

London College of Music Examinations

Ukulele Syllabus

Qualification specifications for:

Steps, Grades, Recital Grades, Performance Awards, Ensemble

Valid from:

2023 until further notice

updated 12.06.2024

Ukulele Syllabus 2023

Catalogue no: LL498

© 2023

All rights reserved

London College of Music Examinations

lcme.uwl.ac.uk

Contents

1. Information and general guidelines	3
1.1 Introduction	3
1.2 Syllabus validity	4
1.3 Changes to the syllabus	4
1.4 Exam options	4
1.5 Exam entry	5
1.6 Exam regulations	6
1.7 Performance guidelines	6
2. Summary of subject content	8
2.1 Introductory to Grade 5	8
2.2 Grades 6 to 8	8
2.3 Recital Grades: Introductory to Grade 5	9
2.4 Recital Grades: Grade 6 to 8	9
2.5 Performance Awards	10
3. Grade descriptions	11
3.1 Introductory examinations	11
3.2 Graded examinations	11
4. Exam requirements	12
5. Assessment	32
5.1 Assessment domains	32
5.2 Attainment band descriptions	33
5.3 Awards of Pass, Pass with Merit or Pass with Distinction	36
6. Ukulele ensemble	37
6.1 Information and general guidelines	37
6.2 Summary of subject content	38
6.3 Exam requirements	38
7. Regulated qualifications	40
7.1 Regulated qualification information	40
7.2 RQF levels	40
7.3 UCAS tariff points	41

1.1 Introduction

London College of Music Examinations (LCME)

External examinations have been awarded by the London College of Music since the institution's founding in 1887. Today, examinations are held throughout the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and at many overseas centres; they are unique in the graded examinations sector in being awarded by a university, ensuring the added quality assurance of the University of West London (UWL), who is the issuer of certificates. Graded and diploma exams in most subjects are regulated by Ofqual, and other UK regulators. Candidates applying to UK universities through the UCAS system are eligible to claim UCAS points if they achieve a Pass or higher at grades 6 to 8 in a regulated subject.

What makes LCM Examinations distinctive

LCM's graded and diploma qualifications make a distinctive contribution to education in music, drama and communication, because of the emphasis placed upon:

- creative thinking
- an encouragement to think technically and critically about the repertoire performed, and the opportunity to communicate this in practical examinations
- a distinctively broad stylistic range of tasks and repertoire, with a strong emphasis towards the acquisition and demonstration of skills and understandings that are of contemporary relevance to the performing arts
- the provision of assessment in areas not traditionally included within the scope of graded examinations
- the provision of flexible examination formats and arrangements

Syllabus objectives

A course of study based on this syllabus is intended to provide:

- a balanced combination of performing skills, supported by knowledge and understanding
- an enduring love, enjoyment and understanding of the performing arts, from the perspective of both participants and audience
- the basis to develop relevant and usable skills and concepts
- skills in organisation, planning, problem solving and communication
- enhanced ability in acquiring the personal disciplines and motivation necessary for lifelong learning
- opportunities for mastery learning that are structured and directly related to the repertoire published for each grade
- opportunities for learning and assessment that are creatively challenging
- a progressive and unified assessment system, enabling candidates to plan and obtain an effective education in the arts, equipping candidates with added value to enhance career routes, educational opportunities and decision-making

1.2 Syllabus validity

This syllabus is valid for Steps, Grades, Recital Grades, Performance Awards and Ensemble exams in Ukulele from 2023 until further notice.

1.3 Changes to the syllabus

This syllabus replaces the Ukulele Syllabus (2019 until further notice) including Grades 6 to 8 to Graded examinations, Recital grades and Performance Awards. The content for the other grades remains unchanged.

1.4 Exam options

The following is an overview of the solo graded examinations and performance awards contained in this syllabus:

Grades 1 to 5

	Grades	Recital Grades	Performance Awards
Rhythm Study	✓	✓	✓
Performance	1 piece OR 1 additional rhythm study	1 piece OR 1 additional rhythm study	1 piece OR 1 additional rhythm study
Free Choice Specialism	1 piece: either own choice OR additional piece from the handbook OR additional rhythm study OR fingerstyle study (Grades 1 to 3 only)	2 pieces: either own choices OR additional pieces from the handbook OR additional rhythm studies OR fingerstyle study (Grades 1 to 3 only)	2 pieces: either own choices OR additional pieces from the handbook OR additional rhythm studies OR fingerstyle study (Levels 1 to 3 only)
Prepared Accompaniment	✓	✓	✓
Musicianship	✓	✗	✗
Structure	Grades 1 to 5	Grades 1 to 5	Levels 1 to 5
Prerequisites	✗	✗	✗
Assessment	Examination	Examination	Recorded performance
Grading	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%
Regulation	✓	✗	✗

Grades 6 to 8

	Grades	Recital Grades	Performance Awards
Performance	2 pieces	2 pieces	2 pieces
Free Choice Specialism	1 piece: either own choice OR an improvisation in a set style	2 pieces: either own choice OR an improvisation in a set style	2 pieces: either own choice OR an improvisation in a set style
Unprepared Accompaniment	✓	✓	✓
Musicianship	✓	✗	✗

Structure	Grades 6 to 8	Grades 6 to 8	Levels 6 to 8
Prerequisites	x	x	x
Assessment	Examination	Examination	Recorded performance
Grading	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%
Regulation	✓	x	x

Introductory examinations

LCME also offer two levels of introductory examinations in Ukulele: Step 1 and Step 2. The pass bands are the same as for the graded examinations: Distinction (85–100% of the total marks available), Merit (75–84%) and Pass (65–74%). These exams are not regulated.

1.5 Exam entry

Exam dates, locations and fees

Details of exam dates, locations, fees and how to book an exam are available on our website:

lcme.uwl.ac.uk/enter

Age groups and requirements for prior learning

LCM Examinations are open to all and there are no minimum age restrictions. There are no prerequisite qualifications required for entering any step or graded exam; candidates can enter at any level provided they have the required knowledge, skills and understanding.

Exam durations

Step 1	Step 2	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
10 mins	10 mins	15 mins	15 mins	15 mins	20 mins	20 mins	25 mins	25 mins	30 mins

Marking

Qualifications are awarded by University of West London Qualifications (UWLQ). Exams are conducted by trained examiners and are held at approved centres in the UK and overseas. Candidates will be assessed on their technical accomplishment, musicality, musical knowledge and communication. In awarding marks, examiners will take into account the extent to which each of these assessment domains is demonstrated within the individual exam components; the assessment criteria used by the examiners for graded examinations is given in Section 5: Assessment. A Pass in each individual exam component is not required to pass overall.

Issue of results

A written report will be compiled for each examination. Candidates will be informed of the result of examinations as soon as possible. Results are available online within days and will be sent by post not later than four weeks after the examination date. Certificates for successful candidates are normally

dispatched within eight weeks of the date of the examination, but very often they will be received sooner than this. This time is necessary to ensure that all results are properly standardised and have been checked by LCM Examinations.

Reasonable adjustments and special considerations

Information on assessment, examination and entry requirements for candidates with specific needs is published in the Equality of Opportunity, Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration policy available on our website.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

This syllabus is dedicated to fostering an environment of equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in music education. We are committed to providing a platform where candidates from diverse backgrounds and abilities can engage with music and reflect on their individual needs.

This syllabus offers a diverse range of repertoire choices that embrace different musical styles, cultures, and traditions. We aim to ensure that all candidates can find pieces that resonate with their unique musical preferences, backgrounds, and experiences.

LCME exams are accessible to candidates of all abilities. We actively encourage and support performances that encompass a spectrum of disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs and individuals with cognitive disabilities. We are committed to removing barriers and creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all candidates.

Through every syllabus, we aim to promote the values of equality, diversity, and inclusion, fostering a vibrant and inclusive musical community where every candidate can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Enquiries, complaints and appeals

Information on how to make an enquiry, complaint or appeal is published in the Enquiries and Appeals policy and the Complaints Procedure documents available on our website.

1.6 Exam regulations

Full details of all general exam regulations are published in the Regulations and Information document available on our website.

1.7 Performance guidelines

Instruments

The syllabus caters for Soprano (standard), Concert and Tenor ukuleles that use standard GCEA tuning.

Use of music in the examination

Candidates must use published editions of all music performed in the examination, whether published by

LCME or by other publishers — legal downloads are acceptable. Candidates should ensure that they have obtained all the necessary music before submitting an entry. Where a candidate wishes to perform from memory, published editions of the music must still be available for the examiner's reference.

Repeats

All repeats are to be observed at all grades.

Tuning

For exam purposes instruments should be tuned to standard concert pitch (A=440Hz). The use of an electronic tuner or other tuning aid is permitted. The examiner will offer an E or A note to tune to on request.

2. Summary of subject content

2.1 Introductory to Grade 5

Exam components

Component 1: Rhythm Study

Component 2: Performance

Option 1: Melody / Solo Piece

Option 2: Rhythm Study

Component 3: Free Choice Specialism

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Option 2: Melody / Solo Piece

Option 3: Rhythm Study

Option 4: Fingerstyle Study (Grades 1 to 3 only)

Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment

Component 5: Musicianship

Component weightings

Rhythm Study	Performance	Free Choice Specialism	Prepared Accompaniment	Musicianship
20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

2.2 Grades 6 to 8

Exam components

Component 1: Performance

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

Component 2: Free Choice Specialism

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Option 2: Improvisation in a set style

Component 3: Unprepared Accompaniment

Component 4: Musicianship

Component weightings

Performance	Free Choice Specialism	Unprepared Accompaniment	Musicianship
40%	20%	20%	20%

2.3 Recital Grades: Introductory to Grade 5

Exam components

The requirements for each exam component are the same as for the equivalent graded exam (see Section 4: Exam requirements) unless specified otherwise below.

Component 1: Rhythm Study

Component 2: Performance

Option 1: Melody / Solo Piece

Option 2: Rhythm Study

Component 3: Free Choice Specialism

Candidates select and perform two of the following, chosen from any mix of the options listed (including choosing both pieces from the same option if preferred).

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Option 2: Melody / Solo Piece

Option 3: Rhythm Study

Option 4: Fingerstyle Study (Grades 1 to 3 only)

Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment

Component weightings

Rhythm Study	Performance	Free Choice Specialism	Prepared Accompaniment
20%	20%	40%	20%

2.4 Recital Grades: Grade 6 to 8

Exam components

The requirements for each exam component are the same as for the equivalent graded exam (see Section 4: Exam requirements) unless specified otherwise below.

Component 1: Performance

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

Component 2: Free Choice Specialism

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Option 2: Improvisation in a set style

Component 3: Unprepared Accompaniment

Component weightings

Performance	Free Choice Specialism	Unprepared Accompaniment
50%	25%	25%

Regulation

Please note, recital grades in ukulele are not Ofqual regulated.

2.5 Performance Awards

Candidates submit a video file of their performance rather than attending an examination venue. There are eight levels, each equivalent to the standard of the graded exams (Performance Award Level 3 is equivalent to Grade 3). Performances are assessed by trained LCM examiners, using the same standards and criteria as are used for graded exams, offering candidates a reliable and independent assessment of their performance standard, while benefiting from the flexibility allowed by the submission process. Candidates are awarded an overall mark for their performance.

Entry details

Candidates may enter for performance awards at any time; the standard closing dates are not applicable. To enter, candidates should visit lcme.uwl.ac.uk and click on the *upload work* link. Here the entry form should be completed, the exam fee paid and then the file can be uploaded.

Requirements

Requirements for performance awards are exactly the same as the requirements for the performance component of the equivalent graded examination. In addition, please note the following requirements:

Candidates must provide details of the pieces they are performing; this information should be provided on the online form. Candidates are not required to submit scores of any pieces performed.

Each piece must be recorded in a single, uninterrupted take.

Performances must be recorded using a static camera, which should be positioned in such a way as to show the performer clearly.

The microphone must be of sufficient quality to allow assessment of all aspects of the performance, including tone quality, dynamic range etc.

The microphone should be positioned in such a way as to ensure a good sound balance between candidate and accompanist (if applicable).

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.

The entry process includes a declaration indicating that the performances were given by the candidate. This must be signed and dated by the candidate and by an adult witness (who may be the candidate's teacher).

Assessment, awarding and reporting

The procedure for issuing results and certificates is the same as for graded examinations. Please note that the Performance Award syllabus is not regulated by Ofqual and does not attract UCAS points.

3.1 Introductory examinations

Steps 1 and 2

The musical material selected for these grades is of an elementary nature. Only the most basic chords and structures are used. Melodic and rhythmic material will be simple.

3.2 Graded examinations

Grades 1 and 2

The musical material selected for these grades is of an essentially elementary nature. Only basic chords and structures are used. Melodic and rhythmic material will be relatively simple. Expectations of dynamics are limited to occasional use. The keys and chords required are limited to the least demanding examples. Technical accomplishment is a more important element of assessment than musicality, and expectations of musical communication are limited.

Grades 3 to 5

The musical material selected for these grades is of a more demanding nature. Melodic and rhythmic material will be more complex than earlier grades. There will be expectations of clear phrasing. The range of keys and chords required is expanded in number and includes more taxing examples. Musicality is an increasingly important element of assessment in relation to technical accomplishment, and expectations of musical communication are higher.

Grades 6 to 8

The musical material for these grades is more demanding technically as well as musically. Pieces are generally longer and use the whole range of the instrument. Techniques such as Campanella, harp harmonics, chromatic harmony, slurs, slides, all feature heavily. A range of keys, time signatures and styles are offered to broaden the candidates' musical horizons.

4. Exam requirements

Step 1

Component 1: Rhythm Study

20 marks

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

Chords	Time signatures
C, F, G Am	$\frac{4}{4}$

Component 2: Performance

20 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

- **Option 1: Melody**

Candidates perform one of the melodies listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Title	Key	Publication
When The Saints Go Marching In	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Step 1 (<i>LCM</i>)
On Top Of Old Smokey	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Step 1 (<i>LCM</i>)
Michael Row The Boat Ashore	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Step 1 (<i>LCM</i>)
Kumbaya	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Step 1 (<i>LCM</i>)

- **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, or 3.

- **Option 1: Own Choice Piece**

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing or another piece from the handbook 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: 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**20 marks**

Candidates perform an accompaniment to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner. The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

Component 5: Musicianship**20 marks**

Candidates will be given four tests that involve identifying whether the second of two notes is higher or lower in pitch than the first note.

Step 2

Component 1: Rhythm Study

20 marks

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

Chords	Time signatures
C, F, G Am, Dm C7, G7	$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Component 2: Performance

20 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

• Option 1: Melody

Candidates perform one of the melodies listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Title	Key	Publication
This Old Man	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Step 2 (<i>LCM</i>)
For He's a Jolly Good Fellow	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Step 2 (<i>LCM</i>)
Worried Man Blues	F major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Step 2 (<i>LCM</i>)
Aura Lee	F major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Step 2 (<i>LCM</i>)

• 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, or 3.

• Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing or another piece from the handbook 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: 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

20 marks

Candidates perform an accompaniment to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner. The melody will be

played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

Component 5: Musicianship

20 marks

Pitch Tests

Candidates will be given two tests that involve identifying whether the second of two notes played by the examiner is higher or lower in pitch than the first note.

Rhythm and Chord Tests

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 1-bar rhythm pattern and identify the chord types in a progression as either all major or all minor.

Grade 1

Component 1: Rhythm Study

20 marks

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping; some rhythmic variation of the candidate's choosing is expected during the second playthrough. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

Chords	Time signatures
C, F, G, A, D Am, Dm, Gm C7, G7, A7, E7	$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Component 2: Performance

20 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

• Option 1: Melody

Candidates perform one of the melodies listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Title	Composer	Key	Publication
The Bear Dance	Traditional arr. Tony Skinner	D minor	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 1 (LCM)
The Warriors Return	Tony Skinner	D minor	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 1 (LCM)
Daisy Bell	Harry Dacre	G major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 1 (LCM)
Oh, Susanna	Trad. American arr. Tony Skinner	D major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 1 (LCM)

• 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 or another piece from the handbook 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: 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**

Candidates perform the fingerstyle study from the handbook.

Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment

20 marks

Candidates perform an accompaniment to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner. The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

Component 5: Musicianship

20 marks

Aural Awareness

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 1-bar rhythm pattern and identify chord types.

Musical Knowledge

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures.

Knowledge of the Instrument

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele and to identify the location of parts of the ukulele.

Grade 2

Component 1: Rhythm Study

20 marks

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping; some rhythmic variation of the candidate's choosing is expected during the second playthrough. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

Chords	Time signatures
C, F, G, A, D, Bb Am, Dm, Gm, Em, F#m C7, G7, A7, E7, D7 Cmaj7 Gm7	$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Component 2: Performance

20 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

• Option 1: Melody

Candidates perform one of the melodies listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Title	Composer	Key	Publication
Autumn Lament	Tony Skinner	A minor	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 2 (LCM)
Home on the Range	Trad. American arr. Tony Skinner	F major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 2 (LCM)
Drunken Sailor	Sea Shanty arr. Tony Skinner	E minor (dorian)	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 2 (LCM)
Galway Gallop	Tony Skinner	G major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 2 (LCM)

• 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 or another piece from the handbook 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: 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**

Candidates perform the fingerstyle study from the handbook.

Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment

20 marks

Candidates perform an accompaniment to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner. The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

Component 5: Musicianship

20 marks

Aural Awareness

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 1-bar rhythm pattern and identify chord types.

Musical Knowledge

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures.

Knowledge of the Instrument

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele and to identify the location of parts of the ukulele.

Grade 3

Component 1: Rhythm Study

20 marks

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping; some rhythmic variation of the candidate's choosing is expected during the second playthrough. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

Chords	Time signatures
C, F, G, A, D, Bb	
Am, Dm, Gm, Em, F#m, Bm, Fm	
C7, G7, A7, E7, D7, B7	$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{6}{8}$
Cmaj7, Dmaj7, Gmaj7	$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{4}{8}$
Gm7, Em7	
Edim7	

Component 2: Performance

20 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

- **Option 1: Solo piece**

Candidates perform one of the pieces listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Title	Composer	Key	Publication
Lovely as Moonlight	Tony Skinner	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 3 (<i>LCM</i>)
A Whale of a Time	Tony Skinner	A major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 3 (<i>LCM</i>)
Atholl Highlanders	Scottish Jig arr. Tony Skinner	D major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 3 (<i>LCM</i>)
Waltzing Matilda	Trad. Australian arr. Tony Skinner	F major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 3 (<i>LCM</i>)

- **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 or another piece from the handbook 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: Solo piece**

Candidates can select and perform an additional piece 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**

Candidates perform the fingerstyle study from the handbook.

Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment

20 marks

Candidates perform an accompaniment to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner. The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

Component 5: Musicianship

20 marks

Aural Awareness

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 1-bar rhythm pattern and identify chord types and time signatures of a chord progression.

Musical Knowledge

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures.

Knowledge of the Instrument

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele and to identify the location of parts of the ukulele.

Grade 4

Component 1: Rhythm Study

20 marks

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping; some rhythmic variation of the candidate's choosing is expected during the second playthrough. The types of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

Chords	Time signatures
Full/partial barre chords higher position chords a range of voicings and a variety of other chord types are included	$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{6}{8}$

Component 2: Performance

20 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

• Option 1: Solo piece

Candidates perform one of the pieces listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Title	Composer	Key	Publication
Auld Lang Syne	Trad. Scottish arr. Tony Skinner	F major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 4 (LCM)
Troubadour	Tony Skinner	G minor	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 4 (LCM)
Walking in the Sun	Tony Skinner	G major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 4 (LCM)
Greensleeves	Trad. English arr. Tony Skinner	G minor	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 4 (LCM)

• 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, or 3.

• Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing or another piece from the handbook 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: Solo piece

Candidates can select and perform an additional piece 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

20 marks

Candidates perform an accompaniment to a melody (8 to 12 bars in length) played by the examiner. The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

Component 5: Musicianship

20 marks

Aural Awareness

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 1-bar rhythm pattern, identify chord types and identify the time signature of a chord progression.

Musical Knowledge

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures. Candidates will also be asked questions about the dynamics, tempo, mood and style of the pieces performed.

Knowledge of the Instrument

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele.

Grade 5

Component 1: Rhythm Study

20 marks

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook, using set rhythm patterns. The chart should be played through twice without stopping; some rhythmic variation of the candidate's choosing is expected during the second playthrough. The types of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

Chords	Time signatures
Full/partial barre chords higher position chords a range of voicings and a variety of other chord types are included	$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{6}{8}$

Component 2: Performance

20 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

• Option 1: Solo piece

Candidates perform one of the pieces listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Title	Composer	Key	Publication
Jacob's Ladder	Matt Stead	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 5 (LCM)
Ka Makani Ka'ili Aloha	Trad. Hawaiian arr. Matt Stead	F major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 5 (LCM)
Winnie's Waltz	Phil Doleman	G major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 5 (LCM)
The Ten Penny Bit	Traditional arr. Tony Skinner	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2019: Grade 5 (LCM)

• 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, or 3.

• Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing or another piece from the handbook 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: Solo piece

Candidates can select and perform an additional piece 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

20 marks

Candidates perform an accompaniment to a melody (8 to 12 bars in length) played by the examiner. The melody will be played three times, although only the candidate's last two playings of the chord chart are assessed. The melodies are given in the handbook so candidates can prepare their accompaniment in advance. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

Component 5: Musicianship

20 marks

Aural Awareness

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 2-bar rhythm pattern, identify chord types and identify the time signature of a chord progression.

Musical Knowledge

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures. Candidates will also be asked questions about the dynamics, tempo, mood and style of the pieces performed.

Knowledge of the Instrument

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele.

Grade 6

Component 1: Performance

40 marks

Candidates perform two of the pieces listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Title	Composer	Key	Publication
Mae's March	Phil Doleman	D major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 6 (LCM)
Arkansas Traveller	Trad. American arr. Stuart Wheaton	G major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 6 (LCM)
Brian Boru's March /The Blarney Pilgrim	Trad. Irish arr. Samantha Muir	D minor	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 6 (LCM)
Canarios	Gaspar Sanz arr. Nick Mackey	F major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 6 (LCM)
Ragamuffin	David Harrison	B \flat major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 6 (LCM)

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 handbook 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 pieces in the **Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 6 (LCM)**.

- **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: Unprepared Accompaniment

20 marks

Candidates perform an accompaniment chart to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner. The melody will be played four times. The first time the candidate should listen to the melody. Then, after one bar count in, the examiner will play the melody 3 times without stopping. The candidate can play on all three of these playings, although only the candidate's last two playings are assessed. Some rhythmic variation between the playings is expected.

The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

Chords	Time signatures
C, F, G, A, D, B \flat	
Am, Dm, Gm, Em, F \sharp m, Bm, Fm	
C7, G7, A7, E7, D7, B7	
Bmaj7, Cmaj7, Dmaj7, Gmaj7, Fmaj7	$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{6}{8}$
Csus4, Dsus4	
Gm7, Em7	
Edim7	

Component 4: Musicianship

20 marks

Aural Awareness

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 4-bar rhythm pattern, identify chord types and identify the time signature of a chord progression. The candidate will also be asked to clap back the rhythm of a melody identify the time signature and finally play it back.

Musical Knowledge

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures, as well as discussing any techniques used in the pieces performed. The discussion may include questions relating to style, harmony, melodic development, and dynamics.

Knowledge of the Instrument

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele and to identify the location of parts of the ukulele, as well as the ukulele's history and its most notable players.

Grade 7

Component 1: Performance

40 marks

Candidates perform two of the pieces listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Title	Composer	Key	Publication
Blues in F	Phil Doleman	F major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 7 (LCM)
Pineapple Mango	Daniel Ho	G major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 7 (LCM)
Hone A Ka Wai	Traditional arr. James Hill	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 7 (LCM)
View For A Moment	Arlo Anwin	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 7 (LCM)
Hard Times	Stephen Foster arr. Samantha Muir	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 7 (LCM)

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 handbook 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 pieces in the **Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 7 (LCM)**.

• Option 2: Improvisation in a set style

Performance of a piece in a Hawaiian 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: Unprepared Accompaniment

20 marks

Candidates perform an accompaniment chart to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner. The melody will be played four times. The first time the candidate should listen to the melody. Then, after one bar count in, the examiner will play the melody 3 times without stopping. The candidate can play on all three of these playings, although only the candidate's last two playings are assessed. Some rhythmic variation between the playings is expected.

The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

Chords	Time signatures
C, F, G, A, D, Bb, Eb, F#	
Am, Dm, Gm, Em, F#m, Bm, Fm, Abm, Bbm, Dbm	
C7, G7, A7, E7, D7, B7, B7sus4, F#7, Bb7, Eb7, Db7, C#7	
Cmaj7, Dmaj7, Gmaj7, Emaj7, Abmaj7	
Gm7, Gm6, Em7, C#m7, Fm7	$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{6}{8}$
Edim7, Bbdim7, Cdim7	
Csus4, Dsus4, Asus4, Aadd9	
B9, E6, Eb6, Bb9	
Cm9, Fm9, F#m9, E7#5	

Component 4: Musicianship

20 marks

Aural Awareness

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 4-bar rhythm pattern, identify chord types and identify the time signature of a chord progression. The candidate will also be asked to clap back the rhythm of a melody identify the time signature and finally play it back.

Musical Knowledge

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures, as well as discussing any techniques used in the pieces performed. The discussion may include questions relating to style, harmony, melodic development, and dynamics.

Knowledge of the Instrument

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele and to identify the location of parts of the ukulele, as well as the ukulele's history and its most notable players.

Grade 8

Component 1: Performance

40 marks

Candidates perform two of the pieces listed below. These are provided in the handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Title	Composer	Key	Publication
Train to Town	Matthew Quilliam	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 8 (LCM)
Hi 'llawe	Trad. arr. Matt Stead and Stuart Wheaton	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 8 (LCM)
Prelude in C	J. S. Bach arr. Samantha Muir	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 8 (LCM)
Little Blues	David Harrison	C major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 8 (LCM)
After You've Gone	Turner Layton arr. James Hill	B♭ major	Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 8 (LCM)

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 handbook 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 pieces in the **Ukulele Handbook 2023: Grade 8 (LCM)**.

• Option 2: Improvisation in a set style

Performance of a piece in a Jazz 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: Unprepared Accompaniment

20 marks

Candidates perform an accompaniment chart to an 8-bar melody played by the examiner. The melody will be played four times. The first time the candidate should listen to the melody. Then, after one bar count in, the examiner will play the melody 3 times without stopping. The candidate can play on all three of these playings, although only the candidate's last two playings are assessed. Some rhythmic variation between the playings is expected.

The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are as follows:

Chords	Time signatures
C, F, G, A, D, Bb, Eb, F#	
Am, Dm, Gm, Em, F#m, Bm, Fm, Abm, Bbm, Dbm	
C7, G7, A7, E7, D7, B7, B7sus4, F#7	
Cmaj7, Dmaj7, Gmaj7, Emaj7	
Gm7, Gm6, Em7, C#m7	$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{6}{8}$
Csus4, Dsus4, Asus4, Aadd9, B9, E6, Eb6	
diminished 7th and minor 7(b5) chords in any key	

Component 4: Musicianship

20 marks

Aural Awareness

Candidates will be asked to clap back a 4-bar rhythm pattern, identify chord types and identify the time signature of a chord progression. The candidate will also be asked to clap back the rhythm of a melody identify the time signature and finally play it back.

Musical Knowledge

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of the pieces performed, identifying the key and time signatures, as well as discussing any techniques used in the pieces performed. The discussion may include questions relating to style, harmony, melodic development, and dynamics.

Knowledge of the Instrument

Candidates will be asked questions to assess their knowledge of notes on the ukulele and to identify the location of parts of the ukulele, as well as the ukulele's history and its most notable players.

5.1 Assessment domains

Assessment objectives

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate mastery of the following.

Technical accomplishment: Accuracy of pitch and rhythm, and the ability to manipulate the instrument with respect to fluency, articulation, dexterity, tempo, clarity, dynamics and rhythmic invention.

Musicality: The ability to make sensitive and musical performance decisions, resulting in a sense of individual interpretative skill, so that the music is performed in a manner reflecting a degree of sensitivity and empathy, and an emerging musical personality; the ability to play with a sense of stylistic awareness.

Musical Knowledge: An understanding of the notation, including chord symbols and other musical signs/symbols; evidence of a sense of established performance practice and an understanding of the stylistic content.

Communication: The ability to engage the listener, and to communicate a sense of style and personality.

Coverage of the assessment domains

The following table shows the assessment domains which apply within each exam component:

	Technical Accomplishment	Musicality	Musical Knowledge	Communication
Rhythm Study Performance Free Choice Specialism Prepared Accompaniment Unprepared Accompaniment	✓	✓	✓	✓
Musicianship			✓	

Approximate weighting of the assessment domains

The following table shows the approximate weighting of the relevant assessment domains within each component of the exam:

	Technical Accomplishment	Musicality	Musical Knowledge	Communication
Rhythm Study Performance Free Choice Specialism Prepared Accompaniment				
Steps, Grades 1 and 2	55%	10%	25%	10%
Grades 3 to 5	45%	15%	25%	15%
Performance Free Choice Specialism Unprepared Accompaniment				
Grades 6 to 8	45%	15%	25%	15%
Musicianship			100%	

5.2 Attainment band descriptions

The guidelines below are not intended to be mutually exclusive, but should function interrelatedly. Thus for any particular attainment band, one or more criteria might exceed those specified, while one or more others might fail to meet the requirements. The specific criteria for each component of the examination are as follows.

Preparatory to Grade 5

	Distinction 85–100%	Merit 75–84%	Pass 65–74%	Below Pass 0–64%
Rhythm Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly accurate and rhythmically secure chord playing. Fluent and assured performance with a high level of clarity and technical control, with only small and very occasional lapses in any of these. The notated rhythm is accurately reproduced and, as the grades progress, musically effective rhythmic variations are demonstrated. As the grades progress, expressive qualities and some versatility are clearly displayed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy, timing, clarity, fluency and technical control are generally secure, with occasional lapses. As the grades progress, the performance displays some confidence and musical expression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy and timing mostly secure, with some lapses in fluency, technical control and clarity. Musical expression may be limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious or numerous lapses in accuracy. Frequent lapses in timing, fluency, technical control and clarity. Limited evidence of musical expression and style.
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly accurate, rhythmically secure, fluent and assured performance with a high level of clarity and technical control, with only small and very occasional lapses in any of these. Secure understanding of the musical notation. As the grades progress, musically expressive qualities are clearly displayed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy, timing, clarity, fluency and technical control are generally secure, with occasional lapses. As the grades progress, the performance displays some confidence and musical expression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy and timing mostly secure, with some lapses in fluency, technical control and clarity. Musical expression may be limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious or numerous lapses in accuracy. Frequent lapses in timing, fluency, technical control and clarity. Limited evidence of musical expression and style.

	Distinction 85–100%	Merit 75–84%	Pass 65–74%	Below Pass 0–64%
Free Choice Specialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly accurate, rhythmically secure, fluent and assured performance with a high level of clarity and technical control, with only small and very occasional lapses in any of these. Secure understanding of the musical notation. As the grades progress, musically expressive qualities are clearly displayed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy, timing, clarity, fluency and technical control are generally secure, with occasional lapses. As the grades progress, the performance displays some confidence and musical expression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy and timing mostly secure, with some lapses in fluency, technical control and clarity. Musical expression may be limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious or numerous lapses in accuracy. Frequent lapses in timing, fluency, technical control and clarity. Limited evidence of musical expression and style.
Prepared Accompaniment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly accurate and confident performance that relates very well to the melody, with only small and very occasional lapses in chord accuracy, fluency, timing or clarity. Stylistic awareness, inventiveness and creativity are clearly displayed as the grades progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy, timing, clarity, fluency and technical control are generally secure, with occasional lapses. The performance demonstrates some empathy with the melody. As the grades progress, the performance displays some confidence, stylistic interpretation and creativity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy and timing mostly secure, with some lapses in fluency, technical control and clarity. Musical expression may be limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious or numerous lapses in accuracy. Frequent lapses in timing, fluency, technical control and clarity. Limited evidence of musical expression and style.
Musicianship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses were accurate and presented with confidence and clarity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses were mostly accurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sufficient degree of accuracy, containing some errors in places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A variety of errors in the responses.

Grade 6 to 8

	Distinction 85–100%	Merit 75–84%	Pass 65–74%	Below Pass 0–64%
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly accurate, rhythmically secure, fluent and assured performance with a high level of clarity and technical control, with only small and very occasional lapses in any of these. Secure understanding of the musical notation. As the grades progress, musically expressive qualities are clearly displayed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy, timing, clarity, fluency and technical control are generally secure, with occasional lapses. As the grades progress, the performance displays some confidence and musical expression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy and timing mostly secure, with some lapses in fluency, technical control and clarity. Musical expression may be limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious or numerous lapses in accuracy. Frequent lapses in timing, fluency, technical control and clarity. Limited evidence of musical expression and style.
Free Choice Specialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly accurate, rhythmically secure, fluent and assured performance with a high level of clarity and technical control, with only small and very occasional lapses in any of these. Secure understanding of the musical notation. Stylistic interpretation inventiveness and creativity are clearly displayed as the grade progresses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy, timing, clarity, fluency and technical control are generally secure, with occasional lapses. As the grades progress, the performance displays some confidence, stylistic interpretation and creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy and timing mostly secure, with some lapses in fluency, technical control and clarity. Musical and stylistic interpretation may be slightly limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious or numerous lapses in accuracy. Frequent lapses in timing, fluency, technical control and clarity. Stylistic interpretation and inventiveness were limited.
Unprepared Accompaniment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level of technical ability, secure clarity, accuracy, timing and fluency Fluent chord changes and, at the higher grades, an ability to demonstrate harmonic development and empathy with the melody. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy, timing, clarity, fluency and technical control are generally secure, with occasional lapses. The performance demonstrates some empathy with the melody. As the grades progress, the performance displays some confidence, stylistic interpretation and creativity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy and timing mostly secure, with some lapses in fluency, technical control and clarity. Musical expression may be limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious or numerous lapses in accuracy. Frequent lapses in timing, fluency, technical control and clarity. Limited evidence of musical expression and style.
Musicianship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses were accurate and presented with confidence and clarity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses were mostly accurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sufficient degree of accuracy, containing some errors in places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A variety of errors in the responses.

5.3 Awards of Pass, Pass with Merit or Pass with Distinction

Distinction (85–100%)

A candidate who achieves a Pass with Distinction will have offered a highly accurate, fluent and musical response in all or most of the components. They will have demonstrated secure technical accomplishment on their instrument, and will have shown evidence of excellent musicality. They will have demonstrated a thorough knowledge and understanding of topics as specified for the grade.

Merit (75–84%)

A candidate who achieves a Pass with Merit will have offered an accurate, fluent and musical response in all or most of the components. They will have demonstrated a good standard of technical accomplishment on their instrument, and will have shown significant evidence of musicality. They will have demonstrated a largely assured knowledge and understanding of topics as specified for the grade. They will have communicated, through performance, some sense of engagement and understanding.

Pass (65–74%)

A candidate who achieves a Pass will have offered a mostly accurate, fluent and musical response in all or most of the components. They will have demonstrated an acceptable standard of technical accomplishment on their instrument, and will have shown some evidence of musicality. They will have demonstrated some knowledge and understanding of topics as specified for the grade. They will have communicated, through performance, a basic sense of understanding and ability to engage the listener.

Below pass, upper level (55–64%)

A candidate who achieves a mark in this band will have demonstrated some inaccuracy, lack of fluency, and lack of musicality in all or most of the components. They will not have demonstrated an acceptable standard of technical accomplishment on their instrument, nor will they have shown much evidence of musical instinct. Their knowledge and understanding of topics as specified for the grade will have been judged to be below the standard required to pass. They will have failed to communicate, through performance, any significant degree of understanding or ability to engage the listener.

Below pass, lower level (0–54%)

A candidate who achieves a mark in this band will have demonstrated significant inaccuracy, lack of fluency and lack of musicality in all or most of the components. Their standard of technical accomplishment on their instrument will have been judged as significantly below that required for the grade, and they will not have shown any significant evidence of sufficient musicality. Their knowledge and understanding of topics as specified for the grade will have been minimal in relation to the requirements of the grade. They will have failed to communicate, through performance, a sense of understanding or ability to engage the listener.

6.1 Information and general guidelines

Ensemble size

The minimum number of ukulele players that can enter together for an ensemble exam is two. There is no maximum number.

Exam types and format

Ukulele ensembles can enter for graded exams and performance awards for Steps and up to Grade 5; the exam components are identical for both. Performance awards can be submitted at any time of the year — details on how to enter and submit a filmed performance award can be found in Section 2.5: Performance Awards.

Exam options

The following is an overview of the ensemble graded examinations and performance awards contained in this syllabus:

	Ensemble exams	Performance Awards
Rhythm Playing	1 rhythm study from the handbook OR 1 own choice piece	1 rhythm study from the handbook OR 1 own choice piece
Prepared Accompaniment	1 prepared accompaniment from the handbook OR 1 own choice accompaniment	1 prepared accompaniment from the handbook OR 1 own choice accompaniment
Free Choice Pieces	Step 1, Step 2, Level 1: 1 piece Levels 2 to 5: 2 pieces (own choice pieces OR additional rhythm playing pieces OR prepared accompaniments)	Step 1, Step 2, Level 1: 1 piece Levels 2 to 5: 2 pieces (own choice pieces OR additional rhythm playing pieces OR prepared accompaniments)
Structure	Steps 1 and 2 Levels 1 to 5	Steps 1 and 2 Levels 1 to 5
Prerequisites	x	x
Assessment	Examination	Video recording
Grading	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%
Regulation	x	x

Exam durations

Step 1	Step 2	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
20 mins	20 mins	20 mins	25 mins	25 mins	25 mins	30 mins

These timings include some allowance for entrance of candidates, adjustments of positioning, departure of candidates from the exam room etc. Where additional setting up time may be required (for instance for larger ensembles) candidates should liaise with LCME when submitting the exam entry.

Marking and issue of results

Examiners will use the same assessment criteria as for solo graded exams; the assessment criteria used by the examiners for graded examinations is given in Section 5: Assessment. A Pass in each individual exam component is not required to pass overall. An ensemble certificate will be issued to each ensemble achieving the 65% pass mark or above and, in addition, similar individual certificates will be issued for each candidate within the successful ensemble.

Additional information

One person within the ensemble must be designated to be in charge of the ensemble. This person should be the sole communicator with the examiner and should also be responsible for ensuring that the ensemble are all in position and ready to perform, and that the exam room is set up correctly in time for the scheduled exam start time.

6.2 Summary of subject content

Exam components

Component 1: Rhythm Playing

Component 2: Prepared Accompaniment

Component 3: Free Choice Pieces

Component weightings

Rhythm Playing	Prepared Accompaniment	Free Choice Pieces
30%	30%	40%

6.3 Exam requirements

Component 1: Rhythm Playing

30 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

- **Option 1: Rhythm Study**

Each ukulele grade handbook provides a choice of four chord charts with a notated rhythm pattern. Ensembles perform one of these charts together, using the notated rhythm pattern provided. The chord chart should be played through twice without stopping. From Grade 1 onwards, some rhythmic variation of the notated rhythm pattern of the ensemble's own choosing is expected during the second playthrough. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at each grade are listed in Section 4: Exam requirements.

- **Option 2: Free Choice Rhythm Playing**

Ensembles perform a piece of their own choosing. The piece can be from any style of music and the performance should be of the rhythm playing that accompanies the piece. Although it is not compulsory, the ensemble performance for this option can include a melody, sung or played live (on any instrument), but only the ukulele rhythm playing, and its empathy with any melody, will be assessed. When selecting

an own choice piece, ensembles should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and chordal range to the rhythm studies in the handbook. The piece should not exceed 3 minutes in duration.

Component 2: Prepared Accompaniment

30 marks

Candidates should select either Option 1 or Option 2.

- **Option 1: Prepared Accompaniment**

Each ukulele grade handbook provides a choice of three melodies with chord charts. Ensembles select one of these tunes and play a suitable chordal accompaniment. The selected tune can be played via the audio recording provided with the handbook or, if preferred, a member of the ensemble can play the melody (although only the accompaniment will be assessed). The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this grade are the same as for Component 1.

- **Option 2: Prepared Accompaniment of a Free Choice Melody**

Ensembles can select a melody of their own choosing to accompany. The ensemble can perform either a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment, or a combination of both within the ensemble. The melody can be either sung or played live (on any instrument), but only the ukulele accompaniment playing, and its empathy with any melody, will be assessed. When selecting an own choice piece, ensembles should ensure that the accompaniment performance is of at least a similar range and standard to the prepared accompaniment chord charts presented in the handbook. The accompaniment should not exceed 3 minutes in duration.

Component 3: Free Choice Pieces

40 marks

Step 1, Step 2 and Grade 1: Ensembles select and perform one piece from the options listed below. The piece should not exceed 3 minutes in duration.

Grades 2 to 5: Ensembles select and perform two pieces chosen from any mix of the options listed below, including choosing both pieces from the same option if preferred. The maximum duration of the performance of both pieces should be 7 minutes.

- **Option 1: Free Choice Piece**

Ensembles can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. The piece can be in the format of an accompaniment to a melody (the accompaniment can be either strummed or fingerstyle, or a combination of both within the ensemble) OR a combination of rhythm playing and melody, with the melody being played on ukulele by at least one member of the ensemble. When selecting an own choice piece, ensembles should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and range to the rhythm studies and/or melodies in the handbook.

- **Option 2: Rhythm Playing**

Ensembles can select and perform an additional prepared accompaniment from either option outlined in Component 1 (Rhythm Playing).

- **Option 3: Prepared Accompaniment**

Ensembles can select and perform an additional prepared accompaniment from either option outlined in Component 2 (Prepared Accompaniment).

7. Regulated qualifications

7.1 Regulated qualification information

The table below shows the qualification number, title, Guided Learning Hours (GLH), Total Qualification Time (TQT) and credit value of each grade. The awarding organisation is University of West London Qualifications (UWLQ). Please contact us, or consult the Register of Regulated Qualifications: register.ofqual.gov.uk, for further details.

Graded examinations

Level	Qualification Number	Qualification Title	GLH	TQT	Credit
Grade 1	501/1985/0	UWLQ Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1)	12	60	6
Grade 2	501/2002/5	UWLQ Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2)	18	90	9
Grade 3	501/2004/9	UWLQ Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3)	18	120	12
Grade 4	501/2003/7	UWLQ Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 4)	24	150	15
Grade 5	501/2006/2	UWLQ Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 5)	24	180	18
Grade 6	501/2083/9	UWLQ Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 6)	36	220	22
Grade 7	501/2082/7	UWLQ Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 7)	48	270	27
Grade 8	501/2066/9	UWLQ Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 8)	54	320	32

7.2 RQF levels

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) has eight levels plus entry level. The table below shows the broad equivalences between UWLQ qualifications and other qualifications within the RQF and higher education.

RQF Level	UWLQ Qualification	Equivalent Standard
1	Grades 1, 2 and 3	GCSE Grades D to G
2	Grades 4 and 5	GCSE Grades A* to C
3	Grades 6, 7 and 8	A Level
4	DipLCM in Music Performance and Teaching	First year undergraduate degree module
5	ALCM in Music Performance and Teaching	Second year undergraduate degree module
6	LLCM in Music Performance and Teaching	Final year undergraduate degree module
7	FLCM in Music Performance	Masters degree module
8	No qualification awarded at this level by LCME	Doctorate degree

7.3 UCAS tariff points

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) includes regulated graded music examinations at Grades 6 to 8 in its tariff as follows:

UCAS Points	LCME Practical Examinations			LCME Theory Examinations			A Levels	
	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	AS Level	A2 Level
56								A*
48								A
40								B
32								C
30			Distinction					
24			Merit					D
20							A	
18			Pass					
16		Distinction					B	E
14		Merit						
12	Distinction	Pass					C	
10	Merit					Distinction	D	
9						Merit		
8	Pass				Distinction	Pass		
7					Merit			
6				Distinction	Pass		E	
5				Merit				
4				Pass				

London College of Music Examinations

University of West London

St Mary's Road

London

W5 5RF

020 8231 2364

lcme.uwl.ac.uk

lcme.exams@uwl.ac.uk