

**N.Z. MODERN SCHOOL OF MUSIC**  
**PIANO EXAMINATION SYLLABUS**  
**MODERN PREPARATORY**

**Note:** The candidate may perform this examination on either a piano or keyboard. If performing on a keyboard, the candidate must provide their own instrument which has touch sensitivity and a sustain pedal. The voice/tone must be on a piano setting.

**TECHNICAL WORK:** 20 marks

**Technical Resource, Syllabus**

To be played from memory.

**Scales:** mm ♩ 80

**Major Scale of C**  
**Harmonic Minor Scale of A**

One octave, **similar motion**, ascending and descending, hands together.

**Chromatic Scale of C**

One octave, ascending and descending, separate hands.

**Arpeggios:** mm ♩ 76

**C Major**  
**A Minor**

One octave, ascending and descending, separate hands.

**Memory Piece:**

**Bright Lights**

**Must** be played as written.

**Must** be pedalled.

**AURAL:** 15 marks (Examiner to play twice)

- To clap a four bar melody. In either 3/4 or 4/4 time.  
Time values include semibreve, dotted minim, minim, crotchet and quaver.
- To recognize whether a chord played in root position is major or minor.  
In the keys of C, G and F.

**VIVA VOCE:** 10 marks

- General questions will be asked on **all** pieces performed and the technical work for this grade.

**SIGHT READING:** 15 marks

- To play an eight bar passage. In 3/4 or 4/4 time.
- Bass style – arpeggio.
- Chord symbols will be given for the left hand.
- Must be pedalled.
- Time values include quaver, crotchet, minim and semibreve.
- In the key of C.

**PIECES:** 30 marks for each piece.

**Modern Method Piano Course Book 1, Syllabus**

Three pieces **must** be performed, **one** piece from each section.  
Expression and dynamics **must** be included and marked on the music.  
Any alterations **must** be marked on the music **by the candidate**.  
Counter bass optional.

**Section I:**

**Modern Method Book**

**Summer Meadow**  
**Magical Blue**  
**Carnival Rag**  
**Greatest**

- Choose **one** piece from the publication listed above.

**Criteria for this section:**

- **Must** include harmony.
- **Must** include an ending run.
- **May** add or exclude 8va higher.
- **Must** use a sustain pedal.
- Bass style – arpeggio or minim stride or standard waltz No.3 or a combination of these.

**Section II:**

**Rockin' Robin**  
**Beehive Boogie**  
**Sandy Blues**  
**Stormy Blues**

**Modern Method Book**  
**Modern Method Book**  
**Modern Method Book**  
**Syllabus**

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

**Criteria for this section:**

- **Must** include **three** or more of the following:  
8va higher    Simple Bass Run    Tacet    Power Chords    Staccato    Harmony    Swung quavers
- **Must** use a Blues/Boogie bass.
- **Must** add an ending.
- No sustain pedal.

**Section III:**

**West Coast**  
**The Endeavour**  
**Cool Cat**  
**Hine E Hine**

**Modern Method Book**  
**Modern Method Book**  
**Modern Method Book**  
**Syllabus**

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

**Criteria for this section:**

- Bass style to be chosen by the candidate.
- Chords **may** be altered.
- Some degree of arrangement **must** be included.

All markings must be removed from pieces except tidy fingering, expression marks and notation of arrangement.  
**STRICTLY NO PHOTOCOPYING**

Technical Resource

C major

Musical notation for the C major scale in 4/4 time. The treble clef part starts on middle C (C4) and ascends to C5, with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The bass clef part starts on C3 and descends to C2, with fingerings 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

A harmonic minor

Musical notation for the A harmonic minor scale in 4/4 time. The treble clef part starts on A4 and ascends to A5, with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. The bass clef part starts on A3 and descends to A2, with fingerings 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

C chromatic

Musical notation for the C chromatic scale in 4/4 time. The treble clef part starts on C4 and ascends chromatically to C5, with fingerings 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1. The bass clef part starts on C3 and descends chromatically to C2, with fingerings 1, 3, 1, 3, 2, 1, 3, 1, 2, 1, 2, 3, 1, 1, 2, 3, 1. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

C arpeggio

Musical notation for the C major arpeggio in 4/4 time. The treble clef part starts on C4 and ascends to C5, with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 5, 3, 2, 1. The bass clef part starts on C3 and descends to C2, with fingerings 5, 4, 2, 1, 2, 4, 5. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Am arpeggio

Musical notation for the A minor arpeggio in 4/4 time. The treble clef part starts on A4 and ascends to A5, with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 5, 3, 2, 1. The bass clef part starts on A3 and descends to A2, with fingerings 5, 4, 2, 1, 2, 4, 5. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## Bright Lights

This piece uses an arpeggio bass, harmony and an ending run - techniques used in modern piano arrangements.

The musical score for "Bright Lights" is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) is marked *mp* and features a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The second system (measures 5-8) is marked *mf* and introduces a more complex bass line with arpeggiated chords. The third system (measures 9-12) concludes with an ending run, featuring triplets in both hands and a final chord marked with a fermata. The ending run includes fingerings: LH (3), RH (3), LH (3), RH (3), and a final LH (5).

# Stormy Blues

Moderately

1 C

1 2 4 5

5 F

9 C

13 G F

16 C

Adopted 2024

## Hine E Hine

G D G C

E ta - ngi a - na ko - e.

5 G D G

Hi - ne e hi - ne.

9 G D G Am

E nge - nge a - na ko - e.

13 G D G

Hi - ne e hi - ne.

17 G C G

Ka - ti to pōu - ri ra.

21 G C G

No - ho i te a - ro - ha. Te

25 G D G C

ngā - kau o te mā - tu - a.

29 G D G

Hi - ne e hi - ne.

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