


N.Z. MODERN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
KEYBOARD EXAMINATION SYLLABUS
GRADE TWO

TECHNICAL WORK: 20 marks

Comprehensive Book of Scales and Arpeggios
Technical Resource, Syllabus

To be played from memory.

Scales: mm  84

Major Scales of D and Bb


Two octaves, **similar motion**, ascending and descending, hands together.
End with a crotchet rest followed by the tonic chord, held for two beats.

Harmonic Minor Scales of B and G

One octave, **similar motion**, ascending and descending, hands together.
End with a crotchet rest followed by the tonic chord, held for two beats.

Major Scale of D

One octave, **contrary motion**, hands together.

Triads: mm  80

Primary Triad Scale of G

One octave, ascending only.
Chords in bass position, as per the scale book.

Arpeggios: mm  80

Bb Major
G Minor

Two octaves, ascending and descending, separate hands.

Inversions: mm  80

G Major

One octave, root, first inversion, second inversion, ascending only, separate hands.

Improvisation: mm  60

8 bars. In 4/4 time.

Must use notes of the chord to improvise a R.H. melody line.

Must use note values and chord pattern provided on the day.

Must use auto accompaniment and fingered chords.

Time values include semibreve, dotted minim, minim, crotchet and quaver.

Chords of G – Em – D7 – C.

AURAL: 15 marks (Examiner to play twice on the keyboard)

- To clap a four bar melody. In either 3/4 or 4/4 time.
Time values include dotted minim, minim, crotchet and quaver.
- To recognize whether a chord played in root position is major or minor.
- To identify a note being one of the first five degrees of the major scale.
The tonic will be played and the tonic note given before each degree.
Identify by Tonic Sol-fa, letter name or interval number.
In the keys of C and G.

VIVA VOCE: 10 marks

- General questions will be asked about **all** pieces performed and the technical work for this grade.
- To name the tonic chord notes of the scales, in root position.
- The candidate **must** have an understanding of the keyboard functions.

SIGHT READING: 15 marks

- To play an eight bar passage. In 4/4 time.
- Auto accompaniment and fingered chords **must** be used.
- In any key up to one sharp or one flat.

PIECES: 30 marks for each piece. **Popular Songs Book 1, Graded Tunes Book 2, Jazz, Rags & Blues Book 1**

Three pieces **must** be performed, **one** piece from each section.

Voice, style and tempo registrations **must** be marked on the candidate's music.

Touch response **must** be used if available on the candidate's keyboard.

Expression and dynamics **must** be included where touch response is available and marked on the music.

Chords for this grade **may** be simplified including the removal of the slash note.

It is permissible to add a bar to facilitate any change in the voicing and/or style. Inform the examiner on examination day.

It is permissible to change any note 8va or 8vb outside of the keyboard span.

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

Section I:

Hi-Lili Hi-Lo	Graded Tunes Book
All Kinds of Everything	Graded Tunes Book
Chim Chim Cher-ee	Graded Tunes Book
A Time For Us	Popular Songs Book

- Choose **one** piece from the publications listed above.
- **Must** use an auto or manual introduction and ending where none is given.
- Auto accompaniment and fingered chords **must** be used.
- Sustain pedal **may** be used.

Criteria for this section: **must** include **three** or more of the following:

8va higher harmony voice change Inv/R.H. RH quaver fill auto and/or manual fills

Section II:

Hound Dog	Popular Songs Book
Let Her Go	Popular Songs
Can't Help Falling In Love	Graded Tunes Book. (omit D.S.)
Words	Graded Tunes Book

- Choose **one** piece from the publications listed above.
- **Must** use an auto or manual introduction and ending where none is given.
- Auto accompaniment and fingered chords **must** be used.
- **May** use criteria from the previous grade.
- Sustain pedal **may** be used.

Criteria for this section: **must** include **three** or more of the following:

8va higher harmony a style change Inv/R.H. RH quaver fill auto and/or manual fills

Section III: The candidate must choose from Option 1, Option 2 or Option 3**Criteria for this section:**

- **May** alter the tempo.
- Any alterations **must** be marked on the music **by the candidate**.
- A copy of the arrangement/piece **must** be given to the examiner on examination day.

Option 1 Jazz, Rags & Blues Book 1

Seventh Street Blues
Downright Happy Rag
Ragtime Do-Si-Do
Hallelujah

- Choose **one** piece from the list above.
- Either hand **may** be used to change voice/settings/rhythm.

Criteria for this section:

- **Must** be played as notated.
- **Must** change voice(s).
- **Must** use rhythm.
- No auto accompaniment.
- **May** pedal where indicated.

Option 2

- Choose **one** piece from the list above.

Criteria for this section:

- The melody line **must** be chorded with one L.H. chord (or two L.H. chords if required) per bar.
- **Must** use an auto or manual introduction and ending where none is given.
- **Must** change voice(s).
- **May** remove the rit/pause markings.
- **May** pedal where indicated.
- A suitable auto accompaniment and fingered chords **must** be used.
- The candidate **must** include some degree of arrangement.

Option 3

- Choose **one** piece not previously performed from Section I or Section II or Popular Songs Book 1 pages 19-26.

Criteria for this section:

- **Must** use an auto or manual introduction and ending where none is given.
- Some degree of arrangement and the use of keyboard functions **must** be included.
- Auto accompaniment and fingered chords or manual L.H. modern bass patterns or a combination of both **must** be used.
- L.H. modern bass patterns **may** be pedalled excluding blues/boogie style.

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

Technical Resource

B harmonic minor

Musical notation for B harmonic minor in 4/4 time. The exercise consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a grand staff bracket. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The melody in the treble clef starts on B4 and moves up stepwise to G#5, with fingering 1-1-1-3. The bass clef starts on B2 and moves up stepwise to G#4, with fingering 4-1-3-1. The piece concludes with a final chord in both hands.

G harmonic minor

Musical notation for G harmonic minor in 4/4 time. The exercise consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a grand staff bracket. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The melody in the treble clef starts on G4 and moves up stepwise to F#5, with fingering 1-3-3-1. The bass clef starts on G2 and moves up stepwise to F#4, with fingering 5-3-1-1. The piece concludes with a final chord in both hands.

D contrary motion

Musical notation for D contrary motion in 4/4 time. The exercise consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a grand staff bracket. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The melody in the treble clef starts on D4 and moves up stepwise to D5, with fingering 1-1-3. The bass clef starts on D2 and moves up stepwise to D4, with fingering 1-1-3. The piece concludes with a final chord in both hands.

Adopted 2025

Improvisation Examples

No.1

Musical notation for No.1, measures 1-4. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of quarter notes in measures 1 and 2, and eighth notes in measures 3 and 4. Chords are indicated above the staff: G (measures 1-2) and Em (measures 3-4).

No.2

Musical notation for No.2, measures 1-4. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of quarter notes in measures 1 and 2, and eighth notes in measures 3 and 4. Chords are indicated above the staff: G (measures 1-2), C (measures 3-4), Em (measures 5-6), and D7 (measures 7-8).

No.3

Musical notation for No.3, measures 1-4. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of quarter notes in measures 1 and 2, and eighth notes in measures 3 and 4. Chords are indicated above the staff: Em (measures 1-2), G (measures 3-4), Em (measures 5-6), and G (measures 7-8).

Adopted 2025