

London College of Music Examinations

Ukulele

Requirements for Recorded Exams:
Steps, Grades

Valid from:

Spring 2020 until further notice

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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: Rhythm Study (25 marks)

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the LCME Ukulele handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping.

Component 2: Performance (25 marks)

Candidates should select either Option 1: Melody or Option 2: Rhythm Study

Option 1: Melody

Candidates perform one of the melodies outlined in the LCME Ukulele 2019 syllabus. These are provided in the LCME Ukulele handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Option 2: Rhythm Study

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

Component 3: Free Choice Specialism (25 marks)

Candidates should select either Option 1, 2 or 3

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the LCME Ukulele handbook.

Option 2: Melody

Candidates can select and perform an additional melody from those provided in Component 2.

Option 3: Rhythm Study

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment (25 marks)

Candidates should choose one of the accompaniment examples from the LCME Ukulele handbook 2019 and play their chord accompaniment along to the audio recording of the melody. Audio recordings of the melodies can be downloaded from the LCME website: follow the link to **Ukulele Audio Downloads**, select the appropriate grade and scroll to the bottom of the list. The download links are labelled **Accompaniment 1, 2 and 3**. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this level are the same as for Component 1.

After a one bar count in, the melody will be played 3 times without stopping, candidates can play on all three playing's, but will only be assessed on the last two.

Weighting for examination components

Rhythm Study	Performance	Free Choice Specialism	Prepared Accompaniment
25 %	25 %	25 %	25 %

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.

Submission

Please see *submission guidelines* (page 8)

2.2. Grades 1-5

A recorded submission alternative for candidates who have entered for graded exams (grades 1-5). Candidates who have entered for recital grades may transfer to this regulated recorded exam (please note the additional discussion component).

Component 1: Rhythm Study (20 marks)

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the **Ukulele Handbooks 2019 (LCM)** using the set rhythm patterns notated in handbooks. The chart should be played through twice without stopping incorporating the use of variation to the notated strum pattern as indicated in the handbooks.

Component 2: Performance (25 marks)

Candidates should select either Option 1: Melody or Option 2: Rhythm Study

Option 1: Melody

Candidates perform one of the melodies outlined in the LCME Ukulele 2019 syllabus. These are provided in the LCME Ukulele handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Option 2: Rhythm Study

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

Component 3: Free Choice Specialism (20 marks)

Candidates should select either Option 1, 2, 3 or 4.

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the LCME Ukulele handbook.

Option 2: Melody

Candidates can select and perform an additional melody from those provided in Component 2.

Option 3: Rhythm Study

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

Option 4: Fingerstyle Study (grades 1, 2 and 3 only)

Candidates perform the fingerstyle study from the LCME Ukulele handbook.

Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment (20 marks)

Candidates should choose one of the accompaniment examples from the LCME Ukulele handbook 2019 and play their chord accompaniment along to the audio recording of the melody. Audio recordings of the melodies can be downloaded from the LCME website: follow the link to **Ukulele Audio Downloads**, select the appropriate grade and scroll to the bottom of the list. The download

links are labelled **Accompaniment 1, 2 and 3**. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this level are the same as for Component 1.

After a one bar count in, the melody will be played 3 times without stopping, candidates can play on all three playing's, but will only be assessed on the last two.

Component 5: Musicianship

(20 marks)

Set questions for each grade to assess the candidate's knowledge of the pieces performed and of their instrument. Candidates should present their responses orally after the performance section (see *Musicianship Questions* on the LCME website for details of this component).

Weighting for examination components

Rhythm Study	Performance	Free Choice Specialism	Prepared Accompaniment	Musicianship
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

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.

Submission

Please see *submission guidelines* (page 8).

2.3. Grades 6-8

A recorded submission alternative for candidates who have entered for graded exams. Candidates who have entered for recital grades may transfer to this regulated recorded exam (please note the additional discussion component).

Component 1: Performance (40 marks)

Performance of two pieces from the set repertoire of the grade.

Component 2: Free Choice Specialism (20 marks)

Candidates should select either Option 1 or 2.

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing or another piece from the **Ukulele Handbooks 2023 (LCM)** to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the handbook.

Option 2: Improvisation in a set style

Performance of a piece in a Blues Style, using chord playing and single line playing. The handbook chart will be played three times. The candidate will play the chord rhythm first, followed by the composed lead part over the same 16 bars. After which, they must improvise a solo of the duration of the chart using the given scale.

Component 3: Prepared Accompaniment (20 marks)

Candidates should choose one of the accompaniment examples from the **Ukulele Handbooks 2023 (LCM)** of their grade and play their chord accompaniment along to the audio recording of the melody.

Audio recordings of the melodies can be downloaded from the LCME website: follow the link to **Ukulele Audio Downloads**, select the appropriate grade and scroll to the bottom of the list. The download links are labelled **Accompaniment 1, 2 and 3**. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this level are the same as for Component 1.

After a one bar count in, the melody will be played 3 times without stopping, candidates can play on all three playing's, but will only be assessed on the last two.

Component 4: Musicianship (20 marks)

Set questions for each grade to assess the candidate's knowledge of the pieces performed and of their instrument. Candidates should present their responses orally after the performance section (see *Musicianship Questions* on the LCME website for details of this component).

Weighting for examination components

Performance	Free Choice Specialism	Prepared Accompaniment	Musicianship
40 %	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

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.

Submission

Please see *submission guidelines* (page 8).

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