

NEW YAMAHA - RSL ONLINE VIDEO EXAMINATIONS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT (FEB 2021)

Overview

These online video examinations should be viewed as a convenience to aid retention and offer an alternative to some students and their parents when they have missed a face to face session or have been locked down and unable to take a scheduled examination.

Frequently asked questions

What is the exam called?

A graded certificate.

Does it carry the same level of accreditation as Face to Face exams?

Yes.

What instruments/syllabus can the candidate be examined on?

Yamaha PFK syllabus Grades 1-3; Yamaha GE syllabus Grades Debut to 8; Yamaha Drum syllabus Grades Debut to 8.

What instrument do I need in order to take the exam?

For Keyboard it can be a basic instrument (any make) as long as it has rhythm built in and has the ACMP function.

An electric/acoustic Piano would not be suitable.

For Guitar – any electric guitar or acoustic in the early grades.

For Drums – either an acoustic or Electronic kit

Why can I only take a Grade 1-3 on the Keyboard syllabus?

Because the technical requirements of the current syllabus require unseen technical tests from Grade 4 onwards. Depending on demand and how long lockdown affects face to face exams this may change in the future.

How do I prepare for the exam?

In the same way you would prepare for a face to face exam with some basic differences.

What are the differences?

The candidate must play **all** the **technical exercises** as listed in the detailed Grade document – see separate guides for Keyboard, Guitar and Drums.

All joggings must be performed with the Backing track (not the full mix) and the track should be audible on the video.

Scales, arpeggios, broken chords and drum rudiments must be performed to an **audible metronome click** set at the appropriate bpm

The exam procedure:

- **The recording needs to be continuous with no editing permitted:**
 - a) The exam has to be captured as a single, continuous video shot in real time – you must not stop or pause the camera in between pieces.
 - b) You must not use video editing software to cut out takes or reduce the time between pieces- the video should represent an exam taken in person as closely as possible, so do not worry about taking a little time to set up between pieces.
 - c) Your face needs to be visible in the video, so we can identify the person taking the exam – please refer to the framing guide for further details.
 - d) Candidates should introduce themselves by their full name, the exam grade and instrument they are using. Make sure they state this is a **Yamaha exam**. They should introduce each piece. For grades 6-8 candidates should clearly display for at least 10 seconds valid photographic identification (e.g. passport, driving licence, student union card, id card) at the beginning of the video recording in line with RSL policy.
- **You are allowed to have someone else record your exam (parent, brother, sister etc.)**
 - a) Another person is permitted to be present in the room in order to operate the camera.
 - b) However, the other person is not permitted to interact with the candidate or intervene in the exam, with the following exceptions:
 - 1) To introduce the candidate
 - 2) To introduce each piece and/or the technical exercises section (Graded Certificate only)
- **If you make a mistake in a piece you can restart as long as you are no more than a 1/3 of the way though the piece**
- **You can restart up to one performance piece and two technical exercises in your graded certificate**
- **And finally:**

IMPORTANT POINT
Please read the framing guide and remember that the music book should be visible in the video as well as any photocopied material if you are using two books (particularly relevant to PFK exams)

- Check the video recording of your exam carefully before submission, making sure that each piece is introduced to camera, the picture and sound are of a reasonable quality and that the full exam has been captured.

BOOKING PROCEDURE

Important point

We have agreed with RSL that the type B platform is probably going to work best with these online graded examinations as they are not scheduled and can be taken at any time.

This means that:

The operator does not have to collect the money or book the exam – this is done by the parent.

The operator does not have to upload the video – this is also done by the parent.

The parent has to inform the operator that they wish to take an online exam and **the operator has to inform RSL of the expected numbers of students who will apply – this is because RSL need to make provision for a number of individual examiners to mark these online exams.**

A brief guide for **parents** wishing to enter would be as follows:

1. Inform the Yamaha Music School of your decision to enter for a RSL video exam
2. Create an RSL account via <https://cloud.rslawards.com/create-account> (this can also be done as part of the entry process)
3. Log in with your account and go to <https://cloud.rslawards.com/music/enter-online>
4. Following the options selection, the entry form needs to be filled in:
 - a. Type of exam: Video Graded Certificate
 - b. Instrument: Yamaha Keyboard/Guitar/Drums
 - c. All other information as requested on the form
 - d. Please ignore the Rock school book picture
5. The entry sign up ends up with a card payment
6. You will then receive an email with instructions to upload the video (via <https://cloud.rslawards.com/secure/exams>)
7. Guidance for recording the video is available at <https://www.rslawards.com/rockschool/video-exams/>
8. We allow 3 months to record and upload the video
9. You will receive a notification when the video has uploaded successfully

10. We will assign an examiner to mark the video exam
11. You will receive a notification when the result is available
12. Subsequently and if the exam has been passed you will receive the certificate

Attachments with this memo:

Guide update pdf. (read the framing guide for video purposes)

Technical guides for PFK; Guitar and Drums where appropriate