



Victoria College Examinations

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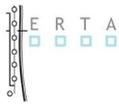
CONCERTINA



Victoria College of Music and Drama, London

Founded 1890

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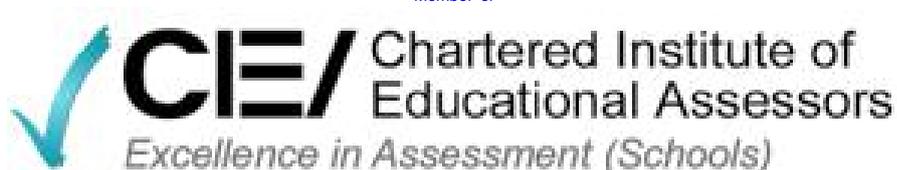
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Concertina Syllabus

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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 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 European Guitar Teachers Association UK, the Society of Recorder Players, the European String Teachers Association the Society of Teachers of Speech & Drama, the Incorporated Society of Musicians, the Association of British Choral Directors, and the Schools Music Association of Great Britain.

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER EXAMINATION BODIES

VCM Grades 1 to 8 are intended to compare on a level for level basis with the grades 1 to 8 of other similarly recognised examination boards.

In addition to Grades 1 to 8, VCM examinations are available at several introductory levels prior to Grade 1 as a means of encouraging beginners, or students with special needs. Medal and Diploma examinations are also available in all subjects. Candidates at all levels receive a written report, and if successful, a full certificate or diploma.

EXAMINERS

All Examiners of the Victoria College of Music are appointed for their experience and understanding of candidates as well as for their professional and educational qualifications. All are trained by the College and their marking is regularly moderated to ensure consistent standards wherever Victoria College examinations are held.

PASS MARKS

Introductory Grades	65%
Grades 1 to 8	65%
with Merit	80%; with Distinction 90%
Merit is shown as %Honours+in Ireland	
Pre-diploma certificate	75% (85% with Honours)
Medal examinations	75%
Diplomas	75% (85% with Honours)

EXEMPTION FROM QUESTIONS AT PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS

Candidates who have passed certain VCM Theoretical Examinations are entitled to claim full marks for questions at Practical Examinations as follows:

- Grade 1 Theory exempts up to and including Preliminary Practical
- Grade 1A Theory exempts up to and including Preparatory
- Grade 2 Theory exempts up to and including Grade 3 Practical
- Grade 3 Theory exempts up to and including Grade 5 Practical
- Grade 4 Theory exempts up to and including Grade 7 Practical

In all such cases the theory result or certificate must be produced for the Examiner at the beginning of the practical examination.

REGULATIONS

All entries are accepted on the conditions laid down in *General Regulations and Information*, a copy of which is available free of charge. It is also on our website: www.vcmexams.com

ENTRY FORMS

All *grades* and *medal* examinations can be entered on white entry forms with no more than ten candidates on a page. Please use the code EO in the column headed %subject+and the letter(s) or numbers in the %grade no.+column as shown at the head of each grade in this syllabus. All *diploma* candidates should be entered on individual pink entry forms.

QUESTIONS

Questions are based principally on the music performed; but in addition examiners are at liberty to ask questions on notes, rests, musical terms and signs, key and time-signatures, according to the Grade. Also specifically on minor keys; perfect, major, and minor intervals (Grade 3 upwards); the usual ornaments; harmonic/melodic minor scales (Grade 4 upwards); degrees of the scale; diminished and augmented intervals (Grade 5 upwards); and Triads and Cadences (Grade 6).

SIGHT READING

Sight Reading tests are included from Preparatory level upwards. The relative standard will be that of approximately two grades below the grade being taken. For guidance, specimen Sight Reading are published by *London Music Press*. (See LMP order form/price list). Examiners will be at liberty to discuss the Sight Reading Test with candidates as part of the Questions.

MUSICIANSHIP TESTS

Musicianship Tests are introduced from Grade 1. Musicianship Tests are no longer set for Medal or Diploma examinations. Specimen Musicianship Tests are available from *London Music Press*.

DISSERTATIONS

Where dissertations are required, these must be submitted **at the time of entry** by email to entries@vcexam.com. Separate or late submission is not permitted. Dissertations should be on plain white A4 paper, legibly written, typed or word processed. No binding is required. All dissertations should contain a bibliography.

PIECES

Candidates are required to prepare the whole of the pieces they have selected from the lists, but the examiner may stop the candidate at any given point or ask for certain sections to be performed, or to omit repeats where appropriate.

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS

The examiner will request a representative sample of those specified for a particular examination. Scales and Arpeggios must be played from memory.

WHAT THE EXAMINERS ARE LOOKING FOR

Examiners are looking for a combination of skill, knowledge and understanding. Questions are asked in a manner which assesses the candidate's depth of understanding, not merely the ability to repeat definitions. Ingenuity, variety, musicianship, and a sense of style are rewarded, as well as technical skill and musical accuracy. Examiners in this subject award marks for demonstration of skill compatible with the design of the instrument and not simply the techniques applicable to the piano or pipe organ.

MEDAL EXAMINATIONS

Successful candidates at medal examinations receive a certificate and a medal order form. Prices of medals are shown on the medal order form. Medals are supplied in boxes and are engraved with the candidate's name, subject of examination and the year.

Medal awards do not entitle holders to designatory letters after their names

MEMORY

In all examinations, credit will be given for playing at least one piece from memory, but candidates will not be penalised for not doing so.

MEDLEYS & OWN CHOICES

Where examination requirements include medleys or own choices, a second copy must be provided for the examiner. Medleys should include a minimum of three tunes, an introduction passage, suitable links and a coda drawing on the musical material of the music performed..

OWN COMPOSITIONS

Candidates at Grades 1 to 8 may offer an own composition in lieu of Musicianship Tests. This should be approximately the standard of difficulty of a set piece two grades lower. A second copy must be brought for the use of the examiner. Marks will be awarded both for skill in composition and competence in performance. The examiner will ask questions on the candidate's method of composition.

PHOTOCOPIES

All VCM and LMP publications are copyright. Photocopying of LMP publications is not permissible and **candidates using unauthorised photocopies at examinations will be disqualified**. It is acceptable, however, to use a photocopy for the second copy when the syllabus requires one to be handed to the examiner, provided the original is also brought to the examination. It is also acceptable to use photocopies of parts of long pieces to avoid awkward page turns, again provided the original is also brought to the examination.

SET BOOKS

London Music Press (*LMP*) publications are available from our own in-house publisher *London Music Press* (see block advertisement across.)

Non-London Music Press can be purchased from music shops on the Internet. We recommend www.mailmymusic.com

Some out of print music can be purchased on www.Amazon.co.uk or www.ebay.co.uk. Sheet Music Warehouse stock the range of Complete Organ Player books used throughout this syllabus. See www.sheetmusicwarehouse.co.uk

OWN CHOICE PIECES can be transcriptions made by teachers or candidates from pieces written for other instruments.



London Music Press

52 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4LR
the College's own in-house publisher.

LMP exists to provide an inexpensive method for candidates to obtain set pieces for examinations at economical prices

An order form showing the price and availability of all LMP publications is available on request.

All orders are despatched post free worldwide

Discounts for quantity.

Payment by cheque in Sterling or Euro with order.

All LMP publications are guaranteed to remain available in print for the duration of the syllabus

LMP publications can be ordered online at

www.vcmpublications.co.uk

Introductory Examinations

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE	No.
			C A	A

First Steps

EXERCISES

20 marks

To play Exercises 1 & 2 in *First Steps Concertina LMP*

SOLO PIECES

60 marks

To perform both of

Thirds in Autumn }

Legato in Autumn } *First Steps Concertina LMP*

SCALEWORK

10 marks

C major and C major in Broken Thirds as set out in *First Steps Concertina LMP*

QUESTIONS on the work performed

10 marks

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE	No.
			CA	B

Preliminary

EXERCISES

20 marks

To play Exercises 1 & 2 in *Preliminary Concertina LMP*

SOLO PIECES

60 marks

To perform any two of

The Weaver }

The Actor } *Preliminary Concertina LMP*

Large Steps }

SCALEWORK

10 marks

G major, G major in Broken Thirds and G major in Thirds as set out in *Preliminary Concertina LMP*

QUESTIONS on the work performed

10 marks

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE No.
		C A	1

Grade Examinations

Grade 1 (Primary)

SOLO PIECES

60 marks

To perform THREE solos, one from each list A, B & C

LIST A (unaccompanied, including parts with thirds and sixths)

Dance }
 An English Dance } *Play-along Concertina Book*
 Summer }

LIST B (unaccompanied, including parts with thirds and sixths)

The Cuckoo }
 Dancing Thirds } *Play-along Concertina Book*
 Summer }

LIST C (accompanied by keyboard instrument or CD)

Puzzle }
 Andante in C Major } *Play-along Concertina Book*
 Dance Tune }
 El Vernadito }

SCALEWORK

10marks

C, G, D and F major; and C, G and D major in thirds; all for two octaves.

QUESTIONS on the work performed

10 marks

SIGHT READING

10 marks

Either Musicianship Tests (10 Marks)

Test 1: To clap a rhythm in 2/4 time. 2 bars in length, played twice by the examiner.

Test 2: To identify any note in the arpeggio C/E/G/C', Middle C being given

Test 3: To echo a five-note phrase played twice by the examiner.

or Composition (10 Marks)

Perform an own composition of about 8 bars in the key of C major. It should be balanced as an opening 4-bar phrase which forms a question and a 4-bar phrase that forms an answer.

*We intend to offer examinations
at grades beyond this level.
Suggestions for suitable material
are always welcome.*

Victoria College Exams.

*It is highly recommended that
you visit the following website:*

www.concertina.nl

