH and the corresponding bass note in the LH.

C C G C C

I I V I

This example shows a Merit standard response, further marks will be awarded for appropriate use of inversions and/or figuration.

*15<sup>ma</sup>*  
♩ = c.70

Examiner

C C G C C

I I V I

**Example 2**

15<sup>ma</sup>  
♩ = c.70

Examiner

Candidate performs the given harmonic accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using triads in the RH and the corresponding bass note in the LH.

C G G C

Candidate

I V V I

**Example 3**

15<sup>ma</sup>  
♩ = c.70

Examiner

Candidate performs the given harmonic accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using triads in the RH and the corresponding bass note in the LH.

C G G C

Candidate

I V V I

**Component 4: 10 marks**

# Grade 2

# Keyboard

# Harmony Test

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## Requirements

Candidates perform a harmonic accompaniment to a 4-bar melody played by the examiner using triads in the right hand and the corresponding bass note in the left hand. Chords will be specified.

Up to one minute is allowed to study the test, during which the candidate may try parts of it if they wish.

The examiner will count in 1 bar at the start of the test in a moderate tempo ( $\downarrow = c.70$ ).

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## Information

### Parameters

In addition to the parameters listed at grade 1, you will be tested on the following:

- chords I and V in the keys of C, D and G major
- either root positions or inversions at candidate's choice
- $\frac{3}{4}$

### Sample tests

The following are examples of the style and standard of the keyboard harmony tests at this grade.

**Example 1**

*15<sup>ma</sup>*  
♩ = c.70

Examiner

Candidate performs the given harmonic accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using triads in the RH and the corresponding bass note in the LH.

G D D G

Candidate

I V V I

This example shows a Merit standard response, further marks will be awarded for appropriate use of inversions and/or figuration.

*15<sup>ma</sup>*  
♩ = c.70

Examiner

G D D G

Candidate

I V V I

**Example 2**

15<sup>ma</sup>  
♩ = c.70

Examiner

Candidate performs the given harmonic accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using triads in the RH and the corresponding bass note in the LH.

G G D G

Candidate

I I V I

**Example 3**

15<sup>ma</sup>  
♩ = c.70

Examiner

Candidate performs the given harmonic accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using triads in the RH and the corresponding bass note in the LH.

C G G C

Candidate

I V V I

**Component 4: 10 marks**

# Grade 3

# Keyboard

# Harmony Test

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## Requirements

Candidates perform a 8-bar harmonic accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using triads in the right hand and the corresponding bass note in the left hand. Chords will be specified.

Up to one minute is allowed to study the test, during which the candidate may try parts of it if they wish.

The examiner will count in 1 bar at the start of the test in a moderate tempo ( $\downarrow = c.70$ ).

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## Information

### Parameters

In addition to the parameters listed at previous grades, you will be tested on the following:

- chords I, IV and V in the keys of C, D, G, A and F major
- either root positions or inversions at candidate's choice
- $\frac{4}{4}, \frac{3}{4}$

### Sample tests

The following are examples of the style and standard of the keyboard harmony tests at this grade.

Example 1

15<sup>ma</sup>  
♩ = c.70

Examiner

Candidate performs the given harmonic accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using triads in the RH and the corresponding bass note in the LH.

D D G A

Candidate

I I IV V

5 (15)

D G A D

I IV V I

Keyboard Harmony Test: Grade 3

This example shows a Merit standard response, further marks will be awarded for appropriate use of inversions and/or figuration.

15<sup>ma</sup>

Examiner

D D G A

I I IV V

5 (15)

D G A D

I IV V I

**Example 2**

15<sup>ma</sup>  
♩ = c.70

Examiner

Candidate performs the given harmonic accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using triads in the RH and the corresponding bass note in the LH.

D G A D

I IV V I

5 (15)

G D A D

IV I V I

**Example 3**

15<sup>ma</sup>  
♩ = c.70

Examiner

G C G D

I IV I V

Candidate

Candidate performs the given harmonic accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using triads in the RH and the corresponding bass note in the LH.

5 (15)

C G D G

IV I V I

Component 4: 10 marks

# Grade 4

# Keyboard

# Harmony Test

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## Requirements

The candidate performs a previously unseen 4-bar melody in the right hand with harmonic accompaniment in the left hand, over a bass line played by the examiner. Chords will be specified.

Up to one minute is allowed to study the test, during which the candidate may try parts of it if they wish.

The examiner will count in 1 bar at the start of the test in a moderate tempo ( $\downarrow = c.70$ ).

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## Information

### Parameters

In addition to the parameters listed at previous grades, you will be tested on the following:

- chords I, IV and V in the keys of C, D, G, A and F major
- appropriate right-hand chord voicings should be used
- $\frac{4}{4}, \frac{3}{4}$

### Sample tests

The following are examples of the style and standard of the keyboard harmony tests at this grade.

**Example 1**

$\text{♩} = \text{c.70}$

Examiner

*8<sup>vb</sup>*

Candidate performs the written melody in the RH and harmonic accompaniment in the LH while the examiner plays the bass line.

*8<sup>va</sup>*

F B $\flat$  C F

I IV V I

This example shows a Merit standard response, further marks will be awarded for appropriate use of inversions and/or figuration.

$\text{♩} = \text{c.70}$

Examiner

*8<sup>vb</sup>*

Candidate performs the written melody in the RH and harmonic accompaniment in the LH while the examiner plays the bass line.

*8<sup>va</sup>*

F B $\flat$  C F

I IV V I

**Example 2**

$\text{♩} = \text{c.70}$

Examiner

Candidate performs the written melody in the RH and harmonic accompaniment in the LH while the examiner plays the bass line.

*8<sup>va</sup>*

C F G C

I IV V I

**Example 3**

$\text{♩} = \text{c.70}$

Examiner

Candidate performs the written melody in the RH and harmonic accompaniment in the LH while the examiner plays the bass line.

*8<sup>va</sup>*

D A G D

I V IV I

**Component 4: 10 marks**

# Grade 5

# Keyboard

# Harmony Test

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## Requirements

The candidate performs a previously unseen 8-bar melody in the right hand with harmonic accompaniment in the left hand, over a bass line played by the examiner. Chords will be specified.

Up to one minute is allowed to study the test, during which the candidate may try parts of it if they wish.

The examiner will count in 1 bar at the start of the test in a moderate tempo ( $\downarrow = c.70$ ).

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## Information

### Parameters

In addition to the parameters listed at previous grades, you will be tested on the following:

- chords I, IV and V in the keys of C, D, G, A, F, B $\flat$  and E $\flat$  major
- appropriate right-hand chord voicings should be used
- $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{2}{4}$

### Sample tests

The following are examples of the style and standard of the keyboard harmony tests at this grade.

Example 1

$\text{♩} = \text{c.70}$

Examiner

Candidate performs the written melody in the RH and harmonic accompaniment in the LH while the examiner plays the bass line.

*8<sup>va</sup>*  
B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F

I V I V

5

(8)

(8)

E $\flat$  B $\flat$  F B $\flat$

IV I V I



**Example 2**

♩ = c.70

Examiner

8<sup>va</sup>

Candidate performs the written melody in the RH and harmonic accompaniment in the LH while the examiner plays the bass line.

8<sup>va</sup>

C G C G

Candidate

I V I V

5

(8)

(8)

F C G C

IV I V I

**Example 3**

$\text{♩} = \text{c.}70$

Examiner

*8vb*

Candidate performs the written melody in the RH and harmonic accompaniment in the LH while the examiner plays the bass line.

*8va*

G C G D

Candidate

I IV I V

5

(8)

(8)

C G D G

IV I V I

Detailed description: The score is for a 3/4 time piece in G major. The Examiner's part (bass clef) consists of a steady eighth-note bass line: G2, A2, B2, G2, F2, E2, D2. The Candidate's part (treble clef) features a melody with a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The harmonic accompaniment in the left hand consists of chords: G (quarter), C (quarter), G (quarter), D (quarter), G (quarter), D (quarter), G (quarter), D (quarter). The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1-4, and the second system covers measures 5-8. The tempo is marked as approximately 70 beats per minute.

**Component 4: 10 marks**

# Grade 6

# Keyboard

# Harmony Test

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## Requirements

The candidate performs an 8-bar accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner, using appropriate harmonic language and texture. A stylistic suggestion will be provided. Chords will be specified.

Up to one minute is allowed to study the test, during which the candidate may try parts of it if they wish.

The examiner will count in 1 bar at the start of the test at a given tempo.

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## Information

### Parameters

In addition to the parameters listed at previous grades, you will be tested on the following:

- chords I, IV and V in A, D and E minor
- use of inversions and appropriate right-hand figuration is expected
- $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{2}{4}$

### Sample tests

The following are examples of the style and standard of the keyboard harmony tests at this grade.

Example 1

Con Spirito

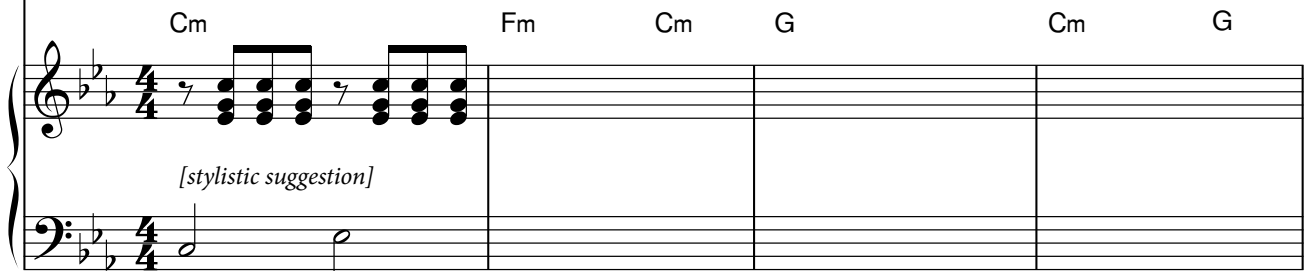
15<sup>ma</sup>

Examiner



Candidates perform an accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using stylistically appropriate harmonic language and texture.

Candidate

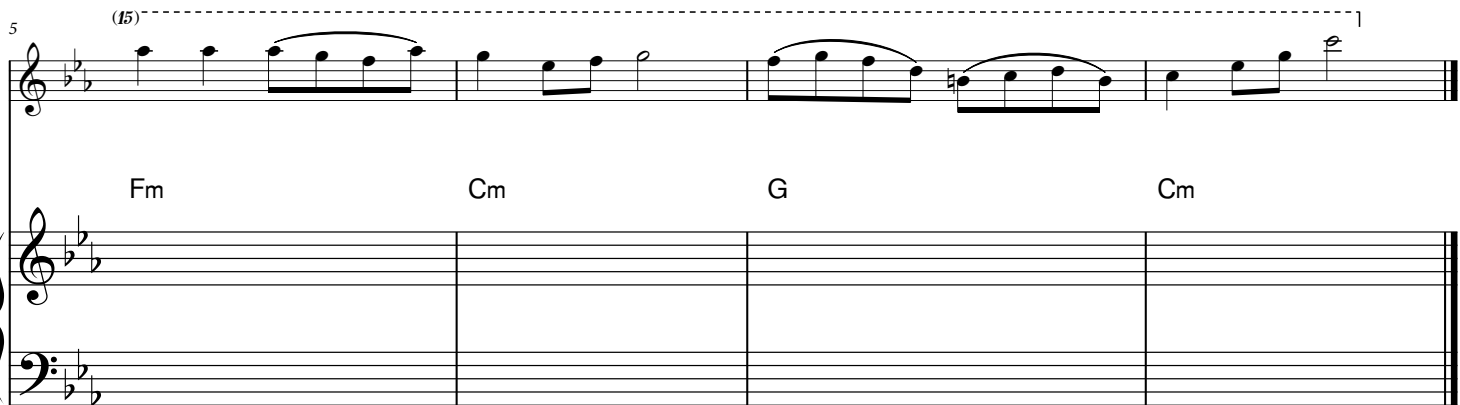


Cm Fm Cm G Cm G

[stylistic suggestion]

i iv i V i V

5 (15)



Fm Cm G Cm

iv i V i

This example shows a Distinction standard response.

**Con Spirito**  
*15<sup>ma</sup>*

Examiner

Candidate

5 (15)

Fm Cm G G Cm

iv i V i 6

**Example 2**

**Con Spirito**

*15<sup>ma</sup>*

Examiner

Candidates perform an accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using stylistically appropriate harmonic language and texture.

Candidate

Dm Gm A Dm

[stylistic suggestion]

i iv V i

(15)

5

Gm Dm A Dm

iv i V i

**Example 3**

**Con Spirito**

Examiner *gru*

Candidates perform an accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using stylistically appropriate harmonic language and texture.

Candidate

Gm D Gm Cm

[stylistic suggestion]

i V i iv

5 (8)

Gm Cm D Gm

i iv V i

**Component 4: 10 marks**

# Grade 7

# Keyboard

# Harmony Test

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## Requirements

The candidate performs an 8-bar accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner, using appropriate harmonic language and texture. A stylistic suggestion will be provided. Chords will be specified.

Up to one minute is allowed to study the test, during which the candidate may try parts of it if they wish.

The examiner will count in 1 bar at the start of the test at a given tempo.

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## Information

### Parameters

In addition to the parameters listed at previous grades, you will be tested on the following:

- chords I, IV and V in major or i, iv and V in minor, in keys up to three sharps and three flats
- use of inversions and appropriate right-hand figuration is expected
- $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{2}{4}$  and  $\frac{6}{8}$

### Sample tests

The following are examples of the style and standard of the keyboard harmony tests at this grade.

Example 1

Grazioso

15<sup>ma</sup>

Examiner

Candidates perform an accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using stylistically appropriate harmonic language and texture.

A E A D A

Candidate

[stylistic suggestion]

I V I IV I

5 (15)

F#m Bm E A

vi ii V I

This example shows a Distinction standard response.

**Grazioso**  
*15<sup>ma</sup>*

Examiner

Candidate

A E A D A

I V I IV I

5 (15)

F#m Bm E A

vi ii V I

**Example 2**

**Grazioso**

*15<sup>ma</sup>*

Examiner

Candidates perform an accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using stylistically appropriate harmonic language and texture.

F B $\flat$  F C

Candidate

*[stylistic suggestion]*

I IV I V

5 (15)

B $\flat$  F C F

IV I V I

**Example 3**

**Grazioso**

*15<sup>ma</sup>*

Examiner

Candidates perform an accompaniment to a melody played by the examiner using stylistically appropriate harmonic language and texture.

Candidate

Gm Gm Cm Cm  
i i iv iv

5 (15)

D Cm D Gm

V iv V i

**Component 4: 10 marks**

# Grade 8

# Keyboard

# Harmony Test

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## Requirements

The candidate harmonises a given melody using chords over a bass line. Only the opening tonic chord is given, with all other harmonic choices made by the candidate. The harmony used must be diatonic.

Up to one minute is allowed to study the test, during which the candidate may try parts of it if they wish.

The accompaniment may be extended with a brief introduction, varied textures, or cadential embellishments.

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## Information

### Parameters

In addition to the parameters listed at previous grades, you will be tested on the following:

- chords I–ii–IV–V in major or i–iv–V–VI in minor, in keys up to three sharps and three flats
- use of inversions and appropriate right-hand figuration is expected
- modulations may be added
- $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{2}{4}$  and  $\frac{6}{8}$

### Sample tests

The following are examples of the style and standard of the keyboard harmony tests at this grade.

**Example 1**

The candidate plays a harmonised melody using chords over a bass line. The opening tonic chord is given. The remaining harmonic choices must be diatonic.

**Vivo**  
E $\flat$

Candidate

I

5

This example shows a Distinction standard response.

**Vivo**  
E $\flat$

Candidate

I

5

**Example 2**

The candidate plays a harmonised melody using chords over a bass line. The opening tonic chord is given. The remaining harmonic choices must be diatonic.

**Vivo**

F

Candidate

I

5

**Example 3**

The candidate plays a harmonised melody using chords over a bass line. The opening tonic chord is given. The remaining harmonic choices must be diatonic.

**Vivo**

Gm

Candidate

I

5





**London College of Music Examinations**

University of West London

St Mary's Road

London

W5 5RF

020 8231 2364

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