

N.Z. MODERN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MODERN PIANO EXAMINATION SYLLABUS
GRADE EIGHT

NOTE: A minimum pass of 130 marks in the NZMSM Grade Seven Theory of Music Examination is an additional requirement for this examination.

A copy of the candidate's result sheet must be sent in with the examination entry form.

TECHNICAL WORK: 20 marks

Comprehensive Book of Scales and Arpeggios
Magic for Modern Book

To be played from memory.

Scales: mm ♩ 132

Major, Harmonic and Melodic Minor Scales of B, F# and Eb

Four octaves, **similar motion**, ascending and descending, hands together.
Legato and staccato.

Pentatonic Major and Minor scales of F

Two octaves, **similar motion**, ascending and descending, hands together.

Chromatic scale of A, a major sixth apart

Two octaves, ascending and descending, hands together.
Left hand commences on C, right hand on A.

Arpeggios: mm ♩ 120

Tonic major seventh in the keys of B and Eb

Diminished seventh in the keys of B and Eb

e.g: Key of B = B maj.7 and A# dim.7

Four octaves, ascending and descending, hands together.

Studies:

(No pedal)

1. mm ♩ 88

Magic for Modern, Exercise No.60

The Seventh Chord Whole Tone Scales.

Both examples **must** be played.

2. mm ○ 108

Cycle of Fifths – see below



AURAL: 15 marks

- To recognize whether a chord played in root position is augmented or diminished. The candidate will then identify the degrees by letter name.
- To recognize whether a phrase is in a major or minor key. The candidate will then identify whether the ending cadence is perfect (V-1) or Interrupted (V-VI).
- To observe a four bar melody and then play it from memory. In 6/8 time.

VIVA VOCE: 10 marks

- General questions will be asked on **all** pieces performed and the technical work for this grade. This will include styles such as: Ballad, Boogie Woogie.
- To explain the construction of all chords up to and including thirteenth chords.
- To explain the construction of the pentatonic major and minor scales.

MELODY OUTLINE: 20 marks**Criteria for this section:**

- Both parts should be developed within the criteria given to make a complete piece.
- Freedom of harmonization for parts one and two.
- **Two** contrasting bass styles **must** be added to the work.
- Expression and dynamics **must** be included and marked on the music.
- The work **must** be given a title.
- The final work **must** be either computer written or hand written **by the candidate**.
- **A copy of the melody outline must be sent to the Area Manager 21 days prior to the commencement date of the examinations, as specified on the NZMSM calendar.**

- The four bar introduction must include chords and a melody line using the pentatonic scale, whole tone scale or chromatic run down or part thereof.

Part One:

- Bars 1 to 8 the melody **must** include passing, auxiliary and chromatic notes.
- Bars 9 to 16 the melody and chords must be continued.
- **May** have a maximum of **two** chords per bar.
- The bass progression: **IIm V7 I** **must** be included at least once.

Part Two: Bars 17 to 32

- The time signature **may** be changed.
- A more comprehensive melody **must** be added.
- Modern signs and embellishments **must** be included.
- Some chord substitutions and/or chord alterations **must** be included.
- A maximum of **four** chords per bar **may** be added.
- An appropriate ending for the style of the piece **must** be added.

PIECES: 85 marks

Graded Tunes, Book 5 and 7
Supplementary Tunes, Book 2
Popular Standards Book
The Four Boogies Book, Alan Burch
Alfred's Greatest Hits Book, Level 3

Four pieces must be performed, **one** from each section.

All pieces must have an introduction and ending where none is given.

Expression and dynamics **must** be included and marked on the music.

Style, improvisational skill and creative ability are expected for this grade.

A copy of the arrangements for sections I, IIIA or IIIB and section IV must be sent to the Area Manager 21 days prior to the commencement date of the examinations, as specified on the NZMSM calendar.

Section I: ARRANGEMENT OF SET PIECE 20 marks

La Paloma

Book 5, page 8

Criteria for this section:

- Freedom of arrangement.
- **Must** include chord substitutions, alterations and additions.
- **Must** use a suitable rhythm or rhythms.
- Any alterations **must** be marked on the music **by the candidate**.

No repeats except D.C. or D. S. or as indicated for a specific piece.

Section II: 20 marks

I'll Never Fall in Love Again

Book 7, page 8

Honesty

Book 7, page 18

You've got a Friend

Popular Book, page 14

Hawaiian Boogie

Boogie Book, page 9

(Candidate's choice of Boogie Woogie bass)

- Choose **one** piece from the publications listed.

Criteria for this section:

- Freedom of arrangement.
- Any alterations **must** be marked on the music **by the candidate**.

Repeats are optional.

Section IIIA: NOTATED PIECE 20 marks**Alfred's Greatest Hits, Level 3**

- Choose **one** piece from the publication listed.
Exclude the following two pieces:
Getting to Know You.
I Love Lucy.

Repeats are optional.

OR

Section IIIB: COMPOSITION 20 marks**Criteria for this section:**

- **Must** consist of thirty two bars, excluding the introduction.
- Chord symbols **must** be included.
- Expression and dynamics **must** be included and marked on the music.
- The work **must** be given a title.
- The piece **may** be either computer written or hand written **by the candidate**.

Section IV: MEDLEY 25 marks**Supplementary Tunes, Book 2**

- Choose **three** pieces from the publication listed above.

Criteria for this section:

- The three pieces **must** be arranged as a medley.
- The medley **must** be in **three** different keys, using a four chord modulation between each key.
- The maximum duration for the medley is **five** minutes.
- The titles of the three pieces **must** be listed on the Checklist sheet.

All markings must be removed from pieces except tidy fingering, expression marks and notation of arrangement.

STRICTLY NO PHOTOCOPYING