

London College of Music Examinations

Bass Guitar Recorded Exams

Qualification specifications for:
Step, Recital Grades

Valid from:
2026 until further notice

updated 05.10.2026

This document was released on September 1, 2026.

Below is a record of updates made since release:

05.10.2026

Candidates may now select appropriate own-choice repertoire, subject to the requirements specified for each component and grade.

Bass Guitar Recorder Exam Requirements

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London College of Music Examinations
lcme.uwl.ac.uk

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Bass Guitar Recorder Requirements 2026

1. Information and general guidelines

1.1 Introduction

This document outlines the requirements for Recorded Grades and Recital Grades in Bass 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 [Bass 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 Bass exams (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

Recital Grades	
Technical Work	x
Bass Patterns	✓
Performance	✓
Structure	Grades 1 to 8
Prerequisites	x
Assessment	Digital Recorded
Grading	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%
Regulation	✓
UCAS points	Grades 6 to 8

Introductory examinations

LCME also offers one level of introductory examination in Bass: Step. 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 [Bass 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 **Bass 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:

Digital publications

• Bass Guitar Playing Handbooks

Digital editions of the Early, Intermediate and Advanced Grade Handbooks are available for free on the LCME website: [click here to download](#) ↓

• Improvising Bass Guitar Handbooks

Digital editions of the Early Stages, Intermediate and Advanced Grade Improvising Bass Guitar Handbooks are available for free on the LCME website: [click here to download](#) ↓

• Audio downloads

Bass patterns audio files can be found on the LCME website: [click here to download](#) ↓

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Bass Guitar Recorder Requirements 2026

2. Recorded Exam requirements

2.1 Summary of exam requirements

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 Recital Step, Grades 1–5

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

• Component 1: Bass Patterns or Performance

Candidates perform two bass pattern tracks from the handbook of the equivalent level or perform two pieces of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.

• Component 2: Performance

Candidates perform one developing bass line over a backing track selected from the relevant exam handbook or over a backing track of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.

Recorded Recital Grades 6–8

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

• Component 1: Bass Patterns or Performance

Candidates perform two bass pattern tracks from the handbook of the equivalent level or two pieces of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.

• Component 2: Performance

Candidates perform two developing bass lines over different backing tracks selected from the relevant exam handbook or over backing tracks of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.

	Bass Patterns	Performance
Step, Grades 1 to 5	60%	40%
Grades 6 to 8	50%	50%

Regulation

LCME's recorded recital exams in Bass are not currently regulated.

Step

Component 1: Bass Patterns or Performance

60 marks

Option 1: Bass Patterns

Performance of two bass pattern tracks from Bass Guitar Playing Early Grades (LCME):

[click here to download](#) 

Patterns are to be performed as notated on the first play-through. On subsequent play-throughs, candidates must introduce musically effective, stylistically appropriate rhythmic variations.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform two pieces of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration, which may include pieces set for the same grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 2: Performance

40 marks

Candidates create and perform one developing bass line over a recorded backing track from Improvising Bass books Early Stages (LCME): [click here to download](#)  or over a backing track of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.

Grade 1

Component 1: Bass Patterns or Performance

60 marks

Option 1: Bass Patterns

Performance of two bass pattern tracks from Bass Guitar Playing Early Grades (LCME):

[click here to download](#) 

Patterns are to be performed as notated on the first play-through. On subsequent play-throughs, candidates must introduce musically effective, stylistically appropriate rhythmic variations.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform two pieces of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration, which may include pieces set for the same grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 2: Performance

40 marks

Candidates create and perform one developing bass line over a recorded backing track from Improvising Bass books Early Stages (LCME): [click here to download](#)  or over a backing track of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.

Grade 2

Component 1: Bass Patterns or Performance

60 marks

Option 1: Bass Patterns

Performance of two bass pattern tracks from Bass Guitar Playing Early Grades (LCME):

[click here to download](#) 

Patterns are to be performed as notated on the first play-through. On subsequent play-throughs, candidates must introduce musically effective, stylistically appropriate rhythmic variations.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform two pieces of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration, which may include pieces set for the same grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 2: Performance

40 marks

Candidates create and perform one developing bass line over a recorded backing track from Improvising Bass books Early Stages (LCME): [click here to download](#)  or over a backing track of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.

Grade 3

Component 1: Bass Patterns or Performance

60 marks

Option 1: Bass Patterns

Performance of two bass pattern tracks from Bass Guitar Playing Intermediate Grades (LCME): [click here to download](#) 

Patterns are to be performed as notated on the first play-through. On subsequent play-throughs, candidates must introduce musically effective, stylistically appropriate rhythmic variations.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform two pieces of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration, which may include pieces set for the same grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 2: Performance

40 marks

Candidates create and perform one developing bass line over a recorded backing track from Improvising Bass books Intermediate Level (LCME): [click here to download](#)  or over a backing track of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.

Grade 4

Component 1: Bass Patterns or Performance

60 marks

Option 1: Bass Patterns

Performance of two bass pattern tracks from Bass Guitar Playing Intermediate Grades (LCME): [click here to download](#) 

Patterns are to be performed as notated on the first play-through. On subsequent play-throughs, candidates must introduce musically effective, stylistically appropriate rhythmic variations.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform two pieces of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration, which may include pieces set for the same grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 2: Performance

40 marks

Candidates create and perform one developing bass line over a recorded backing track from Improvising Bass books Intermediate Level (LCME): [click here to download](#)  or over a backing track of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.

Grade 5

Component 1: Bass Patterns or Performance

60 marks

Option 1: Bass Patterns

Performance of two bass pattern tracks from Bass Guitar Playing Intermediate Grades (LCME): [click here to download](#) 

Patterns are to be performed as notated on the first play-through. On subsequent play-throughs, candidates must introduce musically effective, stylistically appropriate rhythmic variations.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform two pieces of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration, which may include pieces set for the same grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 2: Performance

40 marks

Candidates create and perform one developing bass line over a recorded backing track from Improvising Bass books Intermediate Level (LCME): [click here to download](#)  or over a backing track of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.

Grade 6

Component 1: Bass Patterns or Performance

60 marks

Option 1: Bass Patterns

Performance of two bass pattern tracks from Bass Guitar Playing Advance Grades (LCME): [click here to download](#) 

Patterns are to be performed as notated on the first play-through. On subsequent play-throughs, candidates must introduce musically effective, stylistically appropriate rhythmic variations.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform two pieces of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration, which may include pieces set for the same grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 2: Performance

40 marks

Candidates create and perform one developing bass line over a recorded backing track from Improvising Bass books Advanced Level (LCME): [click here to download](#)  or over a backing track of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.

Grade 7

Component 1: Bass Patterns or Performance

60 marks

Option 1: Bass Patterns

Performance of two bass pattern tracks from Bass Guitar Playing Advance Grades (LCME): [click here to download](#) 

Patterns are to be performed as notated on the first play-through. On subsequent play-throughs, candidates must introduce musically effective, stylistically appropriate rhythmic variations.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform two pieces of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration, which may include pieces set for the same grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 2: Performance

40 marks

Candidates create and perform one developing bass line over a recorded backing track from Improvising Bass books Advanced Level (LCME): [click here to download](#)  or over a backing track of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.

Grade 8

Component 1: Bass Patterns or Performance

60 marks

Option 1: Bass Patterns

Performance of two bass pattern tracks from Bass Guitar Playing Advance Grades (LCME): [click here to download](#) 

Patterns are to be performed as notated on the first play-through. On subsequent play-throughs, candidates must introduce musically effective, stylistically appropriate rhythmic variations.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform two pieces of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration, which may include pieces set for the same grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 2: Performance

40 marks

Candidates create and perform one developing bass line over a recorded backing track from Improvising Bass books Advanced Level (LCME): [click here to download](#)  or over a backing track of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard and duration.



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