
JAZZ PIANO: GRADE EIGHT

Theory of Music Grade Five (or alternative) must have been passed; see Regulations.

Component 1 - Technical Work

15 marks

No metronome markings are given; familiarity and fluency are the priorities.

All need to be prepared legato, piano and forte from memory; staccato is also required where indicated.

Some scales are required straight or swung as indicated.

SIMILAR MOTION SCALES

The candidate may choose to play the major and minor scales from one of the following groups:

Group 1: C, C#, Bb, G

Group 2: D, Eb, F#, F

Group 3: E, A, B, Ab

Major keys - three octaves, hands separately or together, straight, legato or staccato

Minor keys, melodic OR harmonic (candidate's choice) - three octaves, hands separately or together, straight, legato or staccato

CHROMATIC SCALES

With each hand separately in minor thirds, beginning on D and F – one octave, straight, legato

WHOLE TONE SCALES

Starting on C and on C# – two octaves, hands separately or together, straight or swung, legato

DIMINISHED SCALES

Starting on C – one octave, right hand only, starting on the half-step (C7b9) or the whole step (C°), straight or swung, as illustrated in Jazz Piano Handbook 2

CHORDS AND VOICING

The sus chord on any note, as illustrated in Jazz Piano Handbook 2

All of the above can be found in Jazz Piano Handbook 2.

Component 2 - Performance

60 marks

Performance of THREE pieces from the following list. At least one piece must be taken from Jazz Piano Handbook 2.

Autumn Leaves	Jazz Piano Handbook 2	(LCM Publications)
Cat & Mouse (Laura Rossi)	Jazz Piano Handbook 2	(LCM Publications)
Own composition (based on Rhythm Changes)	Jazz Piano Handbook 2	(LCM Publications)
A Taste of Honey (R Marlow/R Scott)	Jazz Piano Handbook 2	(LCM Publications)
Peri's Scope (Bill Evans)	Bill Evans: Jazz Piano	(Wise)
The Midnight Sun Will Never Set (Q Jones)	Jazz Club Piano Solos Vo.2 (arr. S Duro)	(Wise)
The Late Late Show (R Alfred/D Cavanagh)	Jazz Club Piano Solos Vo.2 (arr. S Duro)	(Wise)
Black and White Rag (G Botsford)	Ragtime (arr. K Baker)	(Wise)
Twelfth Street Rag (EL Bowman)	Ragtime (arr. K Baker)	(Wise)
Rat Race Rag (M Haywood)	Ragtime Today (out of print)	(Musonix)
Birdland (J Zawinul)	Take the Lead: Jazz (with backing CD)	(IMP)
I Wish	The Jazz Piano Master (Grade 6+)	(Faber)
Around Midnight	The Jazz Piano Master (Grade 6+)	(Faber)
Three Jazz Flavors (E Butterfield)	The Joy of Jazz	(Yorktown)
Palm Gardens (Fats Waller)	The Joy of Jazz	(Yorktown)

Written charts may be developed and embellished contextually and creatively.

Improvised elements must not be written out.

Component 3 - Musical Awareness

7 marks

See pages 12-13.

Component 4 - Creative Response Test

10 marks

A short passage in either 3/4 (Jazz Waltz) or 4/4 time will be given, using chord structures, scales and modes covered in Grades 1-8. The opening bars will be given, then chords will be indicated. The candidate is required to produce a coherent response based on the opening bars. Keys will be up to four sharps or flats. See Jazz Piano Handbook 2 for examples.

Approximately one minute will be allowed to study the test, during which time the candidate may try the test if they wish.

Component 5 - Aural Tests

8 marks

See pages 14-18. Specimen tests can be found in Jazz Piano Handbook 2.