



Victoria College Examinations

vcmexams.com

CONDUCTING

Brass, Military, Orchestral or Choral



Victoria College of Music and Drama, London Ltd

Founded 1890

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Conducting Syllabus

Member of



Completed entry forms, stating clearly which of the following disciplines the candidate has chosen:

ORCHESTRAL BRASS MILITARY CHORAL

may be submitted by Email, along with any scores/essays required to entries@vcexam.com, or sent in hard copy to VCM Exams, 71 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AY.

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.

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%.

Associate (AVCM) and Licentiate (LVCM)

Candidates for ASSOCIATE Diploma must also pass or have passed VCM GRADE V THEORY OF MUSIC examination or hold a valid VCM exemption certificate. Candidates for LICENTIATESHIP must first be ASSOCIATES, though not necessarily in Conducting and must also pass or have passed the College's GRADE VI THEORY OF MUSIC examination or hold a valid VCM exemption certificate.

1. To answer questions (viva voce) on CONDUCTING: on
 - (i) the composition of orchestras/bands/ choirs depending on which option the candidate has stated
 - (ii) repertoire;
 - (iii) rehearsal technique;
 - (iv) a short work specified by the candidate at the time of entry.

50 marks

2. To perform a solo on any musical instrument, and to take a sight-reading test. (The solo chosen should be of at least Grade 8 standard; choral conductors may offer a vocal solo.)

20 marks

3. (a) To carry out a demonstration with own band/choir;
and any ONE of the following
 - (b) performance on a second instrument (a sight-reading test will NOT be set);
 - (c) scoring: to submit one's own arrangement (not an original piece) of a hymn, or folk-song, or movement from a Pianoforte suite, or other short piano solo. The piece for arrangement must be approved by the College in advance.
 - (d) to submit a short, original composition for band/ choir;
 - (e) to take a test (viva voce) of Keyboard Harmony;
 - (f) to answer questions viva voce, on a work provided by the College before the examination.

30 marks

The requirements for LICENTIATE are exactly as for ASSOCIATESHIP, but a higher standard of work will be expected.

Candidates MUST specify when entering which options they offer under (2) and (4) above; and any works submitted under 4(c) or (d) must be certified and witnessed as the candidate's own unaided work. The Candidate, not the College, must meet any expenses incurred under 4(a). Works prescribed under 1 (iv) and 4(f) will be relevant to the branch for which the candidate is entered (Orchestral, or Choral, or Brass/Military). The piece for arrangement must be approved by the College in advance.

Fellowship (FVCM)

There is no Theory requirement for this diploma. Candidates must ordinarily hold the Licentiate Diploma in Conducting, except where direct entry has been approved.

1. To submit, with the entry, an original essay of 1000-1500 words on rehearsal technique and the problems encountered with amateur musicians, etc.

2. To rehearse a short item of the candidate's own choice with own orchestra/ band/choir.

Time limit: 20 minutes 40 marks

3. To conduct a short concert performance of 25-35 minutes with orchestra/band/choir, and this must include the work rehearsed under 1. above, and which may be a public performance at the candidate's choice.

60 marks

The examiners will be at liberty to ask questions on conducting, rehearsing, and repertoire.