

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

TECHNICAL WORK: 20 marks

Comprehensive Book of Scales and Arpeggios
Technical Resource, Syllabus.

To be played from memory.

Scales: mm ♩ 132

Major Scales of C# and Ab

Harmonic Minor Scales of C# and Ab

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

Melodic Minor Scales of B and F

Pentatonic Major Scale of Bb

Whole Tone Scale commencing on C

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

Chromatic Scale a minor third apart.

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

Arpeggios: mm ♩ 120

C#, E7, Abm, Bm7, and Fdim7

Four octaves, ascending and descending, hands together.

Memory Piece:

Bossa Nova

Must be played as written.

Must add pedal and expression.

AURAL: 10 marks

- The examiner will play a phrase of six bars, twice, in a major key.
The candidate will identify the time signature being 3/4 or 4/4 or 6/8.
The candidate will then state whether the ending cadence is perfect or interrupted.
- The examiner will play the phrase once more.
The candidate will identify the style and the unique characteristics of that style.
(latin, boogie, waltz or ballad).
- To recognize whether a chord played in root position is major 7th, dominant 7th or minor 7th.

VIVA VOCE: 10 marks

- General questions will be asked on **all** pieces performed and the technical work for this grade.
- To explain the construction of major ninth, minor ninth and dominant ninth chords.
- To explain the historic and geographic origins of the styles bossa nova, ballad, latin and jazz.

MELODY OUTLINE: 20 marks

Criteria for this section:

- **Must** choose a time signature of either 4/4 or 6/8.
- **Must** add a four bar introduction which includes a melody line and chords.
- **Must** add a four bar ending which includes a melody line and chords.
- **Must** use a variety of note values, including crotchet triplets in 4/4/ time.
- A minimum of **two** modern fills **must** be used.
- A minimum of **two** chord alterations **must** be used. eg A to Amaj7
- A minimum of **two** chord substitutions **must** be used. eg A to F#m
- **May** add extra chords within a bar.
- **May** add one bar to facilitate a run or any other two bar improvisation.
- A minimum of **two** bass styles **must** be used.
- Expression and dynamics **must** be included and marked on the music.
- The work **must** be given a title.
- The work **must** have the composer's name.
- The final work **must** be of a level suitable for this grade.
- The final work **must** be neatly handwritten **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.**

PIECES: 30 marks for each piece

musicnotes.com, sheetmusicdirect.com

The pieces **must** be purchased from either musicnotes.com or sheetmusicdirect.com using the links provided by the Area Manager.

Three pieces **must** be performed, **one** piece 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.

Right hand **must** add harmony.

Bass chords **may** be played in different inversions.

May have chord substitutions, alterations and additions.

May add one bar to facilitate a run or any other two bar improvisation.

Any alterations **must** be marked on the music **by the candidate**.

No repeats except DC or DS or as indicated for a specific piece.

The candidate should be encouraged to develop their own style(s), fill and arrangement.

Improvisation and rhythmic approach are expected for this grade.

All arrangements **must** be at a level suitable for this grade.

A copy of the arrangements **must** be given to the examiner on examination day.

Section I: Ballad

musicnotes.com

Candle In the Wind
Tightrope
Thank You for the Music

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

Criteria for this section:

- Freedom of arrangement.
- Bass styles to be chosen by the candidate.
- **Must** use a minimum of three different bass styles.
- A section of the piece **must** modulate into a different key using **four** joining chords. The modulating chords **must** be marked on the music.
- **Must** include **three** or more of the following:

RH semiquaver arpeggio fill augmented ending diminished ending broken run down any type of run

Section II: Latin

Fernando	musicnotes.com
Sway	sheetmusicdirect.com
El Choclo	musicnotes.com
Por Una Cabeza	musicnotes.com

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

Criteria for this section:

- Freedom of arrangement.
- Bass styles to be chosen by the candidate.
- **Must** use a minimum of eight bars each of two different latin bass styles.
- **Must** include **two** of the following:

glissando

turn

grace notes

chromatic run

Section III:**The candidate must choose either option IIIA or IIIB****Section IIIA: Jazz**

Dream a Little Dream of Me	musicnotes.com
What a Wonderful World	musicnotes.com
Summertime	sheetmusicdirect.com
Vienna (must add major and/or minor 7 th chords)	musicnotes.com

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

Criteria for this section:

- Freedom of arrangement.
- Bass styles to be chosen by the candidate.
- **Must** use a minimum of two different bass styles.
- **Must** add syncopation
- **Must** add grace notes.
- **Must** add a trill.
- **May** swing quavers.

OR**Section IIIB:****Own Composition****Criteria for this section:**

- **Must** be 36 bars total which includes the introduction and ending.
- **Must** add a four bar introduction.
- **Must** add a four bar ending.
- **Must** choose a time signature.
- **Must** choose a key signature.
- **May** be either fully notated or lead sheet or a combination of both.
- A tempo marking **must** be included and marked on the music.
- The work **must** be given a title.
- The final work **must** be either computer written or neatly handwritten **by the candidate**.
- **A copy of the composition must be sent to the Area Manager 21 days prior to the commencement date of the examinations.**

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

Technical Resource

Chromatic Scale a minor third apart

The first system consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The upper staff is in bass clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The exercise is divided into two measures. The first measure contains two phrases: the first phrase is in the upper staff (B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat) and the second phrase is in the lower staff (B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat). The second measure contains two phrases: the first phrase is in the upper staff (B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B) and the second phrase is in the lower staff (B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3 above or below notes.

The second system consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The exercise is divided into two measures. The first measure contains two phrases: the first phrase is in the upper staff (B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B) and the second phrase is in the lower staff (B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B). The second measure contains two phrases: the first phrase is in the upper staff (B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat) and the second phrase is in the lower staff (B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3 above or below notes.

The third system consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat, E-flat). The exercise is divided into two measures. The first measure contains two phrases: the first phrase is in the upper staff (B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat) and the second phrase is in the lower staff (B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat). The second measure contains two phrases: the first phrase is in the upper staff (B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat) and the second phrase is in the lower staff (B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3 above or below notes.

Bossa Nova

Allegretto

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems of piano accompaniment. Each system has a treble and bass clef staff. The first system (measures 1-4) features chords Dm7 and Gm7. The second system (measures 5-8) features chords Em7(b5), A7, and Dm7. The third system (measures 9-12) features chords Fm7, Bb7, and Eb7. The fourth system (measures 13-16) features chords Em7(b5), A7, and Dm7. The piece concludes with a final chord in the bass clef.

Adopted 2025

Melody Outline

Grade Seven
Piano

Song Title:

Composer:

Intro:

5 A E/G# F#m7 E

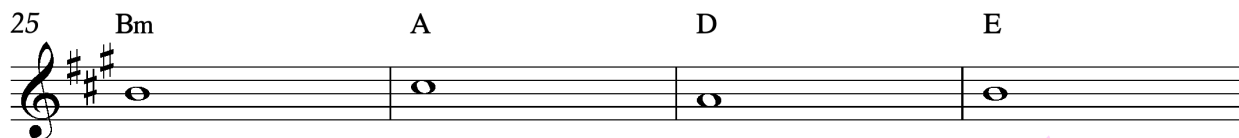
9 A E/G# F#m7 E

13 F#m D F#m7 E

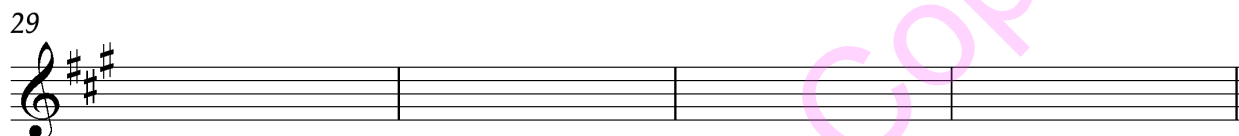
17 A C#m D E

21 A C#m D E

25 Bm A D E



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Criteria:

- Must choose a time signature of either 4/4 or 6/8.
- A four bar introduction which includes a melody line and chords must be added.
- A four bar ending which includes a melody line and chords must be added.
- Must use a variety of note values including crotchet triplets in 4/4 time .
- A minimum of two modern fills must be used.
- A minimum of two chord alterations must be used. eg A to Amaj7
- A minimum of two chord substitutions must be used. eg A to F#m
- May add extra chords within a bar.
- May add one bar to facilitate a run or any other two bar improvisation.
- A minimum of two bass styles must be used.
- Expression and dynamics must be included and marked on the music.
- The work must be given a title.
- The work must have the composer's name.
- The final work must be neatly handwritten by the candidate.

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