

London College of Music Examinations

Piano Keyboard Harmony Test

Example tests for:

Grades 1 to 8

Valid from:

2026 until further notice

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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

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Component 4: 10 marks

Grade 1

Keyboard

Harmony Test

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 ($\downarrow = c.70$).

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^{ma}
♩ = 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^{ma}
♩ = c.70

Examiner

C C G C C

I I V I

Example 2

15^{ma}
♩ = 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^{ma}
♩ = 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

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 ($\downarrow = c.70$).

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^{ma}
♩ = 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^{ma}
♩ = c.70

Examiner

G D D G

Candidate

I V V I

Example 2

15^{ma}
♩ = 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

Candidate

I I V I

Example 3

15^{ma}
♩ = 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

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 ($\downarrow = c.70$).

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^{ma}
♩ = 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^{ma}

Examiner

D D G A

I I IV V

5 (15)

D G A D

I IV V I

Example 2

15^{ma}
♩ = 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

Candidate

I IV V I

5 (15)

G D A D

IV I V I

Example 3

15^{ma}
♩ = 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

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 ($\downarrow = c.70$).

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^{va}

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

8^{va}

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^{va}

F B \flat C F

I IV V I

Example 2

$\text{♩} = c.70$

Examiner

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

8^{va}

C F G C

I IV V I

Example 3

$\text{♩} = c.70$

Examiner

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

8^{va}

D A G D

I V IV I

Component 4: 10 marks

Grade 5

Keyboard

Harmony Test

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 ($\downarrow = c.70$).

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, Bb and Eb 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^{va}
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

Candidate

C G C G

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

Component 4: 10 marks

Grade 6

Keyboard

Harmony Test

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.

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^{ma}

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^{ma}

Examiner

Candidate

Chords: Cm, Fm, Cm, G, Cm, G

Roman Numerals: i, iv, i, V, i, V

5 (15)

Chords: Fm, Cm, G, G, Cm

Roman Numerals: iv, i, V, V, i

Example 2

Con Spirito

15^{ma}

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

5 (15)

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

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.

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^{ma}

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^{ma}

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^{ma}

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

Component 4: 10 marks

Grade 8

Keyboard

Harmony Test

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.

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



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