



Victoria College Examinations
vcmexams.com

COMPOSITION



Victoria College of Music and Drama, London Ltd

Founded 1890

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Composition Syllabus

Member of



All Composition submissions must contain a short programme note explaining how the candidate approached the composition.

All submitted works must demonstrate a level of craftsmanship and structural concepts appropriate to the level of examination, and be declared and witnessed as candidates' own unaided work.

Compositions must be submitted at the same time as the entry form and fee.

Entries may be submitted by Email in Sibelius format to entries@vcmexams.com, or sent in hard copy on unbound A4 pages to VCM Exams, 71 Queen Victoria St, London EC4V 4AY. Submissions are not returnable. Candidates should retain their own copies.

ABOUT THE VCM

Victoria College of Music and Drama, London Ltd. is an independent body providing examinations in Music, Speech, and Drama subjects. It has held examination sessions throughout the British Isles and certain overseas countries since it was founded in 1890. It no longer operates a full-time teaching institution. The VCM is a corporate member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, Worshipful Company of Musicians, the Music Education Council, the Association of Teachers of Singing, the European Piano Teachers Association, the European Recorder Teachers Association, the Society of Recorder Players, the European String Teachers Association the Society of Teachers of Speech & Drama, the National Association of Music Educators, the Association of British Choral Directors, the Schools Music Association of Great Britain and is an institutional member of the College of Teachers and abides by its code of practice.

Further details about Victoria College can be found on our website:

www.Vcmexams.com

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER EXAMINATION BODIES

The Grades I to VIII in this syllabus are intended to compare in general terms on a level for level basis with Grades 1 to 8 of most other examination bodies. VCM Theory examinations contain some more searching questions than those of some other boards.

EXAMINERS

Composition entries are examined directly or under the direct supervision of the Principal, Dr Martin Ellerby. Dr Ellerby is himself a composer of international standing. Further information about him can be found at www.martinellerby.com

REGULATIONS

All entries are accepted on the conditions laid down in the General Regulations, a copy of which is available on the College Website at www.vcmexams.com. Hard copies are available free of charge on request.

PASS MARKS

The pass mark for Grades I-VIII is 65%. To pass with Merit, 80%; with Distinction, 90%. Merit is shown as Honours in Ireland..

The pass mark for Medal examinations is 75%. The result of medal examinations is either "Award" or "No award". The pass mark for Diploma examinations is 75%. To pass with Honours, 85%.

SILVER MEDAL IN COMPOSITION

Candidates are required to submit a short piece for Piano or Organ or Keyboard solo, or a song or instrumental solo with Piano Accompaniment (suggested length 48-70 bars).

GOLD MEDAL IN COMPOSITION

Candidates are required to submit a part-song or an anthem for three or four voices unaccompanied OR a short movement for String Trio or Quartet in some suitable musical form (Suggested length 80-100 bars)

DIPLOMA IN COMPOSITION

DipVCM

Candidates are required to present TWO compositions as follows:

1. A theme with two simple variations written for any instrument. (with piano accompaniment if for a non-keyboard instrument). (Suggested length of theme 20 - 30 bars)
2. A short piece in any dance form such as minuet or gavotte, etc. (with piano accompaniment if for a non-keyboard instrument). OR a song with accompaniment. (Suggested length 48 - 60 bars, which may include an Introduction and/or Coda)

ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA IN COMPOSITION

AVCM

Candidates are required to present TWO of the following:

1. A theme with four simple variations written for any instrument. (with piano accompaniment if for a non-keyboard instrument). (Suggested length of theme 20 - 30 bars)
2. Two movements of a suite (e.g. Sarabande, Courante, Gigue, etc.) with piano accompaniment for a non-keyboard instrument. (Length of *each* 60 - 80 bars)
3. The first movement of a trio, quartet or quintet for any suitable group of instruments (80 - 120 bars)
4. A two-part invention for piano or 2 stringed or 2 woodwind instruments (80 - 100 bars)

LICENTIATE DIPLOMA IN COMPOSITION

LVCM

Candidates are required to present TWO of the following:

1. A theme with six variations written for any instrument. (with piano accompaniment if for a non-keyboard instrument). (Suggested length of theme 20 - 30 bars)
2. Three movements of a suite (e.g. Sarabande, Courante, Gigue, etc.) with piano accompaniment for a non-keyboard instrument. (Length of *each* 60 - 80 bars)
3. The first and second movements of a trio, quartet or quintet for any suitable group of instruments (80 - 120 bars)
4. A three-part invention for piano or string or woodwind trio (80 - 100 bars)
5. A through composed song with accompaniment of 3 or 4 verses.

FELLOWSHIP DIPLOMA IN COMPOSITION

FVCM

Candidates may submit three compositions of varied character certified as their own unaided work by a suitably witnessed declaration. The works must demonstrate a high level of craftsmanship as well as an original. approach to harmonic, contrapuntal and structural concepts.