



# YAMAHA

## PLAY FOR KEEPS

KEYBOARD & PIANO SYLLABUS SPECIFICATION  
October 2022 Edition





# Yamaha Play For Keeps

## Keyboards & Piano Syllabus Specification

March 2025 Edition

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# Introduction

# Introduction

This specification is designed to accompany the relevant Yamaha Play For Keeps books and give teachers and students clear information relating to the requirements of each graded music examination offered by Rockschool in conjunction with Yamaha. All candidates are required to read the Rockschool Exam Regulations before entering for a Rockschool exam, which can be found via the following link: [www.rslawards.com/about-us/policies-and-regulations](http://www.rslawards.com/about-us/policies-and-regulations)

## QUALIFICATIONS AT A GLANCE

### Graded Examinations in Popular Music Performance

QUALIFICATION TITLE	QAN	TOTAL NO. OF UNITS	GUIDED LEARNING HOURS	CREDIT VALUE	TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME
RSL Entry Level Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) (Entry 3)	610/0868/0	1	8	4	40
RSL Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 1	603/3869/6	1	12	6	60
RSL Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 2	603/3870/2	1	18	9	90
RSL Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 3	603/3871/4	1	18	12	120
RSL Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 4	603/3872/6	1	24	15	120
RSL Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 5	603/3874/X	1	24	18	120
RSL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 6	603/3875/1	1	36	22	220
RSL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 7	603/3877/5	1	48	27	270
RSL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 8	603/3878/7	1	54	32	320

## Graded Certificate in Popular Music Performance

QUALIFICATION TITLE	QAN	TOTAL NO. OF UNITS	GUIDED LEARNING HOURS	CREDIT VALUE	TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME
RSL Entry Level Award in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) (Entry 3)	610/4792/2	1	8	4	40
RSL Level 1 Award in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 1	610/4793/4	1	12	6	60
RSL Level 1 Award in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 2	610/4794/6	1	18	9	90
RSL Level 1 Award in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 3	610/4795/8	1	18	12	120
RSL Level 2 Certificate in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 4	610/4796/X	1	24	15	120
RSL Level 2 Certificate in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 5	610/4797/1	1	24	18	120
RSL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 6	610/4798/3	1	36	22	220
RSL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 7	610/4799/5	1	48	27	270
RSL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 8	610/4800/8	1	54	32	320

## ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT	
<b>Form of Assessment</b>	All assessments are carried out by external examiners. Candidates are required to carry out a combination of practical tasks and underpinning theoretical assessment.
<b>Unit Format</b>	Unit specifications contain the Title, Unit Code, Credit Level, Credit Value, Learning Outcomes, Assessment Criteria, Grade Descriptor, and types of evidence required for the unit.
<b>Bands of Assessment</b>	There are four bands of assessment (Distinction, Merit, Pass and Unclassified) for the qualification as a whole.
<b>Quality Assurance</b>	Quality Assurance ensures that all assessments are carried out to the same standard by objective sampling and re-assessment of candidates' work. A team of external examiners is appointed, trained and standardised by RSL.

## THE VALUE OF RSL QUALIFICATIONS

RSL advocates an open access approach to qualifications, providing a range of syllabuses, designed to accommodate a wide variety of candidates of different ages, experience and levels of achievement. RSL qualifications are listed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) in England and Northern Ireland by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). RSL is committed to maintaining and improving its reputation for excellence by providing high quality education and training through its syllabuses, examinations, music and resources.

## AIMS & BROAD OBJECTIVES

The aim of popular music performance qualifications is to provide a flexible, progressive mastery approach to the knowledge, skills and understanding required for popular music performance.

RSL's graded qualifications motivate and encourage candidates of all ages and levels through a system of progressive mastery, enabling candidates to develop and enhance skills, knowledge and understanding in a safe and consistent way. The qualifications are beneficial for candidates wishing to progress at their own pace through smaller steps of achievement.

These qualifications are suitable for candidates in the Under 16, 16+, 16–18, 19+ age groups.

## PROGRESSION

Graded qualifications provide a flexible progression route for candidates. They are a positive means of determining progress and enable candidates to learn the necessary techniques to gain entry to FE and HE courses. Graded qualifications operate according to a well-established methodology of 'progressive mastery'. They allow candidates to be tested in discrete stages in the development of a wide range of skills. They tend to be more rigorous than other types of exams and for that reason industry is confident that achievement at the highest level gained by candidates of graded qualifications will have the skills necessary to work in other areas of the business.

## QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

A graded qualification consists of a range of both practical and knowledge-based elements which are based on detailed requirements outlined in the relevant syllabus. Therefore, requirements for each grade will be set out in detail in the Unit Specifications below (page 18 and onwards) and the learning outcomes and assessment criteria for each unit will require knowledge, skills and understanding of these syllabus requirements to be demonstrated at the grade entered.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no entry requirements for these qualifications. However, candidates should be aware that the content at the higher grades will require a level of knowledge and understanding covered in previous qualifications.

For further details on exam dates and fees and to apply for your music performance grades please visit the RSL website at [www.rslawards.com](http://www.rslawards.com)



## PERIOD OF OPERATION

This Syllabus Specification covers Yamaha Keyboard Examinations from October 2022.

## EXAMINATIONS STRUCTURE

RSL's Yamaha Keyboard/Piano Syllabus is available at four levels, in line with Ofqual's Regulated Qualifications structure:

- Entry Level 3 – Debut
- Level 1 – Grades 1, 2, & 3
- Level 2 – Grades 4 & 5
- Level 3 – Grades 6, 7 & 8

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Graded Exam

- Perform music in a range of musical styles
- Demonstrate technical ability on an instrument/voice through responding to an unseen selection of set technical demands
- Demonstrate musical understanding through a range of an unseen selection of set tests

### Graded Certificate

- Perform music in a range of musical styles
- Demonstrate technical ability on an instrument/voice through responding to set technical demands

## GUIDANCE FOR GRADE EXAMINATIONS

## ASSESSMENT TIMINGS

Examination timings for the graded examinations in Popular Music Performance are as follows:

- **Debut:** 15 minutes
- **Grade 1:** 20 minutes
- **Grade 2:** 20 minutes
- **Grade 3:** 23 minutes
- **Grade 4:** 25 minutes
- **Grade 5:** 25 minutes
- **Grade 6:** 30 minutes
- **Grade 7:** 30 minutes
- **Grade 8:** 30 minutes

Graded Certificates are taken remotely and have no specific assessment timings

All assessment of these qualifications is external and is undertaken by RSL Examiners.

## ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Yamaha Play For Keeps grade examinations are available from Debut to Grade 8 and consist of the following elements:

- **Three Performance Pieces** – these account for 60% of the exam marks
- **Technical Exercises** – these account for 15% of the exam marks
- **Sight Reading Tests** – these account for 10% of the exam marks
- **Ear Tests** – these account for 10% of the exam marks
- **General Musicianship Questions** – these account for 5% of the exam marks

## PERFORMANCE PIECES

The pieces from the relevant Yamaha books have been chosen as they allow demonstration of suitable technical and performance elements appropriate for the level of qualification. Candidates are reminded that all musical interpretation should be stylistically appropriate.

**Please Note:** Candidates may not perform pieces in their exam that they have previously performed for an RSL Assessment. This includes re-sits of their exams.

## FREE CHOICE PIECES

Candidates may submit one free choice piece as an alternative to the Play For Keeps pieces stipulated in list A (Piano Piece) or list B (Keyboard Piece).

**Please note:** The chosen free choice piece must correspond with the technical requirements of the piece being replaced from list A or list B: e.g. if a 'Piano Piece' from list A is being replaced, then the free choice piece must be presented in the same 'pianistic' technical style (independent hands); if a 'Keyboard' Piece is being replaced, then a free choice piece demonstrating keyboard specific technical skills must be chosen.

Please see the RSL Awards website for guidance on Free Choice Pieces: <https://www.rslawards.com/free-choice-pieces/>

## TECHNICAL EXERCISES

**Note: The following guidance relates to Grade Exams. Graded Certificates have specific guidance that is available to download on the RSL website here: [rslawards.com](https://www.rslawards.com)**

At Debut, there are two 'finger jogging' exercises, to be performed to backing track.

At Grade 1, 2 and 3, there are two compulsory groups of technical exercises to be performed:

- **Group A** – 'Jogging' exercises, to be performed to backing track
- **Group B** – Scales (all grades), plus: broken chords (grade 1); arpeggios (grades 2 and 3), to be performed to metronome click

At grades 4–8, there are two compulsory groups of technical exercises to be performed:

- **Group A** – Right-hand improvisation exercises, to be performed to backing track
- **Group B** – Scales & arpeggios, to be performed to metronome click

**NOTE:** At Debut, both 'finger jogging' exercises must be performed. At grades 1–8, the examiner will select a number of exercises from within each technical group. See relevant grade unit information for full preparation requirements.

For all grades, the examiner will supply and trigger the relevant backing track and/or metronome click.

## SIGHT READING (DEBUT– GRADE 5); QUICK STUDY PIECE (GRADES 6–8)

Candidates will be presented with a short test, assessing their ability to sight read an excerpt of music and play it back. These are as follows:

### Debut:

#### 'Fingered Chord' test

A chord progression in 'fingered' mode.

### Grades 1 & 2:

Chordal rhythm tests (two parts):

#### i. 'Fingered Chord' test

A chord progression in 'fingered' mode.

#### ii. 'Piano Chord' (formerly 'Normal play') test (to backing track)

A chordal rhythm in 'Piano Chord' mode.

### Grade 3:

A chordal rhythm test and a melodic test (to backing track):

#### i. 'Piano Chord' test

A chordal rhythm in 'Piano Chord' mode.

#### ii. Melody

A right-handed melody in treble clef.

### Grade 4:

#### Melody & 'fingered' chords:

A four-bar treble clef melody with chord symbols above, hands together, in the key of C major or A minor, performed to backing track.

### **Grade 5:**

#### **Bass part:**

An 8-bar bass line in bass clef (performed to backing track).

### **Grades 6–8:**

#### **Quick Study Piece:**

A 22–24 bar Quick Study Piece, including 8–10 bars of development / improvisation and 14–16 bars of sight reading.

## **EAR TESTS**

Candidates need to complete two aural tests. Examples can be found in the accompanying guide.

## **GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS**

### **DEBUT–GRADE 5:**

Candidates will be asked five questions. The first will relate to:

- Technical set up of the chosen piece

The other four questions will relate to the following three topics:

- Time Signatures
- Note rhythm values (both classical terminology [crotchets, quavers] and US terminology [quarter notes, 8th notes])
- Pitch (solfege or pitch names may be used for Debut and Grade 1; pitch names must only be used from grade 2 upwards)

### **GRADES 6–8:**

Candidates will be asked five questions. The first will be a question relating to their own arrangement piece. The other four questions will be on musical theory and notation topics, relating to the other performance pieces.

Candidates can choose the piece on which basis the questions will be asked. It must be one of the pieces performed in the examination. However, from Grade 6 upwards, one of the five questions chosen by the examiner will relate to the candidate's own arrangement piece (from list C). The exact bars or phrases will be chosen by the examiner.

## MARKING SCHEMES

The following table details the allocation of marks for each element of the examination across each band of attainment.

GRADE EXAMS: GRADES 1–8			
Element	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Performance Piece 1 (List A)	12–14 out of 20	15–17 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Performance Piece 2 (List B)	12–14 out of 20	15–17 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Performance Piece 3 (List C)	12–14 out of 20	15–17 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Technical Exercises	9–10 out of 15	11–12 out of 15	13+ out of 15
Ear Tests	6 out of 10	7–8 out of 10	9+ out of 10
Sight Reading	6 out of 10	7–8 out of 10	9+ out of 10
General Musicianship Questions	3 out of 5	4 out of 5	5 out of 5
<b>Total Marks</b>	60%+	74%+	90%+

GRADED CERTIFICATES: GRADES 1–8			
Element	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Performance Piece 1 (List A)	12–14 out of 20	15–17 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Performance Piece 2 (List B)	12–14 out of 20	15–17 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Performance Piece 3 (List C)	12–14 out of 20	15–17 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Technical Exercises	9–10 out of 15	11–12 out of 15	13+ out of 15
<b>Total Marks</b>	60%+	74%+	90%+

## GENERAL NOTES

At the beginning of a Grade Examination, the Examiner will ask the candidate if they wish to begin with Performance Pieces or Technical Exercises.

Candidates may perform any or all of their pieces from memory. This is not compulsory at any level and no additional marks are given for this.

**Note:** It is not permitted to make any notes at any time during the exam.

For General Musicianship Questions, the Examiner may use his or her version of the selected piece as the basis to ask the questions if such notes contained on the candidate's version are deemed sufficiently extensive or might assist the candidate when answering the questions.

The Examiner will not facilitate page turning for candidates. Candidates are allowed to photocopy relevant sheet music as necessary to alleviate page turns but all copied materials must be handed into the Examiner at the end of the examination.

All tempo markings are to be observed unless otherwise stated. Each piece is designed carefully to achieve a number of outcomes appropriate for the grade.



# Debut

# Debut

<b>TITLE</b>	RSL Entry Level Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) (Entry 3) RSL Entry Level Award in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) (Entry 3)
<b>QUALIFICATION NO.</b>	Grade Exam: 610/0868/0 Graded Certificate: 610/4792/2
<b>UNIT NO.</b>	Grade Exam: L/650/2488 Graded Certificate: L/651/3576
<b>LEVEL</b>	Entry Level 3
<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	4
<b>GUIDED LEARNING HOURS</b>	8
<b>TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME</b>	30

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Perform and arrange music on electronic keyboard and piano in a range of popular musical styles	<p><b>1.1 Perform two pieces of musical repertoire demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 Perform one 'own arrangement' repertoire piece demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul>
2. Demonstrate technical abilities on the instrument by responding to set technical demands or improvisation tests	<p><b>2.1 Play set technical exercises following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul>
3. Demonstrate musical understanding through a range of set tests	<p><b>3.1 Perform a Sight Reading test demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2 Respond to Ear Tests demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.3 Respond to five General Musicianship Questions relating to the music performed in the exam</b></p>

# GRADE EXAM

## PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece, and two technical exercises.

## UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to complete **one** sight reading test, and **two** Ear Tests that begin to develop melodic and rhythmic recall.

The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore simple technical and theoretical knowledge.

## EXAM STRUCTURE

The Debut exam is taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces \***
- **Technical Exercises \***
- **Sight Reading:** Candidates are given an unseen test to prepare and perform
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is rhythmic
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on one of the pieces performed

*\* These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request.*

## PIECES

The pieces in the relevant books from the Yamaha Play For Keeps and Junior Play For Keeps series can be used for the grade exam, and must be chosen from lists A, B and C below (one piece from each). Candidates may alternatively perform one Free Choice Piece for list A or list B. Please see page 7 for relevant information on free choice pieces.

## SETTING THE LEVEL OF THE BACKING TRACK

At the beginning of the exam, the examiner will conduct a sound check. Please note this won't be part of the assessment. This will set the levels for the exam.



# PERFORMANCE PIECES

Candidates must choose three pieces, one from each list:

## LIST A

### Piano Piece

(Automatic rhythm is optional but automatic accompaniment is not allowed)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'It Begins Raining'	MA 2
'Up and Down We Go'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book1 (2017)

## LIST B

### Keyboard Piece

(Automatic rhythm and automatic accompaniment are compulsory)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'London Bridge Keeps Falling Down'	MA 2
'Lean On Me'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book1 (2017)

## LIST C

### Own Arrangement

(Automatic rhythm is optional and automatic accompaniment optional)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'A Funny Duck's Going For A Walk'	MA 2
'Jog 1'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book1 (2017)

## TECHNICAL WORK

At Debut, there are two compulsory technical exercises to be performed:

- **Jog 4** – *Play For Keeps*, Book1 (2017)
- **Jog 5** – *Play For Keeps*, Book1 (2017)

## SIGHT READING

### 'Fingered Chord' Test – Chords:

- **Technique:** Fingered chords
- **Chord types:** C, F and G7

The candidate will be asked to read and play each chord in fingered mode. The examiner will point to each chord in turn (there is no requirement to maintain a steady beat at this grade)

## EAR TESTS

At Debut, there are two ear tests: Melodic Recall and Rhythmic Recall. Both are previously unseen and an example of each is shown in the accompanying guide.

### MELODIC RECALL

- **Tempo:** ♩=95
- **Time sig:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half notes
- **Duration:** 2 bars

The examiner will play two notes one after the other. Candidates are to state whether the second note is higher or lower in pitch than the first. The test will be played twice, each time preceded by four clicks. For this exercise, candidates are to use the words 'higher' or 'lower'. The candidate will need to state the answer after the two notes are played for the second time.

### RHYTHMIC RECALL

- **Tempo:** ♩=95
- **Time sig:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half notes, quarter notes
- **Duration:** 2 bars

The examiner will play a backing track featuring a 2-bar rhythm on a single C note (one octave above middle C).

The test will be played twice to the candidate with a drum backing, each time being preceded by four clicks. There will then be a *spoken count-in* of four beats, after which the candidate must play back the rhythm at the same pitch for the examination.

The click will continue for the duration of playback.

## GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

Candidates can choose the piece on which basis the questions will be asked. It must be one of the pieces performed in the exam. The exact bars or phrases will be chosen by the examiner.

There will be five questions. The first will relate to:

- Technical set up of the chosen piece

The other four questions will relate to the following three topics:

- Time Signatures
- Note rhythm values. Please note: candidates can give traditional (crotchet) or American (quarter-note) answers
- Pitch (candidates can give solfege or A–G as answers)

## GRADED CERTIFICATE

**Please note:** Graded Certificates can only be taken as Recorded Digital Exams.

### PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece. Candidates must perform all of the technical exercises, as detailed in the guidance that you can download at [rslawards.com](https://www.rslawards.com)

# Grade 1

# Grade 1

<b>TITLE</b>	RSL Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 1 RSL Level 1 Award in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 1
<b>QUALIFICATION NO.</b>	Grade Exam: 603/3869/6 Graded Certificate: 610/4793/4
<b>UNIT NO.</b>	Grade Exam: J/617/3547 Graded Certificate: M/618/6325
<b>LEVEL</b>	1
<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	6
<b>GUIDED LEARNING HOURS</b>	12
<b>TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME</b>	60

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
<b>The learner will:</b>	<b>The learner can:</b>
1. Perform and arrange music on electronic keyboard and piano in a range of popular musical styles	<p><b>1.1 Perform two pieces of musical repertoire demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 Perform one 'own arrangement' repertoire piece demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul>
2. Demonstrate technical abilities on the instrument by responding to set technical demands or improvisation tests	<p><b>2.1 Play set technical exercises following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul>
3. Demonstrate musical understanding through a range of set tests	<p><b>3.1 Perform a Sight Reading test demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2 Respond to Ear Tests demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.3 Respond to five General Musicianship Questions relating to the music performed in the exam</b></p>

# GRADE EXAM

## PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece, and two groups of technical exercises.

## UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to complete **one** sight reading test (in two parts), and **two** Ear Tests that begin to develop melodic and rhythmic recall.

The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore simple technical and theoretical knowledge.

## EXAM STRUCTURE

The Grade 1 exam is taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces \***
- **Technical Exercises \***
- **Sight Reading:** Candidates are given an unseen test in two parts to prepare and perform
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is rhythmic
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on one of the pieces performed

*\*These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request.*

## PIECES

The pieces in the relevant books from the Yamaha Play For Keeps and Junior Play For Keeps series can be used for the grade exam, and must be chosen from lists A, B and C below (one piece from each). Candidates may alternatively perform one Free Choice Piece for list A or list B. Please see page 7 for relevant information on free choice pieces.

## SETTING THE LEVEL OF THE BACKING TRACK

At the beginning of the exam, the examiner will conduct a sound check. Please note this won't be part of the assessment. This will set the levels for the exam.

# PERFORMANCE PIECES

Candidates must choose three pieces, one from each list:

## LIST A

### Piano Piece

(Automatic rhythm is optional but automatic accompaniment is not allowed)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Cream Tea in 3'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book1 (2017)
'Jumping 3rds'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book1 (2017)
'Blue Blues'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book1 (2017)
'Grand Prix'	<i>Junior Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3
'Drive in the Country'	<i>Junior Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3
'My First Car'	<i>Junior Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3

## LIST B

### Keyboard Piece

(Automatic rhythm and automatic accompaniment are compulsory)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Budapest'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book1 (2017)
'Run'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book1 (2017)
'Lazy Song'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book1 (2017)
'Nodding Dog Song' (melody and chords)	<i>Junior Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3
'Jivin' at the Drive In' (melody and chords)	<i>Junior Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3

## LIST C

### Own Arrangement

(Automatic rhythm is optional and automatic accompaniment optional)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Monday Blues'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book1 (2017)
'Teenage Kicks'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book1 (2017)
'A Lost Coin'	<i>Junior Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3
'Fairground Organ'	<i>Junior Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3

# TECHNICAL WORK

At Grade 1, there are two groups of technical work: finger jogging and scales & broken chords

## GROUP A: FINGER JOGGING

The examiner will select **two** of the following jogging exercises, to be performed with a backing track. The candidate may use the book in the exam

- **Finger Jogging No. 7** – *PFK1* (2017)
- **Finger Jogging No. 8** – *PFK1* (2017)
- **Finger Jogging No. 12** – *PFK1* (2017)

## GROUP B: SCALES & BROKEN CHORDS

The examiner will select one scale and one broken chord from the following, to be performed to compulsory metronome click.

### Scales

Tempo: ♩ = 65

- **C major**: one octave, right hand or left hand – *PFK1* (2017)
- **A natural minor**: one octave, right hand or left hand – *PFK1* (2017)
- **C blues scale**: one octave, right hand only – *PFK1* (2017)

### Broken Chords

Tempo: ♩ = 75

- **C major**: one octave, right hand or left hand – *PFK1* (2017)
- **A minor**: one octave, right hand or left hand – *PFK1* (2017)



# SIGHT READING

At Grade 1, the sight reading test is a harmonic test in two parts:

## 1. 'Fingered Chord' Test

- **Duration:** 5 bars
- **Technique:** Fingered chords
- **Chord types:** C, F, G and G7

The candidate will be asked to read and play each chord in fingered mode. The examiner will point to each chord in turn (there is no requirement to maintain a steady beat at this grade)

## 2. Chords & Rhythm: 'Piano Chord' (formerly 'Normal Play') Test

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 70
- **Time signature:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Key:** C major (as above)
- **Rhythms:** Whole notes, half notes, quarter notes and associated rests
- **Duration:** 5 bars (as above)
- **Technique:** 'Piano Chords' (formerly 'Normal Play' chords)
- **Chord types:** C, F, G and G7

The candidate will be asked to set up for 'Piano Chords' (formerly, 'Normal Play' chords). The examiner will show the candidate a rhythmic pattern, and the candidate will be required to read and play the given rhythm to the chord sequence given in Test 1.

The candidate will then have 30 seconds to practise. During this time, they can practise with or without a click.

The examiner will then play the backing track. The candidate will hear the test backing twice. The first time is to practise and the second time is to perform the final version for the exam. There will be four clicks into the practise version, and four counts into the test version. The backing track is continuous so once the first playthrough has finished the count-in of the second playing will start immediately.

## EAR TESTS

At Grade 1, there are two ear tests: Melodic Recall and Rhythmic Recall. Both are previously unseen and an example of each is shown in the accompanying guide.

### MELODIC RECALL

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 95
- **Time sig:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Whole, half notes
- **Duration:** 2 bars

The examiner will play three notes one after the other. Candidates are to state whether the second note is higher or lower in pitch than the first and whether the third note is higher or lower in pitch than the second. The test will be played twice, each time preceded by four clicks. There will also be a C root note held for one bar at the beginning of the test for reference. For this exercise, candidates are to use the words 'higher' or 'lower'. The candidate will need to state both answers after the three notes are played for the second time.

### RHYTHMIC RECALL

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 95
- **Time sig:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half notes, quarter notes
- **Duration:** 2 bars

The examiner will play a backing track featuring a 2-bar rhythm on a single C note (one octave above middle C).

The test will be played twice to the candidate with a drum backing, each time being preceded by four clicks, after which they must play back the rhythm at the same pitch for the examination.

The click will continue for the duration of playback.

## GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

Candidates can choose the piece on which basis the questions will be asked. It must be one of the pieces performed in the exam. The exact bars or phrases will be chosen by the examiner.

There will be five questions. The first will relate to:

- Technical set up of the chosen piece

The other four questions will relate to the following three topics:

- Time Signatures
- Note rhythm values. Please note – candidates can give traditional (crotchet) or American (quarter note) answers
- Pitch (NB – candidates can give solfege or A-G as answers)

## GRADED CERTIFICATE

**Please note:** Graded Certificates can only be taken as Recorded Digital Exams.

### PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece. Candidates must perform all of the technical exercises, as detailed in the guidance that you can download at [rslawards.com](http://rslawards.com)

# Grade 2

# Grade 2

<b>TITLE</b>	RSL Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 2 RSL Level 1 Award in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 2
<b>QUALIFICATION NO.</b>	Grade Exam: 603/3870/2 Graded Certificate: 610/4794/6
<b>UNIT NO.</b>	Grade Exam: L/617/3548 Graded Certificate: T/618/6326
<b>LEVEL</b>	1
<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	9
<b>GUIDED LEARNING HOURS</b>	18
<b>TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME</b>	90

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
<b>The learner will:</b>	<b>The learner can:</b>
1. Perform and arrange music on electronic keyboard and piano in a range of popular musical styles	<p><b>1.1 Perform two pieces of musical repertoire demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 Perform one 'own arrangement' repertoire piece demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul>
2. Demonstrate technical abilities on the instrument by responding to set technical demands or improvisation tests	<p><b>2.1 Play set technical exercises following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul>
3. Demonstrate musical understanding through a range of set tests	<p><b>3.1 Perform a Sight Reading test demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2 Respond to Ear Tests demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.3 Respond to five General Musicianship Questions relating to the music performed in the exam</b></p>

# GRADE EXAM

## PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece, and two groups of technical exercises.

## UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **one** sight reading test (in two parts), and **two** Ear Tests that continue to develop melodic and rhythmic recall.

The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore growing technical and theoretical knowledge.

## EXAM STRUCTURE

The Grade 2 exam will be taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces** \*
- **Technical Exercises** \*
- **Sight Reading:** Candidates are given an unseen test in two parts to prepare and perform
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is rhythmic
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on one of the pieces performed

*\*These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request*

## PIECES

The pieces in the relevant books from the Yamaha Play For Keeps and Junior Play For Keeps series can be used for the grade exam, and must be chosen from lists A, B and C below (one piece from each). Candidates may alternatively perform one Free Choice Piece for list A or list B. Please see page 7 for relevant information on free choice pieces.

## SETTING THE LEVEL OF THE BACKING TRACK

At the beginning of the exam, the examiner will conduct a sound check. Please note this won't be part of the assessment. This will set the levels for the exam.

# PERFORMANCE PIECES

Candidates choose three pieces, one from each list

## LIST A

### Piano Piece

(Automatic rhythm is optional but automatic accompaniment is not allowed)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Winner Takes It All'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 2 (2018)
'The James Bond Theme'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 2 (2018)
'Awakening'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 2 (2018)

## LIST B

### Keyboard Piece

(Automatic rhythm and automatic accompaniment are compulsory)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'The Final Countdown'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 2 (2018)
'Let Me Entertain You'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 2 (2018)
'I Was Made for Loving You'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 2 (2018)

## LIST C

### Own Arrangement

(Automatic rhythm is optional and automatic accompaniment optional)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Precious'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 2 (2018)
'Mama Don't Like The Blues'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 2 (2018)
'We Have All The Time In The World'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 2 (2018)

# TECHNICAL WORK

At Grade 2, there are two groups of technical work: 'Finger Jogging' (**group A**), and scales & arpeggios (**Group B**).

**Group A** needs to be played with a compulsory backing track. **Group B** needs to be played to a compulsory metronome click.

The book can be used in the exam for **all groups**.

## GROUP A: FINGER JOGGING

The examiner will ask for **two** of the following exercises, to be played with a backing track:

- **Finger Jogging No. 5** – PFK 2 (2018)
- **Finger Jogging No. 8** – PFK 2 (2018)
- **Bass Jogging No. 9** – PFK 2 (2018)

## GROUP B: SCALES & ARPEGGIOS

The examiner will ask for **two** scales and **one** arpeggio from the following, to be played to a metronome click.

Scales and arpeggios must be played with a straight feel and *legato* articulation.

SCALES <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Book 2 (2018)	REQUIREMENTS
<i>Major / minor scales:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ G major</li> <li>■ G major pentatonic</li> <li>■ E natural minor</li> <li>■ E minor pentatonic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands separately (right hand or left hand)</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across <b>two</b> octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩ = 80</li> </ul>
<i>Blues scale:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ G blues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Right hand only</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across <b>one</b> octave</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩ = 80</li> </ul>
ARPEGGIOS <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Book 2 (2018)	REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ G major</li> <li>■ E minor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands separately (right hand or left hand)</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across <b>two</b> octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩ = 70</li> </ul>

# SIGHT READING

At Grade 2, the sight reading test is a harmonic test in two parts:

## 1. 'Fingered Chord' Test

- **Key:** C major
- **Duration:** 5 bars
- **Technique:** 'Fingered Chords'
- **Chord types:** C, F, G7, G, D7, Am, Dm, E7

The candidate will be asked to read and play each chord in fingered mode. The examiner will point to each chord in turn (there is no requirement to maintain a steady beat at this grade)

## 2. Chords & Rhythm: 'Piano Chords' (formerly 'Normal Play' chords) Test

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 60–95
- **Time signature:** 4/4; 3/4
- **Key:** C Major (as above)
- **Rhythms:** Whole notes, half notes, dotted half notes, quarter notes, dotted quarter notes and associated rests
- **Duration:** 5 bars (as above)
- **Technique:** 'Piano Chords' (formerly 'Normal Play' chords)
- **Chord types:** C, F, G7, G, D7, Am, Dm, E7

The candidate will be asked to set up for 'Piano chords' (formerly 'Normal Play' chords). The examiner will show the candidate a rhythmic pattern, and the candidate will be required to read and play the given rhythm to the chord sequence given in Test 1.

The candidate will then have 30 seconds to practise. During this time, they can practise with or without a click.

The examiner will then play the backing track. The candidate will hear the test backing twice. The first time is to practise and the second time is to perform the final version for the exam. There will be four clicks into the practise version, and four counts into the test version. The backing track is continuous so once the first playthrough has finished the count-in of the second playing will start immediately.



## EAR TESTS

At Grade 2 there are two ear tests: Melodic Recall and Rhythmic Recall. Both are previously unseen and an example of each is shown in the accompanying guide.

### MELODIC RECALL

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 95
- **Time sig:**  $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Whole, half, quarter notes
- **Duration:** 2 bars
- **Key:** C major, range up to a fourth

The Examiner will play a 2-bar diatonic melody in the key of C major with intervals of up to a fourth. The first note will be the root note. The test will be played twice, each time preceded by four clicks. There will also be a root note held for one bar at the beginning of the test, for reference.

The candidate will then hear a one bar count-in, after which they must play back the melody. At this stage, the click will continue for the duration of playback..

### RHYTHMIC RECALL

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 95
- **Time sig:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half notes, quarter notes, rests
- **Duration:** 2 bars

The examiner will play a backing track featuring a 2-bar rhythm on a single C note (one octave above middle C).

The test will be played twice to the candidate with a drum backing, each time being preceded by four clicks. There will then be a short pause and a one bar count-in, after which they must play back the rhythm at the same pitch for the examination over the drum backing.

## GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

Candidates can choose the piece on which basis the questions will be asked. It must be one of the pieces performed in the exam. The exact bars or phrases will be chosen by the examiner.

There will be five questions. The first will relate to:

- Technical set up of the chosen piece

The other four questions will relate to the following three topics:

- Time Signatures
- Note rhythm values. Please note – candidates can give traditional (crotchet) or American (quarter note) answers
- Pitch (note: Candidates must answer using pitch names. Solfege is not permitted at this grade)

## GRADED CERTIFICATE

**Please note:** Graded Certificates can only be taken as Recorded Digital Exams.

### PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece. Candidates must perform all of the technical exercises, as detailed in the guidance that you can download at [rslawards.com](http://rslawards.com)

# Grade 3

# Grade 3

<b>TITLE</b>	RSL Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 3 RSL Level 1 Award in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 3
<b>QUALIFICATION NO.</b>	Grade Exam: 603/3871/4 Graded Certificate: 610/4795/8
<b>UNIT NO.</b>	Grade Exam: R/617/3549 Graded Certificate: A/618/6327
<b>LEVEL</b>	1
<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	12
<b>GUIDED LEARNING HOURS</b>	18
<b>TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME</b>	120

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
<b>The learner will:</b>	<b>The learner can:</b>
1. Perform and arrange music on electronic keyboard and piano in a range of popular musical styles	<p><b>1.1 Perform two pieces of musical repertoire demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 Perform one 'own arrangement' repertoire piece demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul>
2. Demonstrate technical abilities on the instrument by responding to set technical demands or improvisation tests	<p><b>2.1 Play set technical exercises following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul>
3. Demonstrate musical understanding through a range of set tests	<p><b>3.1 Perform a Sight Reading test demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2 Respond to Ear Tests demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.3 Respond to five General Musicianship Questions relating to the music performed in the exam</b></p>

# GRADE EXAM

## PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece,, and **two** technical groups comprising 'Jogging' exercises, and scales & arpeggios.

## UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **two** Sight Reading tests and **two** Ear Tests that continue to develop melodic recall and chord recognition. The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore harmony, melody, rhythmic, technical and stylistic knowledge at Grade 3 level.

## EXAM STRUCTURE

The Grade 3 exam will be taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces \***
- **Technical Exercises \***
- **Sight Reading:** Candidates are given two unseen tests (one melodic and one rhythmic) to prepare and perform
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is rhythmic.
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on one of the pieces performed.

*\* These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request*

## PIECES

The pieces in the Yamaha *Play for Keeps* (book 3) can be used for the grade exam, and must be chosen from lists A, B and C below (one piece from each). Candidates may alternatively perform one Free Choice Piece for list A or list B. Please see page 7 for relevant information on free choice pieces.

## SETTING THE LEVEL OF THE BACKING TRACK

At the beginning of the exam, the examiner will conduct a sound check. Please note this won't be part of the assessment. This will set the levels for the exam.

# PERFORMANCE PIECES

Candidates choose three pieces to be performed in the exam, one from each list:

## LIST A

### Piano Piece

(Automatic rhythm is optional but automatic accompaniment is not allowed)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Doggone Blues'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3 (2018)
'Make You Feel My Love'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3 (2018)
'Perfect'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3 (2018)

## LIST B

### Keyboard Piece

(Automatic rhythm and automatic accompaniment are compulsory)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Don't Stop Me Now'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3 (2018)
'Rule The World'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3 (2018)
'Titanium'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3 (2018)

## LIST C

### Own Arrangement

(Automatic rhythm is optional and automatic accompaniment optional)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Friday I'm In Love'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3 (2018)
'From Now On'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3 (2018)
'Valerie'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 3 (2018)

# TECHNICAL WORK

At Grade 3 there are two groups of technical work, comprising 'Jogging' exercises (group A), and scales & arpeggios (group B). All technical exercises can be found in **Play for Keeps**, book 3 (2018).

The examiner will ask for two 'Jogging' exercises from the three listed in Group A, and one scale, one blues scale and one arpeggio from Group B.

Group A needs to be played with a backing track. Group B needs to be played to a metronome click.

The book can be used in the exam for all groups.

## GROUP A: CHORD & FINGER JOGGING

- **Bass Jogging 3** – *Play for Keeps*, book 3 (2018)
- **Drum Kit Jogging 7** – *Play for Keeps*, book 3 (2018)
- **Finger Jogging 8** – *Play for Keeps*, book 3 (2018) | Candidates perform **either** part 1 **or** part 2, as selected by the examiner.

## GROUP B: SCALES & ARPEGGIOS

The examiner will ask for one major or minor scale, one blues scale, and one arpeggio from the following, to be played to a compulsory metronome click.

SCALES <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Book 3 (2018)	REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ D major</li> <li>■ F major</li> <li>■ D harmonic minor</li> <li>■ G blues</li> <li>■ C blues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands separately (right hand or left hand)</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across <b>two</b> octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩ = 90</li> </ul>
ARPEGGIOS <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Book 3 (2018)	REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A minor</li> <li>■ D minor</li> <li>■ E minor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands separately (right hand or left hand)</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across <b>two</b> octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩ = 80</li> </ul>

# SIGHT READING

At Grade 3, the sight reading test is in two parts:

## 1. Chords & Rhythm: 'Piano Chord' (formerly 'Normal Play' Chords) Test

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 60–95
- **Time signature:**  $\frac{4}{4}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$
- **Rhythmic Patterns:** *Play for Keeps*, book 3 (2018), page 36
- **Duration:** 5 bars
- **Technique:** 'Piano Chords' (formerly 'Normal Play' chords).
- **Chord types:** C, F, G7, G, D7, Am, Dm, E7, B $\flat$ , E $\flat$ , F7, C7

The candidate will be asked to set up for 'Piano Chords'. The examiner will show candidates a rhythmic pattern, and candidates will be required to read and play the given rhythm to the chord sequence.

They will then have 30 seconds to practise. During this time, the candidate can practise with or without a click.

The examiner will then play the backing track twice.

The first time is to practise and the second time is to perform the final version for the exam. There will be four clicks into the practise version, and four counts into the test version.

The backing track is continuous so once the first playthrough has finished the count-in of the second playing will start immediately.

## 2. Melody

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 60–95
- **Time signature:**  $\frac{4}{4}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$
- **Key:** C major
- **Rhythms:** Half notes, eighth notes, quarter notes, dotted quarter notes, eighth note syncopation and associated rests
- **Duration:** 4 bars

The candidate will be given a right-hand melody written in treble clef. They will be asked to set up for a piano sound and play the melody over a bass and drum backing track.

They will then have 30 seconds to practise. During this time, the candidate can practise with or without a click.

The examiner will then play the backing track twice. The first time is to practise and the second time is to perform the final version for the exam. There will be four clicks into the practise version, and four counts into the test version.

The backing track is continuous so once the first playthrough has finished the count-in of the second playing will start immediately.

## EAR TESTS

At Grade 3 there are two ear tests: Melodic Recall and Rhythmic Recall. Both are previously unseen and an example of each is shown in the accompanying guide.

### MELODIC RECALL

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 95
- **Time sig:**  $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Whole, half, quarter notes
- **Duration:** 2 bars
- **Key:** C major, range up to a fifth

The examiner will play a 2-bar diatonic melody in the key of C major with a range up to a fifth. The first note will be the root note. The test will be played twice, each time preceded by four clicks. There will also be a root note held for one bar at the beginning of the test, for reference.

There will be 10-second break to practise and then the candidate will have a one bar count-in, after which they must play back the melody. The click will continue for the duration of playback.

### RHYTHMIC RECALL

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 95
- **Time sig:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes and rests
- **Duration:** 2 bars

The examiner will play a backing track featuring a 2-bar rhythm on a single C note (one octave above middle C).

The test will be played twice to the candidate with a drum backing, each time being preceded by four clicks.

There will be a short break to practise and then the candidate will hear a one bar count-in, after which they must play back the rhythm at the same pitch for the examination.

At this stage, the click will continue for the duration of playback.

## GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

Candidates can choose the piece on which basis the questions will be asked. It must be one of the pieces performed in the exam. The exact bars or phrases will be chosen by the examiner.

There will be five questions. The first will relate to:

- Technical set up of the chosen piece

The other four questions will relate to the following three topics:

- Time Signatures
- Note rhythm values. Please note – candidates can give traditional (e.g. 'crotchet') or American (e.g. 'quarter note') answers
- Pitch. Please note: candidates must answer using pitch names. Solfege is not allowed.

## GRADED CERTIFICATE

**Please note:** Graded Certificates can only be taken as Recorded Digital Exams.

### PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece. Candidates must perform all of the technical exercises, as detailed in the guidance that you can download at [rslawards.com](http://rslawards.com)



# Grade 4

# Grade 4

<b>TITLE</b>	RSL Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 4 RSL Level 2 Certificate in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 4
<b>QUALIFICATION NO.</b>	Grade Exam: 603/3872/6 Graded Certificate: 610/4796/X
<b>UNIT NO.</b>	Grade Exam: J/617/3550 Graded Certificate: M/651/3577
<b>LEVEL</b>	2
<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	15
<b>GUIDED LEARNING HOURS</b>	24
<b>TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME</b>	120

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
<b>The learner will:</b>	<b>The learner can:</b>
1. Perform and arrange music on electronic keyboard and piano in a range of popular musical styles	<p><b>1.1 Perform two pieces of musical repertoire demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 Perform one 'own arrangement' repertoire piece demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul>
2. Demonstrate technical abilities on the instrument by responding to set technical demands or improvisation tests	<p><b>2.1 Play set technical exercises following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul>
3. Demonstrate musical understanding through a range of set tests	<p><b>3.1 Perform a Sight Reading test demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2 Respond to Ear Tests demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.3 Respond to five General Musicianship Questions relating to the music performed in the exam</b></p>

# GRADE EXAM

## PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece,, and two technical groups comprising right-hand improvisation exercises (Group A), and scales & arpeggios (Group B).

## UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **two** Sight Reading tests and **two** Ear Tests. The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore technical and theoretical knowledge at Grade 4 level.

## EXAM STRUCTURE

The Grade 4 exam will be taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces \***
- **Technical Exercises \***
- **Sight Reading:** Candidates are given an unseen test combining melody & fingered chords to prepare and perform.
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is harmonic.
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on one of the pieces performed.

*\* These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request*

## PIECES

The pieces in the **Play for Keeps** (Book 4) can be used for the Grade exam. Candidates may alternatively perform one Free Choice Piece for list A or list B. Please see page 7 for relevant information on free choice pieces.

## SETTING THE LEVEL OF THE BACKING TRACK

At the beginning of the exam, the examiner will conduct a sound check. Please note this won't be part of the assessment. This will set the levels for the exam.

# PERFORMANCE PIECES

Candidates choose three pieces, one from each list

## LIST A

### Piano Piece

(Automatic rhythm is optional but automatic accompaniment is not allowed)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'It Ain't Necessarily So'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 4
'Sticks and Stones'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 4

## LIST B

### Keyboard Piece

(Automatic rhythm and automatic accompaniment are compulsory)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Against All Odds'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 4
'Night Birds'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 4
'The Tender Trap'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 4
'Vincent'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 4

## LIST C

### Own Arrangement

(Automatic rhythm is optional and automatic accompaniment optional)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Your Latest Trick'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 4
'Rocket Man'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 4
'Hot Stuff'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 4
'Love Is All Around'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Book 4

## TECHNICAL WORK

At grade 4, there are two technical groups comprising right-hand improvisation exercises (Group A), and scales & arpeggios (Group B).

### GROUP A: RIGHT-HAND IMPROVISATION EXERCISES

The examiner will choose one of the following, to be performed to backing track. **Candidates are only required to perform a right-hand improvisation – there is no requirement for left-hand accompaniment.**

- **Chord Jog 1** – *Play For Keeps*, Book 4
- **Chord Jog 6** – *Play For Keeps*, Book 4

### GROUP B: SCALES & ARPEGGIOS

The examiner will choose one major or minor scale, one blues scale, and one arpeggio from the list below, which the candidate must play to compulsory metronome click.

Scales and arpeggios must be played with a straight feel and *legato* articulation.

SCALES <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Book 4 (2018)	REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ B, major</li> <li>■ B, major pentatonic</li> <li>■ B harmonic minor</li> <li>■ B minor pentatonic</li> <li>■ G harmonic minor</li> <li>■ G minor pentatonic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands together</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across <b>two</b> octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩ = 102</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ D blues</li> <li>■ F blues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands separately (right hand or left hand)</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across <b>two</b> octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩ = 102</li> </ul>
ARPEGGIOS <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Book 4 (2018)	REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ B, major</li> <li>■ B minor</li> <li>■ G minor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands separately (right hand or left hand)</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across <b>two</b> octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩ = 76</li> </ul>

## SIGHT READING

The sight-reading test at Grade 4 combines fingered chords and melodic playing:

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 60–95
- **Time Signature:**  $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Whole notes, half notes, eighth notes, quarter notes, eighth note syncopation and associated rests
- **Duration:** 4 bars
- **Key:** C major or A minor
- **Technique:** RH (treble clef) and LH (bass clef) combined, simple dynamics introduced

The examiner will present the candidate with a 4-bar melody with chords given above. The test must be given hands together, to a metronome click.

The candidate will be asked to set a piano voice for the melody and play fingered chords with the left hand, using a setting which allows the examiner to hear the (fingered) chords articulated clearly but without automatic rhythm. If a chord continues across a bar line, the candidate is expected to re-sound the chord at the start of the new bar.

The candidate will be allowed 30 seconds preparation time in which to practise sections of the test. The examiner will offer the candidate the choice of a metronome click during the 30 seconds practise time.

## EAR TESTS

At Grade 4 there are two ear tests: Melodic Recall and Chord Recognition. Both are previously unseen and an example of each is shown in the accompanying guide.

### MELODIC RECALL

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 95
- **Time sig:**  $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Whole, half, quarter, eighth notes and rests
- **Key:** C major, range of up to a sixth
- **Duration:** 2 bars

The Examiner will play a 2 bar melody using the C major scale, with a range up to a sixth. The first note will be the root note. The test will be played twice, each time preceded by four clicks. There will also be a root note held for one bar at the beginning of the test, for reference.

There will be a 10-second break to practise, then the candidate will hear a one bar count-in, after which they must play back the melody. The click will continue for the duration of playback..

### CHORD RECOGNITION

- **Tempo:** ♩ = 95
- **Time sig:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half notes
- **Chord Types:** maj, min, dim, aug
- **Duration:** 2 bars

The examiner will play a sequence of four chords built on a 'C' root note (e.g. Cmaj, Cdim etc.), then ask the candidate to state the chord quality of each chord from a choice of major, minor, diminished or augmented. The test will be played twice, each time preceded by four clicks. The candidate must give all four answers at the end of the test.

## GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

Candidates can choose the piece on which basis the questions will be asked. It must be one of the pieces performed in the exam. The exact bars or phrases will be chosen by the examiner.

There will be five questions. The first will relate to:

- Technical set up of the chosen piece

The other four questions will relate to the following three topics:

- Time Signatures
- Note rhythm values. Please note - candidates can give traditional (e.g. 'crotchet') or American (e.g. 'quarter note') answers
- Pitch. Please note: candidates must give answers using pitch names. Solfege is not permitted.

## GRADED CERTIFICATE

**Please note:** Graded Certificates can only be taken as Recorded Digital Exams.

### PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece. Candidates must perform all of the technical exercises, as detailed in the guidance that you can download at [rslawards.com](http://rslawards.com)

# Grade 5

# Grade 5

<b>TITLE</b>	RSL Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 5 RSL Level 2 Certificate in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 5
<b>QUALIFICATION NO.</b>	Grade Exam: 603/3874/X Graded Certificate: 610/4797/1
<b>UNIT NO.</b>	Grade Exam: L/617/3551 Graded Certificate: R/651/3578
<b>LEVEL</b>	2
<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	18
<b>GUIDED LEARNING HOURS</b>	24
<b>TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME</b>	120

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
<b>The learner will:</b>	<b>The learner can:</b>
1. Perform and arrange music on electronic keyboard and piano in a range of popular musical styles	<p><b>1.1 Perform two pieces of musical repertoire demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 Perform one 'own arrangement' repertoire piece demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul>
2. Demonstrate technical abilities on the instrument by responding to set technical demands or improvisation tests	<p><b>2.1 Play set technical exercises following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul>
3. Demonstrate musical understanding through a range of set tests	<p><b>3.1 Perform a Sight Reading test demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2 Respond to Ear Tests demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.3 Respond to five General Musicianship Questions relating to the music performed in the exam</b></p>



# GRADE EXAM

## PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces including one solo arrangement piece. They are also required to perform two technical groups, comprising a right-hand improvisation exercise (Group A), and a selection of scales & arpeggios (Group B).

## UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play one Sight Reading test, and there are also **two** Ear Tests which continue to develop melodic and harmonic recall. The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore technical and theoretical knowledge at Grade 5 level.

## EXAM STRUCTURE

The Grade 5 exam will be taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces** \*
- **Technical Exercises** \*
- **Sight Reading:** Candidates are given an unseen test to prepare and perform.
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is harmonic.
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on their own arrangement piece

*\* These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request*

## PIECES

The pieces at this grade can be found within the Yamaha **Play for Keeps** Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6) and must be chosen from lists A, B and C below (one piece from each). Candidates may alternatively perform one Free Choice Piece for list A or list B. Please see page 7 for relevant information on free choice pieces.

## SETTING THE LEVEL OF THE BACKING TRACK

At the beginning of the exam, the examiner will conduct a sound check. Please note this won't be part of the assessment. This will set the levels for the exam.

# PERFORMANCE PIECES

Candidates choose three pieces, one from each list

## LIST A

### Piano Piece

(Automatic rhythm is optional but automatic accompaniment is not allowed)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Piano Sketch No.1: Jazz Waltz'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)
'Walking Song'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)

## LIST B

### Keyboard Piece

(Automatic rhythm and automatic accompaniment are compulsory)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Tragedy'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)
'Your Song'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)
'Boheme'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)

## LIST C

### Own Arrangement

(Automatic rhythm is optional and automatic accompaniment optional)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Ain't Misbehavin'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)
'Crockett's Theme'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)
'Lily Was Here'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)

## TECHNICAL WORK

At grade 5, there are two technical groups comprising right-hand improvisation exercises (Group A), and scales & arpeggios (Group B).

### GROUP A: RIGHT-HAND IMPROVISATION EXERCISES

The examiner will choose one of the following, to be performed to backing track. Please note: the backing track will contain two playthroughs of the score only.

- **Workout 22 (Blues in E)** – *Play For Keeps* – Workout Book Grades 5 & 6
- **Workout 23 (Blues in A)** – *Play For Keeps* – Workout Book Grades 5 & 6

### GROUP B: SCALES & ARPEGGIOS

The examiner will choose one major or minor scale, one modal scale, and one arpeggio from the list below, which the candidate must play to compulsory metronome click.

Scales and arpeggios must be played with a straight feel and *legato* articulation.

SCALES <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Workout Book Grades 5 & 6	REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A major</li> <li>■ A major pentatonic</li> <li>■ E♭major</li> <li>■ E♭major pentatonic</li> <li>■ C natural minor</li> <li>■ C minor pentatonic</li> <li>■ F♯ natural minor</li> <li>■ F♯ minor pentatonic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands together</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across <b>two</b> octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩=116</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A dorian</li> <li>■ G dorian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands together</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across two octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩=116</li> </ul>
ARPEGGIOS <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Workout Book Grades 5 & 6	REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A major</li> <li>■ E♭major</li> <li>■ F♯ minor</li> <li>■ C minor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands together</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across two octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩=90</li> </ul>

## SIGHT READING

The sight reading test at Grade 5 consists of an 8-bar bass line.

- **Tempo:** 60–95bpm
- **Duration:** 8 bars
- **Rhythm values:** Whole, half, dotted half, quarter, dotted quarter, eighth, dotted eighth notes, eighth note syncopation
- **Technique:** LH bass line, articulations and expressive techniques
- **Key:** Up to one sharp or flat
- **Time signature:** 4/4 or 3/4

The candidate will be allowed 30 seconds preparation time. The examiner will then play the backing track twice. The first time will be to practise, and will be preceded by four clicks. The second time will be the test version, and preceded by four counts.

## EAR TESTS

At Grade 5 there are two ear tests: Melodic Recall and Chord Recognition. Both are previously unseen and an example of each is shown in the accompanying guide.

### MELODIC RECALL

- **Tempo:** 95bpm
- **Time sig:**  $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Whole, half, quarter notes, eighth notes and rests (notes may be tied)
- **Duration:** 2 bars
- **Key:** C major, range of up to an octave

The Examiner will play a 2 bar diatonic melody in the key of C major with a range up to an octave. The first note will be the root note. The test will be played twice, each time preceded by four clicks. There will also be a root note at the beginning of the test.

There will be 10 second break to practise and then the candidate will have a one bar count-in, after which they must play back the melody. The click will continue for the duration of playback.

### CHORD RECOGNITION

- **Tempo:** 95bpm
- **Time sig:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half notes
- **Chord Types:** maj7, min7, dom7, min7b5
- **Duration:** 2 bars

The examiner will play a sequence of four chords built on a 'C' root note (e.g. Cmaj7, Cmin7 etc.), then ask the candidate to state the chord quality of each chord from a choice of major 7, minor 7, dominant 7 or minor 7<sup>b</sup>5. The test will be played twice, each time preceded by four clicks. The candidate must give all four answers at the end of the test.

## GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

There will be five questions. The first will relate to:

- Technical set up of the chosen piece

The other four questions will relate to the following three topics:

- Time Signatures
- Note rhythm values. Please note – candidates can give traditional (e.g. 'crotchet') or American (e.g. 'quarter note') answers
- Pitch. Note: candidates must give answers using pitch names. Solfege is not permitted.

## GRADED CERTIFICATE

**Please note:** Graded Certificates can only be taken as Recorded Digital Exams.

### PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece. Candidates must perform all of the technical exercises, as detailed in the guidance that you can download at [rslawards.com](http://rslawards.com)

# Grade 6

# Grade 6

<b>TITLE</b>	RSL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 6 RSL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 6
<b>QUALIFICATION NO.</b>	Grade Exam: 603/3875/1 Graded Certificate: 610/4798/3
<b>UNIT NO.</b>	Grade Exam: R/617/3552 Graded Certificate: T/651/3579
<b>LEVEL</b>	3
<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	22
<b>GUIDED LEARNING HOURS</b>	36
<b>TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME</b>	220

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
<b>The learner will:</b>	<b>The learner can:</b>
1. Perform and arrange music on electronic keyboard and piano in a range of popular musical styles	<p><b>1.1 Perform two pieces of musical repertoire demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 Perform one 'own arrangement' repertoire piece demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul>
2. Demonstrate technical abilities on the instrument by responding to set technical demands or improvisation tests	<p><b>2.1 Play set technical exercises following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul>
3. Demonstrate musical understanding through a range of set tests	<p><b>3.1 Perform a Quick Study Piece demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2 Respond to Ear Tests demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.3 Respond to five General Musicianship Questions relating to the music performed in the exam</b></p>

# GRADE EXAM

## PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces including one solo arrangement piece. They are also required to perform two technical groups, comprising a right-hand improvisation exercise, and a selection of scales & arpeggios.

## UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to prepare and perform a Quick Study Piece,, and there are also **two** Ear Tests which continue to develop melodic and harmonic recall. The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore technical and theoretical knowledge.

## EXAM STRUCTURE

The Grade 6 exam will be taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces \***
- **Technical Exercises \***
- **Quick Study Piece:** Candidates are given an unseen test to prepare and perform
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is harmonic.
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on their own arrangement piece.

*\* These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request*

## PIECES

The pieces at this grade will be found within the Yamaha **Play for Keeps** Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6) and must be chosen from lists A, B and C below (one piece from each). Candidates may alternatively perform one Free Choice Piece for list A or list B. Please see page 7 for relevant information on free choice pieces.

## SETTING THE LEVEL OF THE BACKING TRACK

At the beginning of the exam, the examiner will conduct a sound check. Please note this won't be part of the assessment. This will set the levels for the exam.

# PERFORMANCE PIECES

Candidates choose three pieces, one from each list:

## LIST A

### Piano Piece

(Automatic rhythm is optional but automatic accompaniment is not allowed)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Four Calling Birds'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)
'The Road to Santiago'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)
'Eleanor Rigby'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)

## LIST B

### Keyboard Piece

(Automatic rhythm and automatic accompaniment are compulsory)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Comin' Home'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)
'The Girl from Sligo'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)
'Soupa Samba'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)

## LIST C

### Own Arrangement

(Automatic rhythm is optional and automatic accompaniment optional)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Live and Let Die'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)
'Somethin' Stupid'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)
'The Most Beautiful Girl In the World'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 5 & 6)



## TECHNICAL WORK

At grade 6, there are two technical groups comprising right-hand improvisation exercises (Group A), and scales & arpeggios (Group B).

### GROUP A: RIGHT-HAND IMPROVISATION EXERCISES

The examiner will choose one of the following, to be performed to backing track. Please note: the backing track will contain two playthroughs of the score only.

- Workout 21 (Blues in B) – *Play For Keeps*, Workout Book Grades 5 & 6
- Workout 20 (Blues in F $\sharp$ ) – *Play For Keeps*, Workout Book Grades 5 & 6

### GROUP B: SCALES & ARPEGGIOS

The examiner will choose one major or minor scale, one modal scale, one chromatic scale, and one arpeggio from the list below, which the candidate must play to compulsory metronome click.

Scales and arpeggios must be prepared in *both* straight *and* swung feel, with *legato* articulation.

SCALES <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Workout Book Grades 5 & 6			REQUIREMENTS
<i>Major and minor scales</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ E major</li> <li>■ E major pentatonic</li> <li>■ A<math>\flat</math> major</li> <li>■ A<math>\flat</math> major pentatonic</li> <li>■ C<math>\sharp</math> natural minor</li> <li>■ C<math>\sharp</math> minor pentatonic</li> <li>■ F natural minor</li> <li>■ F minor pentatonic</li> </ul>	<i>Modal scales</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ C dorian</li> <li>■ E dorian</li> </ul>	<i>Chromatic scales</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Chromatic scale on D</li> <li>■ Chromatic scale on A<math>\flat</math></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands together</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across two octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: <math>\text{♩} = 126</math></li> </ul>
ARPEGGIOS <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Workout Book Grades 5 & 6			REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ E major</li> <li>■ A<math>\flat</math> major</li> <li>■ C<math>\sharp</math> minor</li> <li>■ F minor</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands together</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across two octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: <math>\text{♩} = 98</math></li> </ul>

## QUICK STUDY PIECE

At Grade 6, candidates will be asked to prepare and play a short Quick Study Piece. Candidates will be shown the test and played the track with the notated parts played. Any bars that require improvisation will not be demonstrated. Candidates will then have three minutes to study the test. The backing track will be played twice more. Candidates are allowed to practise during the first run through of the backing track, with the notated parts now absent, before playing it to the examiner on the second playing of the backing track. The QSP is in the form of a lead sheet and it is up to candidates to create their own interpretation of the music in the parts marked for improvisation.

## EAR TESTS

### MELODIC RECALL

- **Key:** C major
- **Tempo:** 95bpm
- **Time Signature:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half, quarter, eighth notes, rests (notes may be tied)

The examiner will play a 2-bar diatonic melody in the key of C major with a range up to an octave.

There will be a C root note at the beginning of the test, then the melody will be played twice. After this, candidates need to play the melody back to a metronome click. Both playings of the melody and the metronome backing for the exam version will be preceded by four clicks.

The first note of the melody will be either the root or fifth.

There will be 10 second break to practise and then the candidate will have a one bar count-in, after which they must play back the melody. The click will continue for the duration of playback.

**Note:** the 10 seconds is pre-recorded on the audio track so the count-in for the exam version may begin while candidates are still practising.

### HARMONIC RECALL

- **Key:** C major
- **Tempo:** 95bpm
- **Time Signature:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half notes

The examiner will play a chord progression containing chords I, II, III, IV, V, VI in any order or combination in the key of C major (i.e. C, Dm, Em etc.). Candidates will hear the test twice, then play the chords back to a click. Both playings of the initial test will be preceded by four clicks. The backing for the exam version will be preceded by a one bar count-in.

**Note:** there is no requirement for the chords to be voicing specific but the diatonic progression needs to be correct. It is acceptable for candidates to play over the track as the test is being played and there will be 10 seconds to practise after the second playing. The piano can be used to assist at any time prior to being counted in to perform the exam version.

**Note:** the 10 seconds is pre-recorded on the audio track so the count-in for the exam version may begin while candidates are still practising.

## GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

The examiner will ask the candidate five questions – one on their solo arrangement piece and four on the other pieces played relating to the topics of musical theory and notation. Please note – candidates can give traditional (e.g. 'crotchet') or American (e.g. 'quarter note') answers for note rhythm values.

## GRADED CERTIFICATE

**Please note:** Graded Certificates can only be taken as Recorded Digital Exams.

### PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece. Candidates must perform all of the technical exercises, as detailed in the guidance that you can download at [rslawards.com](http://rslawards.com)

# Grade 7

# Grade 7

<b>TITLE</b>	RSL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 7 RSL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 7
<b>QUALIFICATION NO.</b>	Grade Exam: 603/3877/5 Graded Certificate: 610/4799/5
<b>UNIT NO.</b>	Grade Exam: Y/617/3553 Graded Certificate: D/651/3580
<b>LEVEL</b>	3
<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	27
<b>GUIDED LEARNING HOURS</b>	48
<b>TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME</b>	270

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
<b>The learner will:</b>	<b>The learner can:</b>
1. Perform and arrange music on electronic keyboard and piano in a range of popular musical styles	<p><b>1.1 Perform two pieces of musical repertoire demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 Perform one 'own arrangement' repertoire piece demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul>
2. Demonstrate technical abilities on the instrument by responding to set technical demands or improvisation tests	<p><b>2.1 Play set technical exercises following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul>
3. Demonstrate musical understanding through a range of set tests	<p><b>3.1 Perform a Quick Study Piece demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2 Respond to Ear Tests demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.3 Respond to five General Musicianship Questions relating to the music performed in the exam</b></p>

# GRADE EXAM

## PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces including one solo arrangement piece. They are also required to perform two technical groups, comprising a right-hand improvisation exercise, and a selection of scales & arpeggios.

## UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to prepare and perform a sight reading piece, and there are also **two** Ear Tests which continue to develop melodic and harmonic recall. The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore harmony, melody, rhythmic, technical and stylistic knowledge at Grade 7 level.

## EXAM STRUCTURE

The Grade 7 exam will be taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces \***
- **Technical Exercises \***
- **Quick Study Piece:** Candidates are given an unseen test to prepare and perform
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is harmonic.
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on one of the pieces performed.

*\* These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request*

## PIECES

The pieces in the Yamaha *Play for Keeps* Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8) can be used for this grade exam. Candidates may alternatively perform one Free Choice Piece for list A or list B. Please see page 7 for relevant information on free choice pieces.

## SETTING THE LEVEL OF THE BACKING TRACK

At the beginning of the exam, the examiner will conduct a sound check. Please note this won't be part of the assessment. This will set the levels for the exam.

# PERFORMANCE PIECES

Candidates choose three pieces, one from each list

## LIST A

### Piano Piece

(Automatic rhythm is optional but automatic accompaniment is not allowed)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Black and White Boogie'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)
'Watercolour No. 1'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)
'Maple Leaf Rag'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)

## LIST B

### Keyboard Piece

(Automatic rhythm and automatic accompaniment are compulsory)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'I'm Beginning To See the Light'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)
'Tico Tico'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)

## LIST C

### Own Arrangement

(Automatic rhythm is optional and automatic accompaniment optional)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Cry Me a River'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)
'Higher Love'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)
'Satin Doll'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)

## TECHNICAL WORK

At grade 7, there are two technical groups comprising right-hand improvisation exercises (Group A), and scales & arpeggios (Group B).

### GROUP A: RIGHT-HAND IMPROVISATION EXERCISES

The examiner will choose one of the following, to be performed to backing track. Please note: the backing track will contain two playthroughs of the score only.

- **Workout 29 (Blues in Bb)** – *Play For Keeps* – Workout Book (Grades 7 & 8)
- **Workout 33 (Jazz-Rock)** – *Play For Keeps* – Workout Book (Grades 7 & 8)

### GROUP B: SCALES & ARPEGGIOS

The examiner will choose one major or minor scale, one modal scale, one chromatic scale, and one arpeggio from the list below, which the candidate must play to compulsory metronome click.

Scales and arpeggios must be prepared in both straight and swung feel, with legato articulation.

SCALES <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Workout Book (Grades 7 & 8)		REQUIREMENTS
<i>Major Scales</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ B major</li> <li>■ B major pentatonic</li> <li>■ D, major</li> <li>■ D, major pentatonic</li> </ul>	<i>Modal scales</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ G lydian</li> <li>■ E, lydian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands together</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across two octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩=136</li> </ul>
<i>Chromatic scales</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Chromatic scale on any note</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands together</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across three octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩=136</li> </ul>
ARPEGGIOS Workout Book (Grades 7 & 8)		REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ B major</li> <li>■ D, major</li> <li>■ G dominant 7</li> <li>■ C dominant 7</li> <li>■ D dominant 7</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands together</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across three octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩=112</li> </ul>

## QUICK STUDY PIECE

At Grade 7, candidates will be asked to prepare and play a short Quick Study Piece. Candidates will be shown the test and played the track with the notated parts played. Any bars that require improvisation will not be demonstrated. Candidates will then have three minutes to study the test. The backing track will be played twice more. Candidates are allowed to practise during the first run through of the backing track, with the notated parts now absent, before playing it to the examiner on the second playing of the backing track. The QSP is in the form of a lead sheet and it is up to candidates to create their own interpretation of the music in the parts marked for improvisation.

## EAR TESTS

### MELODIC RECALL

- **Key:** C major or C dorian
- **Tempo:** 95bpm
- **Time Signature:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half, quarter, eighth notes, rests (notes may be tied)

The examiner will play a 2-bar diatonic melody in the key of either C major or C dorian (the examiner will say which before the test begins), with a range up to an octave.

There will be a C root note at the beginning of the test, then the melody will be played twice. After this, candidates need to play the melody back to a metronome click. Both playings of the melody will be preceded by four clicks. The test will be preceded by a one bar count-in.

The first note of the melody will be either the root or fifth.

It is acceptable for candidates to play over the track as the test is being played and there will be 10 seconds to practise after the second playing. The piano can be used to assist at any time prior to being counted in to perform the exam version.

**Note:** the 10 seconds is pre-recorded on the audio track so the count-in for the exam version may begin while candidates are still practising.

### HARMONIC RECALL

- **Key:** C major
- **Tempo:** 95bpm
- **Time Signature:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half notes

The examiner will play a chord progression containing chords I, II, III, IV, V, VI in any order or combination, including 7th chords, in the key of (e.g. Cmaj7, Dmin7 etc.). Candidates will hear the test twice, then play the chords back to a metronome click. Both playings of the chords will be preceded by four clicks. The test will be preceded by a one bar count-in.

Note: there is no requirement for the chords to be voicing specific but the diatonic progression needs to be correct.

It is acceptable for candidates to play over the track as the test is being played and there will be 10 seconds to practise after the second playing. The piano can be used to assist at any time prior to being counted in to perform the exam version.

**Note:** the 10 seconds is pre-recorded on the audio track so the count-in for the exam version may begin while candidates are still practising.

## GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

The examiner will ask the candidate five questions on their own solo arrangement piece. Please note – candidates can give traditional (e.g. 'crotchet') or American (e.g. 'quarter note') answers for note rhythm values.

## GRADED CERTIFICATE

**Please note:** Graded Certificates can only be taken as Recorded Digital Exams.

### PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece. Candidates must perform all of the technical exercises, as detailed in the guidance that you can download at [rslawards.com](http://rslawards.com)



# Grade 8

# Grade 8

<b>TITLE</b>	RSL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Yamaha)- Grade 8 RSL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Yamaha) - Grade 8
<b>QUALIFICATION NO.</b>	Grade Exam: 603/3878/7 Graded Certificate: 610/4800/8
<b>UNIT NO.</b>	Grade Exam: D/617/3554 Graded Certificate: F/651/3581
<b>LEVEL</b>	3
<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	32
<b>GUIDED LEARNING HOURS</b>	54
<b>TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME</b>	320

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
<b>The learner will:</b>	<b>The learner can:</b>
1. Perform and arrange music on electronic keyboard and piano in a range of popular musical styles	<p><b>1.1 Perform two pieces of musical repertoire demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 Perform one 'own arrangement' repertoire piece demonstrating the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> <li>■ Convincing projection of the music</li> </ul>
2. Demonstrate technical abilities on the instrument by responding to set technical demands or improvisation tests	<p><b>2.1 Play set technical exercises following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul>
3. Demonstrate musical understanding through a range of set tests	<p><b>3.1 Perform a Quick Study piece demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clear production of sound and even tone quality</li> <li>■ Synchronisation to the music, or an internal pulse maintained</li> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2 Respond to Ear Tests demonstrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accuracy or equivalent skills, and an understanding of musical structure</li> </ul> <p><b>3.3 Respond to five General Musicianship Questions relating to the music performed in the exam</b></p>

# GRADE EXAM

## PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces including one solo arrangement piece. They are also required to perform two technical groups, comprising a right-hand improvisation exercise, and a selection of scales & arpeggios.

## UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to prepare and perform a Quick Study piece, and there are also **two** Ear Tests which continue to develop melodic and harmonic recall. The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore harmony, melody, rhythmic, technical and stylistic knowledge at Grade 8 level.

## EXAM STRUCTURE

The Grade 8 exam will be taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces \***
- **Technical Exercises \***
- **Quick Study Piece** Candidates are given an unseen test to prepare and perform
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is harmonic.
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on one of the pieces performed.

*\* These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request*

## PIECES

The pieces in the Yamaha *Play for Keeps* Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8) can be used for this grade exam. Candidates may alternatively perform one Free Choice Piece for list A or list B. Please see page 7 for relevant information on free choice pieces.

## SETTING THE LEVEL OF THE BACKING TRACK

At the beginning of the exam, the examiner will conduct a sound check. Please note this won't be part of the assessment. This will set the levels for the exam.

# PERFORMANCE PIECES

Candidates choose three pieces, one from each list:

## LIST A

### Piano Piece

(Automatic rhythm is optional but automatic accompaniment is not allowed)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'The Girl With the Flaxen Hair'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)
'Dirty Corners'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)
'Alligator Crawl'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)

## LIST B

### Keyboard Piece

(Automatic rhythm and automatic accompaniment are compulsory)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Street Life'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)
'Theme from 'The Sweeney''	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)

## LIST C

### Own Arrangement

(Automatic rhythm is optional and automatic accompaniment optional)

PIECE TITLE	BOOK
'Les Barricades Mysterieuses'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)
'Being Alive'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)
'Bridge Over Troubled Water'	<i>Play For Keeps</i> , Solo Book (Grades 7 & 8)

## TECHNICAL WORK

At grade 8, there are two technical groups comprising right-hand improvisation exercises (Group A), and scales & arpeggios (Group B).

### GROUP A: RIGHT-HAND IMPROVISATION EXERCISES

The examiner will choose one of the following, to be performed to backing track. Please note: the backing track will contain two playthroughs of the score only.

- **Workout 32 (Blues in A<sub>7</sub>)** – *Play For Keeps* Workout Book (Grades 7 & 8)
- **Workout 34 (Grade 8 Improvisation Practise)** – *Play For Keeps* Workout Book (Grades 7 & 8)

### GROUP B: SCALES & ARPEGGIOS

The examiner will choose one major or minor scale, one modal scale, one chromatic scale, and one arpeggio from the list below, which the candidate must play to compulsory metronome click.

Scales and arpeggios must be prepared in **both** straight **and** swung feel, with *legato* articulation.

SCALES <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Workout Book (Grades 7 & 8)		REQUIREMENTS
<i>Major scales</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ F<sub>♯</sub> major</li> <li>■ F<sub>♯</sub> major pentatonic</li> </ul>	<i>Modal scales</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ F<sub>♯</sub> dorian</li> <li>■ B<sub>♭</sub> dorian</li> <li>■ E lydian</li> <li>■ G<sub>♭</sub> lydian</li> <li>■ E mixolydian or B<sub>♭</sub> mixolydian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands together</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across two octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩=146</li> </ul>
<i>Chromatic scales</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Chromatic scale on any note</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands together</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across two octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩=136</li> </ul>
ARPEGGIOS <i>Play for Keeps</i> , Workout Book (Grades 7 & 8)		REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Diminished 7th arpeggio starting on any note</li> <li>■ Dominant 7th arpeggio starting on any note</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hands together</li> <li>■ Ascending and descending across two octaves</li> <li>■ Tempo: ♩=126</li> </ul>

## QUICK STUDY PIECE

At Grade 8, candidates will be asked to prepare and play a short Quick Study Piece. Candidates will be shown the test and played the track with the notated parts played. Any bars that require improvisation will not be demonstrated. Candidates will then have three minutes to study the test. The backing track will be played twice more. Candidates are allowed to practise during the first run through of the backing track, with the notated parts now absent, before playing it to the examiner on the second playing of the backing track. The QSP is in the form of a lead sheet and it is up to candidates to create their own interpretation of the music in the parts marked for improvisation.

## EAR TESTS

### MELODIC RECALL

- **Key:** C major, C dorian minor or C melodic minor
- **Tempo:** 95bpm
- **Time Signature:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half, quarter, eighth notes, rests (notes may be tied)

The examiner will play a 2-bardiatonic melody in the key of either C major, C dorian minor or C melodic minor (the examiner will say which before the test begins), with a range up to an octave.

There will be a C root note at the beginning of the test, then the melody will be played twice. After this, candidates need to play the melody back to a metronome click. Both playings of the melody will be preceded by four clicks. The backing for the exam version will be preceded by a one bar count-in.

The first note of the melody will be either the root or fifth.

It is acceptable for candidates to play over the track as the test is being played and there will be 10 seconds to practise after the second playing. The piano can be used to assist at any time prior to being counted in to perform the exam version.

**Note:** the 10 seconds is pre-recorded on the audio track so the count-in for the exam version may begin while candidates are still practising.

### HARMONIC RECALL

- **Key:** C major or C dorian
- **Tempo:** 95bpm
- **Time Signature:**  $\frac{4}{4}$
- **Rhythms:** Half notes

The examiner will play a chord progression containing chords I, II, III, IV, V, VI in any order or combination, including 7th chords, in the key of C major (e.g. Cmaj7, Dm7, Em etc.) or C dorian minor (e.g. Cm7, Dm7 etc.) (the examiner will say which before the test starts). Candidates will hear the test twice, then play the chords back to a metronome click. Both playings of the initial test will be preceded by four clicks. The backing for the exam version will be preceded by a one bar count-in.

**Note:** there is no requirement for the chords to be voicing specific but the diatonic progression needs to be correct.

It is acceptable for candidates to play over the track as the test is being played and there will be 10 seconds to practise after the second playing. The piano can be used to assist at any time prior to being counted in to perform the exam version.

**Note:** the 10 seconds is pre-recorded on the audio track so the count-in for the exam version may begin while candidates are still practising.

## GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

The examiner will ask the candidate five questions on their own solo arrangement piece. Please note – candidates can give traditional (e.g. 'crotchet') or American (quarter note) answers for note rhythm values.

## GRADED CERTIFICATE

**Please note:** Graded Certificates can only be taken as Recorded Digital Exams.

### PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces, including one solo arrangement piece. Candidates must perform all of the technical exercises, as detailed in the guidance that you can download at [rslawards.com](https://www.rslawards.com)

# Appendix



# Appendix

## GRADING DESCRIPTORS

Performance Pieces (List A, B & C)					
Bands of Attainment / Mark Range					
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	6–11	0–5
Command of Instrument	Constantly clear production of sound and even tone quality throughout	Mostly clear production of sound and even tone quality overall	Some clear production of sound and generally even tone quality	Sound produced is unclear with uneven quality of tone produced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Sync or Pulse	Performance consistently synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance mostly synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance sometimes synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance not synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	All of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout.  Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time.	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall.  Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time.	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time.	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure not evidenced.	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Style & Expression	Consistently convincing projection of the music.	Mostly convincing projection of the music.	Some convincing projection of the music.	Music convincingly projected.	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

Technical Exercises					
Bands of Attainment / Mark Range					
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	13–15	11–12	9–10	4–8	0–3
Command of Instrument	Constantly clear production of sound and even tone quality throughout	Mostly clear production of sound and even tone quality overall	Some clear production of sound and generally even tone quality	Sound produced is unclear with uneven quality of tone produced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Sync or Pulse	Performance consistently synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance mostly synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance sometimes synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance not synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	All of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout.  Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time.	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall.  Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time.	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time.	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure not evidenced.	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

## Sight Reading / Quick Study Piece

### Bands of Attainment / Mark Range

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	9–10	7–8	6	3–5	0–2
Command of Instrument	Constantly clear production of sound and even tone quality throughout	Mostly clear production of sound and even tone quality overall	Some clear production of sound and generally even tone quality	Sound produced is unclear with uneven quality of tone produced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Sync or Pulse	Performance consistently synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance mostly synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance sometimes synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance not synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	All of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout.  Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time.	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall.  Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time.	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time.	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure not evidenced.	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

## Ear Tests

### Bands of Attainment / Mark Range

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	9–10	7–8	6	3–5	0–2
Accuracy & Understanding	All of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout.  Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time.	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall.  Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time.	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time.	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure not evidenced.	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

## General Musicianship Questions (GMQs)

### Bands of Attainment / Mark Range

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	5 correct responses	4 correct responses	3 correct responses	2 correct responses	0–1 correct responses

## DEFINITIONS

CRITERIA	DEFINITIONS
<b>Command of Instrument</b>	The quality of the sound produced from the instrument, including the consistency of sound/tone, control of sound/tone commensurate with grade.
<b>Sync/Pulse</b>	Alignment of the performance to backing track, metronome or applied to a solo performance, observing notation markings. For unaccompanied pieces candidates should maintain a secure internal pulse and adjust the pulse where instructed within the music.
<b>Accuracy &amp; Understanding</b>	<p>Representing the written notation accurately except by instruction through performance notes, or interpreting the written part with equivalent skills demonstrated such as in open/improvised passages or in List C (own arrangement) pieces (see below). Secure understanding of musical structure evidenced through transitions of phrases, bars and sections.</p> <p>Use of arrangement techniques (for List C pieces): candidates show understanding of the original composition and an ability to re-arrange the written music via any of the following: (not an exhaustive list)</p> <p>Level 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Melodic and/or rhythmic variation</li> <li>■ Inverted phrases – mirror</li> <li>■ Chordal variation</li> <li>■ Introduction/endings</li> <li>■ Change of time signature</li> <li>■ Change of style</li> <li>■ Change of Key</li> <li>■ Use of octave – registration changes</li> <li>■ Add hook/fills in between phrases</li> <li>■ Add right hand chords</li> <li>■ Glissando</li> <li>■ Bridge section/improvisation section</li> <li>■ Use of harmony notes – 3rds and sixths</li> <li>■ Use of blue scales and pentatonic</li> <li>■ Sequence – melodic and chordal</li> <li>■ Scalic patterns – question and answer</li> <li>■ Add broken chords to right hand</li> <li>■ Pitch bend</li> <li>■ Modulation wheel</li> <li>■ Any other ideas/techniques</li> </ul> <p>Level 2 As Level 1 +</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Thematic Development</li> <li>■ Any other ideas/techniques</li> </ul> <p>Level 3 As Level 1/2 +</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Advanced Thematic Development</li> <li>■ Any other ideas/techniques</li> </ul>
<b>Style &amp; Expression</b>	An expressive and commanding performance of the notated material dictated by the demands of the performance piece.

# REVISION HISTORY

## 10th October 2022

### **Page 17 > Debut > Technical Exercises**

One of the mandatory technical exercises was listed as 'Jog 8'. This has been updated to 'Jog 4'.

### **Page 37 > Grade 3 > Technical Exercises**

The requirements for 'Finger Jogging 8' have been clarified: the examiner will request *either* part 1 *or* part 2 to be performed.

### **Page 60 > Grade 7 > Grade Exam overview > Exam Structure**

The document stated a 'Sight Reading Test' as part of the unseen tests. This has been updated to 'Quick Study Piece'.

### **Pages 50; 56; 62; 68: Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8 > Technical Exercises > Right Hand Improvisation exercises**

The duration of the exam version of the backing track has been updated to two playthroughs.

## 31st March 2025

### **Entire Syllabus**

Syllabus has been updated to reflect introduction of the Graded Certificate qualification and unit type

### **Page 9**

Added guidance on selection of performance pieces stipulating that candidates may not be assessed on the same performance pieces more than once