

London College of Music Examinations

Jazz

Requirements for Recorded Exams:

Steps, Grades, Recital Grades, Leisure Play

Valid from:

Spring 2020 until further notice

Updated 12.02.2024

Jazz Piano

Jazz Clarinet

Jazz Flute

Jazz Saxophone

Jazz Trumpet, Cornet and Flugelhorn

Jazz Trombone

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1. Overview

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, London College of Music Examinations is offering recorded alternatives in order to assess the work candidates have prepared for the Spring 2020 exam session.

The following exam alternatives provide the opportunity for the assessment of musical performance, whereby candidates upload a video file of their performance, rather than attending an examination venue. Performances are assessed by trained LCME examiners, using the same standards and criteria as are used for face-to-face, live exams. This offers candidates a reliable, independent, regulated assessment of their performance standard, while benefitting from the flexibility allowed by the submission process.

2. Recorded Exam Requirements

2.1. Pre-grade 1

A recorded submission alternative for candidates who have entered for Step exams

Component 1: Arpeggio

(10 marks)

The candidate will be asked to play, from memory, the arpeggio as described in the relevant repertoire list.

Component 2: Performance

- Candidates play the chorus of three different Nursery Rhymes. These can be played solo or accompanied and one must be played from memory.

(60 marks)

- Candidates play the chorus of an own choice piece. The piece may be another Nursery Rhyme and can be played solo or accompanied. Candidates may use sheet music or play from memory. N.B: Pieces may be played in any key.

(30 marks)

Weighting for examination components

| Arpeggio | Performance |
|----------|-------------|
| 10 % | 90 % |

Assessment

Performances are assessed according to the same standards and criteria as for LCME's face-to-face exams. Refer to the details listed under Performance, in the section *How marks are awarded* in the relevant syllabus.

2.2. Grades 1-8

A recorded submission alternative for candidates who have entered for graded exams (grades 1-8).

Component 1: Performance (80 marks)

- Performance of the set Technical Work OR Scale and Study for the relevant grade (see *Technical Work and Musical Awareness Questions* on the LCME website)
- AND
- Candidates are required to perform 3 pieces. All pieces must be selected from the repertoire list from the relevant LCME grade
- One piece may be a free choice, played from memory (see page 6 of the relevant LCME repertoire list for more details)

Component 2: Prepared Creative Response (10 marks)

Candidates should choose and prepare one creative response test example from the relevant LCME *Jazz Handbook* to perform for this component of the exam.

Component 3: Musical Awareness (10 marks)

Set questions for each grade in response to the pieces performed by the candidate. Candidates should present their responses orally before or after the performance section (see *Technical Work and Musical Awareness Requirements* on the LCME website for details).

Weighting for examination components

| Technical Work/ Study | Performance 1 | Performance 2 | Performance 3 | Prepared Creative Response | Musical Awareness |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 20 % | 20 % | 20 % | 20 % | 10 % | 10 % |

Assessment

Performances are assessed according to the same standards and criteria as for LCME's graded exams. Refer to the details listed under Performance, in the section *How marks are awarded* in the relevant syllabus.

Regulation

LCME's recorded exams are regulated in England by Ofqual, and by the corresponding authorities in Wales (Qualifications Wales) and Northern Ireland (CCEA). They have been placed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at Levels 1, 2 and 3.

2.3. Recorded Recital Grade Requirements

A recorded submission alternative for candidates who have entered for Recital Grade exams (grades 1-8)

Component 1: Performance

- Candidates perform four pieces, selected from the set lists (A, B and C) for the equivalent grade; there is no requirement to select the pieces from different lists.

Component 2: Performance, Creative Response Test or Musical Awareness

Option 1: Performance of an additional piece (requirements as for Component 1)

Option 2: Candidates should choose and prepare one creative response test from the relevant LCME *Jazz Wind Handbook* to perform for this component of the exam.

Option 3: Set questions for each grade in response to piece performed by the candidate. Candidates should present their responses orally before or after the performance section (see *Technical Work and Musical Awareness Requirements* on the LCME website for details).

Weighting for examination components

| Performance 1 | Performance 2 | Performance 3 | Performance 4 | Performance 5, Creative Response Test or Musical Awareness |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| 20 % | 20 % | 20 % | 20 % | 20 % |

Assessment

Performances are assessed according to the same standards and criteria as for LCME's graded exams. Refer to the details listed under Performance, in the section *How marks are awarded* in the relevant syllabus.

Regulation

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2.4. Recorded Leisure Play Exam Requirements

A recorded submission alternative for candidates who have entered for Leisure Play exams **Examination Requirements**

Candidates are required to perform FOUR pieces

At least THREE of these pieces are to be selected from the set lists for the equivalent grade. Candidates and teachers should endeavour to ensure that the overall programme is contrasted and balanced. There is no requirement to select at least one piece from the LCM Jazz Wind or Jazz Piano Handbook.

The fourth piece may be an own choice, which may be an original or own composition. There is no requirement for own choice pieces to be pre-approved. Candidates should be aware that, if the standard of an own choice piece is significantly easier than that of the equivalent grade, this may be reflected in the marking. Guidelines on the appropriate standard of repertoire is contained in the *Grade descriptions* of the LCME Jazz Grades syllabus.

Weighting for examination components

| Performance 1 | Performance 2 | Performance 3 | Performance 4 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 25% | 25% | 25% | 25% |

Assessment

Performances are assessed according to the same standards and criteria as for LCME's graded exams. Refer to the details listed under Performance, in the section *How marks are awarded* in the relevant syllabus.

Regulation

LCME's recorded exams are regulated in England by Ofqual, and by the corresponding authorities in Wales (Qualifications Wales) and Northern Ireland (CCEA). They have been placed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at Levels 1, 2 and 3.

3. Submission Guidelines

- Music which is published with an accompaniment must be performed with that accompaniment. The accompaniment can be performed live on a piano/ keyboard, or pre-recorded, or a backing track may be used.
- Candidates must supply details of the pieces they are performing (titles and composers) verbally before each piece. Candidates are not required to submit scores of any pieces performed.
- Each piece must be recorded in a single, uninterrupted take with the title of each piece being stated before playing.
- All Technical Work should be recorded in a single, uninterrupted take with each presentation being identified orally before playing. For instance “C major scale”, “A harmonic minor scale”. Please do not submit each scale and arpeggio as a separate video file.
- Performances must be recorded using a static camera, which should be positioned in such a way as to show the performer, and their instrument, clearly.
- Always make a short test recording first to ensure the audio signal is clear and not distorting or clipping and the video image is clear.
- The recording device's microphone must be of sufficient quality to allow assessment of all aspects of the performance, including tone quality and dynamic range.
- The microphone should be positioned in such a way as to ensure good sound balance between candidate and accompanist or backing track (if applicable).
- Typically a smartphone or tablet will be of perfectly sufficient quality here in terms of audio and video recording quality. We would recommend that you set your video camera resolution to 720p as this will ensure sufficient quality. A lower resolution than this (for instance 480p) might not have sufficient clarity, whilst a higher resolution (1080p or 4K) would result in an unnecessarily large file size.
- When completing the file upload on the LCME website, candidates must declare that the performances in the video are that of the candidate named on the submission.
- When uploading a file to the website, the file must be either avi, flv, wmv, mov or mp4 format and should not exceed 150MB. The file must be labelled clearly with the candidate's name and the name of the piece or component. For example:
 - Jane Smith Andante in C major
 - Jane Smith Technical Work