

Strings & Harp

Technical Requirements & Discussion Questions for Recorded Graded Exams

The following list of technical requirements should be performed to make up the Technical Work component of the exam for:

- **Cello** (pp.1-5)
- **Double Bass** (pp.6-9)
- **Harp** (pp. 10-14)
- **Viola** (pp.15-18)
- **Violin** (pp.19-23)

Candidates may choose which scales or arpeggios to perform but should, where possible, select a variety of different keys. Close attention should be paid to instructions on articulation, dynamics and bowing. Further guidelines on specific requirements for each grade can be found in the LCME Piano syllabus.

Technical Work and Discussion Questions – Recorded Exams

Cello

Grade 1

Technical Requirements

Scales

All three scales set for the grade – at least one must be slurred

Arpeggios

All three arpeggios set for the grade

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the mood of this piece?

Grade 2:

Technical Requirements

Scales– one of each of the following. At least one scale must be slurred:

- One two-octave major scale
- One one-octave major scale
- One minor scale (harmonic or melodic)

Arpeggios – one of each of the following. At least one must be slurred:

- One two-octave major arpeggio
- One one-octave major arpeggio
- One minor arpeggio

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- How would you describe the dynamics at the beginning of this piece?

Grade 3:

Technical Requirements

Scales - one of each of the following. At least two should be slurred:

- One-octave major scale
- One-octave minor scale (harmonic or melodic)
- Two-octave major scale
- Two-octave minor scale (harmonic or melodic)

Arpeggios - one of each of the following. At least one must be slurred:

- One-octave major arpeggio
- One-octave minor arpeggio
- Two-octave major arpeggio
- Two-octave minor arpeggio

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the time signature of this piece?

Grade 4

Technical Requirements

Scales

- Three major scales - at least one must be slurred
- Two minor scales – at least one must be slurred (harmonic or melodic)
- One chromatic scale

Arpeggios

Three major - at least one must be slurred

Two minor - at least one must be slurred

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Which was the trickiest part of the piece to learn and why?

Grade 5

Technical Requirements

Scales

Three major scales - at least one must be slurred

Three minor scales – at least one must be slurred (harmonic or melodic)

Two chromatic scales. One slurred, one separate

Arpeggios

Two major- at least one must be slurred

Two minor– at least one must be slurred

One dominant 7th arpeggio – slurred

One diminished 7th arpeggio – separate

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Can you tell me which historical period this piece comes from?
- What is the form of this piece?

Grade 6

Technical Requirements

Scales - At least four should be slurred:

Two two-octave major scales

Two two-octave minor scales (one harmonic, one melodic)

One three-octave major scales

One three-octave minor scales

Two chromatic scales. One slurred, one separate

Arpeggios – one of each of the following. At least three should be slurred:

Two-octave major arpeggios

Two-octave minor arpeggios (one harmonic, one melodic)

Three-octave major arpeggio

Three-octave minor arpeggios (one harmonic, one melodic)

dominant 7th arpeggios – One slurred, one separate
diminished 7th arpeggios – One slurred, one separate

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

-
- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What was the hardest thing about learning this piece and how did you overcome the difficulty?
- What do you know about the composer of this piece?

Grade 7

Technical Requirements

Scales - At least four should be slurred:

Two two-octave major scales

Two two-octave minor scales (one harmonic, one melodic)

One three-octave major scale

One three-octave minor scale

Two chromatic scales. One slurred, one separate

Arpeggios – one of each of the following. At least three should be slurred:

Two-octave major arpeggios

Two-octave minor arpeggios (one harmonic, one melodic)

Three-octave major arpeggios

Three-octave minor arpeggios (one harmonic, one melodic)

dominant 7th arpeggios – One slurred, one separate

diminished 7th arpeggios – One slurred, one separate

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the historical and stylistic context of this piece and how did this affect your interpretation?
- Describe the form and main keys of this piece

Grade 8

Technical Requirements

Scales - at least three should be slurred:

Three major scales

Three minor scales (at least one harmonic and melodic)

One chromatic scale - slurred

Two double stop scales

Arpeggios - at least three should be slurred:

Three major arpeggios

Three minor arpeggios (at least one harmonic and melodic)

Two dominant 7th arpeggios – one slurred, one separate

Two diminished 7th arpeggios – one slurred, one separate

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What can you tell me about the composer of this piece?
- What performance issues are there in interpreting the music of this period?
- Discuss the form and tonality of this piece

Double Bass

Grade 1

Technical Requirements

Scales

Three of the four scales set for the grade – at least one must be slurred

Arpeggios

Three of the four arpeggios set for the grade

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the mood of this piece?

Grade 2

Technical Requirements

Scales

Two major scales (one slurred, one separate)

Two minor scales (one slurred, one separate, harmonic or melodic)

Arpeggios – at least one must be slurred

Two major arpeggios

Two minor arpeggios

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- How would you describe the dynamics at the beginning of this piece?

Grade 3

Technical Requirements

Scales - At least two should be slurred:

Three major scales

Two minor scales (harmonic or melodic)

Arpeggios

Three major arpeggios

Two minor arpeggios

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the time signature of this piece?

Grade 4

Technical Requirements

Scales

Three major scales - at least one must be slurred

Three minor scales – at least one must be slurred (harmonic or melodic)

One chromatic scale

Arpeggios

Two major arpeggios - at least one must be slurred

Two minor arpeggios – at least one must be slurred

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Which was the trickiest part of the piece to learn and why?

Grade 5

Technical Requirements

Scales – at least two should be slurred:

Both two-octave scales

One one-octave major scale

one-octave minor scale (starting on a different note to the major scale chosen, harmonic or melodic)

One one-octave chromatic scale

One two-octave chromatic scale starting on E

Arpeggios

Both two-octave arpeggios

One one-octave major arpeggio

One one-octave minor arpeggio (starting on a different note to the major scale chosen)

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Can you tell me which historical period this piece comes from?

- What is the form of this piece?

Grade 6

Technical Requirements

Scales - At least three should be slurred:

Three major scales

Three minor scales (at least one harmonic and one melodic)

Two chromatic scales - one slurred, one separate

Arpeggios - At least two should be slurred:

Two major arpeggios

Two minor arpeggios

One dominant 7th arpeggio - slurred

One diminished 7th arpeggio – separate

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

-
- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What was the hardest thing about learning this piece and how did you overcome the difficulty?
- What do you know about the composer of this piece?

Grade 7

Technical Requirements

Scales - At least three should be slurred:

Three major scales

Three minor scales (at least one harmonic and one melodic)

Two chromatic scales - one slurred, one separate

Arpeggios - At least two should be slurred:

Three major arpeggios

Three minor arpeggios

One dominant 7th arpeggio – separate

One diminished 7th arpeggio – slurred

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the historical and stylistic context of this piece and how did this affect your interpretation?
- Describe the form and main keys of this piece

Grade 8

Technical Requirements

Scales - at least three should be slurred:

Three major scales

Three minor scales (at least one harmonic and one melodic)

One one-octave chromatic scale - separate

One two-octave chromatic scale - slurred

Arpeggios

Two major arpeggios - at least one should be slurred

Two minor arpeggios - at least one should be slurred

One one-octave dominant 7th arpeggio - slurred

One two-octave dominant 7th arpeggio -separate

One one-octave diminished 7th arpeggio - separate

One two-octave diminished 7th arpeggio - slurred

Broken thirds in C major

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What can you tell me about the composer of this piece?
- What performance issues are there in interpreting the music of this period?
- Discuss the form and tonality of this piece

Harp

Grade 1

Technical Requirements

Scales: One right hand, one left hand, one must be played in thirds:

Two major Scales

One minor scale

Arpeggios - at least one to be played in each hand:

Two major arpeggios

One minor arpeggio

Broken Chords - one right hand, one left hand

One major

One minor

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the mood of this piece?

Grade 2

Technical Requirements

Scales: at least one right hand, one left hand, one must be played in thirds:

One two-octave major scale

One two-octave minor scale

One one-octave major scale in sixths

One one-octave minor scale in sixths

Arpeggios - at least one in each hand

Two major arpeggios

One minor arpeggios

Broken Chords – at least one right hand/ one left hand

One major broken chord

Two minor broken chords

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- How would you describe the dynamics at the beginning of this piece?

Grade 3

Technical Requirements

Scales: Two right hand, two left hand, two hands together:

One two-octave major scales

One two-octave minor scales

One contrary motion major scale

One contrary motion minor scale

Arpeggios - one right hand, one left hand, one hands together an octave apart, one divided between the hands:

Two major arpeggios

Two minor arpeggios

Broken Chords – At least one right hand and one left hand:

One major broken chord

One minor broken chord

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the time signature of this piece?

Grade 4

Technical Requirements

Scales - One right hand, one left hand, two hands together.

Two three-octave major scales

Two three-octave minor scale (one harmonic, one melodic)

One major scale in octaves (divided between the hands over two octaves)

One minor scale in octaves (divided between the hands over two octaves)

Arpeggios - One right hand, one left hand, one hands together an octave apart, one divided between the hands:

Two major arpeggios

Two minor arpeggios

Broken Chords - at least one right hand, one left hand:

One major broken chord

One minor broken chord

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Which was the trickiest part of the piece to learn and why?

Grade 5

Technical Requirements

Scales - Two right hand, two left hand, two hands together:

One major scale

One harmonic minor scale

One melodic minor scale

One scale in harmonics

One staccato scale

One étouffé scale

One près de la table scale

Arpeggios - At least one in the right hand, one in the left hand, one hands together an octave apart, one divided between the hands:

Three major arpeggios (one in the first inversion)

Three minor arpeggios (one in the first inversion)

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Can you tell me which historical period this piece comes from?
- What is the form of this piece?

Grade 6

Technical Requirements

Scales: Three pairs of relative major and minor scales

Pair one: one in left hand one in right hand

Pair two: hands together a tenth apart

Pair three: in contrary motion

One scale in harmonics

Arpeggios - At least one in the right hand, one in the left hand, one hands together an octave apart, one divided between the hands:

Two major arpeggios (one in the second inversion)

Two minor arpeggios (one in the second inversion)

Two dominant 7ths

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What was the hardest thing about learning this piece and how did you overcome the

difficulty?

- What do you know about the composer of this piece?

Grade 7

Technical Requirements

Scales: Three pairs of relative major and minor scales

Pair one: hands together a third apart

Pair two: hands together a sixth apart

Pair three: in contrary motion

One scale in harmonics

Arpeggios - At least one in the right hand, one in the left hand, one hands together an octave apart, one divided between the hands:

Three major arpeggios (at least one in each inversion)

Three minor arpeggios (at least one in each inversion)

Two dominant 7ths

One diminished 7th

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the historical and stylistic context of this piece and how did this affect your interpretation?
- Describe the form and main keys of this piece

Grade 8

Technical Requirements

Scales – three pairs of relative major and minor scales:

Pair one: one in each hand

Pair two: hands together an octave apart

Pair three: in contrary motion, hands starting an octave apart

One major scale in thirds

One minor scale in thirds

Arpeggios - At least one to be played: in the right hand, one in the left hand, hands together an octave apart, as broken chords divided between the hands, as broken chords with hands together:

Three major arpeggios (at least one in each inversion)

Three minor arpeggios (at least one in each inversion)

Two dominant 7ths

Two diminished 7ths

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?

- What can you tell me about the composer of this piece?
- What performance issues are there in interpreting the music of this period?
- Discuss the form and tonality of this piece

Viola

Grade 1

Technical Requirements

Scales

All three scales set for the grade – at least one must be slurred

Arpeggios

All three arpeggios set for the grade

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the mood of this piece?

Grade 2

Technical Requirements

Scales – at least one scale must be slurred:

One two-octave major scale

One one-octave major scale

One minor scale (harmonic or melodic)

Arpeggios – at least one must be slurred

One two-octave major arpeggio

One one-octave major arpeggio

One minor scale

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- How would you describe the dynamics at the beginning of this piece?

Grade 3

Technical Requirements

Scales - one of each of the following. At least two should be slurred:

One-octave major scale

One-octave minor scale (harmonic or melodic)

Two-octave major scale

Two-octave minor scale (harmonic or melodic)

Arpeggios - one of each of the following. At least two should be slurred:

One-octave major arpeggio
One-octave minor arpeggio
Two-octave major arpeggio
Two-octave minor arpeggio

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the time signature of this piece?

Grade 4

Technical Requirements

Scales

Two major scales - at least one scale must be slurred

Two minor scales – at least one scale must be slurred (harmonic or melodic)

Two chromatic scales – one slurred, one separate

Arpeggios

Two major - at least one scale must be slurred

Two minor – at least one scale must be slurred

Two dominant 7th arpeggios- one slurred, one separate

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Which was the trickiest part of the piece to learn and why?

Grade 5

Technical Requirements

Scales

Two major scales - at least one must be slurred

Two minor scales – at least one must be slurred (harmonic or melodic)

Two chromatic scales - one slurred, one separate

Arpeggios

Two major- at least one must be slurred

Two minor– at least one must be slurred

Two dominant 7th arpeggios- one slurred, one separate

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Can you tell me which historical period this piece comes from?
- What is the form of this piece?

Grade 6

Technical Requirements

Scales- At least three should be slurred:

Two two-octave major scales

Two two-octave minor scales (one harmonic, one melodic)

One three-octave major scale

One three-octave minor scale

Two chromatic scales - one slurred, one separate

Arpeggios - At least three should be slurred:

One two-octave major scales

One two-octave minor scales

One three-octave major scales

One three-octave minor scales

One dominant 7th arpeggios - one slurred, one separate

One diminished 7th arpeggios - one slurred, one separate

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

-
- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What was the hardest thing about learning this piece and how did you overcome the difficulty?
- What do you know about the composer of this piece?

Grade 7

Technical Requirements

Scales- at least three should be slurred:

Two major scales

Two minor scales (one harmonic, one melodic)

Two chromatic scales one slurred, one separate

Two double stop scales

Arpeggios - at least three should be slurred:

Two major arpeggios

Two minor arpeggios

Two dominant 7th arpeggios – One slurred, one separate

Two diminished 7th arpeggios – One slurred, one separate

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the historical and stylistic context of this piece and how did this affect your interpretation?
- Describe the form and main keys of this piece

Grade 8

Technical Requirements

Scales - at least three should be slurred:

Three major scales

Three minor scales (at least one harmonic and one melodic)

Two chromatic scales – one slurred, one separate

Two double stop scales

Arpeggios - at least three should be slurred:

Two major arpeggios

Two minor arpeggios

Two dominant 7th arpeggios - one slurred, one separate

Two diminished 7th arpeggios - one slurred, one separate

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What can you tell me about the composer of this piece?
- What performance issues are there in interpreting the music of this period?
- Discuss the form and tonality of this piece

Violin

Grades 1

Technical Requirements

Scales

All three scales set for the grade – at least one must be slurred

Arpeggios

All three arpeggios set for the grade

Study

The study set for the grade: The Fairy Dance

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the mood of this piece?

Grade 2

Technical Requirements

Scales

One two-octave major scale

One one-octave major scale

One minor scale (harmonic or melodic)

Arpeggios

One two-octave major arpeggio

One one-octave major arpeggio (C or F)

One minor scale and arpeggio

Study

The set study: Country Gardens

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- How would you describe the dynamics at the beginning of this piece?

Grade 3:

Technical Requirements

Scales

One two-octave major scales – separate bows

One two-octave minor scales - slurred (harmonic or melodic)

Either E major or E minor – slurred or separate

One one-octave chromatic scale

Arpeggios

One two-octave major arpeggios – slurred

One two-octave minor arpeggios – separate

E major or E minor – slurred or separate

One dominant 7th arpeggio

Study

Study: Mary, Young and Fair

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the time signature of this piece?

Grade 4

Technical Requirements

Scales

Two major scales - one slurred, one separate

Two minor scales – one slurred one separate (harmonic or melodic)

One chromatic scales – separate

Arpeggios

Two major scales - one slurred, one separate

Two minor scales – one slurred one separate

One dominant 7th arpeggio- slurred

Study

Set study: Ode to Joy

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Which was the trickiest part of the piece to learn and why?

Grade 5

Technical Requirements

Scales

Two major scales - one slurred, one separate

Two minor scales – one slurred one separate (harmonic or melodic)

One chromatic scale – slurred

Arpeggios

Two major scales - one slurred, one separate

Two minor scales – one slurred one separate

One dominant 7th arpeggio- slurred

Study

Set study: Cohen Serenade

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Can you tell me which historical period this piece comes from?
- What is the form of this piece?

Grade 6

Technical Requirements

Scales - one of each of the following. At least two should be slurred:

Two-octave major scales

Two-octave minor scales (one harmonic and one melodic)

Three-octave major scale

Three-octave minor scale

Chromatic scale - slurred

Arpeggios - one of each of the following. At least two should be slurred:

Two-octave major

Two-octave minor

Three-octave major

Three-octave minor

One dominant 7th arpeggio – separate bows

One diminished 7th arpeggio – slurred or separate at candidate's discretion

Study

Study- An extract from Dont No.11 from Op.37

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

-
- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What was the hardest thing about learning this piece and how did you overcome the difficulty?

- What do you know about the composer of this piece?

Grade 7

Technical Requirements

Scales - at least two should be slurred:

Two three-octave major scales

Two three-octave minor scales (one harmonic and one melodic)

One chromatic scale - slurred

One double stop scale

Arpeggios - at least two should be slurred:

Two three-octave major

Two three-octave minor

One two-octave dominant 7th arpeggio - slurred

One three-octave dominant 7th arpeggio - separate

One diminished 7th arpeggio

Study

Study: Dont No.9 from Op.37

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the historical and stylistic context of this piece and how did this affect your interpretation?
- Describe the form and main keys of this piece

Grade 8

Technical Requirements

Scales - at least two should be slurred. A mixture of harmonic and melodic minor scales should be performed:

One two-octave major scale

One two-octave minor scale

One three-octave major scale

One three-octave minor scale

One chromatic scale - slurred

Two double stop scales

Arpeggios - at least two should be slurred:

One two-octave major scale

One two-octave minor scale

One three-octave major scale

One three-octave minor scale

Dominant 7th arpeggios:

One two-octave (slurred)

One three-octave (separate)

One three- octave diminished 7th arpeggio- slurred or separate

Study

Study: Dont No.20 from Op.37

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after playing the chosen piece:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What can you tell me about the composer of this piece?
- What performance issues are there in interpreting the music of this period?
- Discuss the form and tonality of this piece