PERCUSSION REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

Subject Code: 44

This syllabus is valid from 1990 until further notice.

This section provides a summary of the most important points that teachers and candidates need to know when taking ABRSM Percussion exams. Further details, as well as administrative information relating to the exams, are given in ABRSM’s Information & Regulations (available at www.abrsm.org/regulations) which should be read before an exam booking is made.

Entering for an exam

Eligibility: There are eight grades for Percussion and candidates may be entered in any grade irrespective of age and without previously having taken any other grade in Percussion. Candidates for a Grade 6, 7 or 8 exam must already have passed ABRSM Grade 5 (or above) in Music Theory, Practical Musicianship or a solo Jazz subject; for full details, including a list of accepted alternatives, see Regulation 1d at www.abrsm.org/regulations.

Access: ABRSM endeavours to make its exams as accessible as possible to all candidates, regardless of sensory impairments, learning difficulties or particular physical needs. There is a range of alternative tests and formats as well as sets of guidelines for candidates with particular access needs (see www.abrsm.org/specificneeds). Where a candidate’s needs are not covered by the guidelines, each case is considered on an individual basis. Further information is available from the Access Co-ordinator (accesscoordinator@abrsm.ac.uk).

Venues: Percussion exams are held at Visits (i.e. premises provided by the Applicant and visited by the examiner). They may be held independently of other exams or as part of a larger Visit that includes other subjects/grades. The percussion instruments must be set up in advance so that each exam can begin at the scheduled time. For full details about Visits, see Regulation 7 at www.abrsm.org/regulations, in particular the requirement to provide a suitable piano for the Aural tests.

Exam booking: Details of exam dates, venues, fees and how to book an exam are available online at www.abrsm.org/exambooking.

Instruments

Candidates are required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument and, at their choice, either timpani or snare drum.

Tuned percussion: Candidates may play the requirements on one of the following:

- xylophone
- marimba
- vibraphone (with motor off)
- glockenspiel (Grades 1 and 2 only; the instrument’s range must be sufficient to cover the range of the scale requirements and the chosen piece)
**Timpani**: Hand- or pedal-tuned drums may be used. The different roll notations should be played according to the guidelines contained in the exam books published by ABRSM. Candidates may, if they wish, omit damping crotchet and quaver rests in Grades 1–3, although they should damp the longer rests and at the end of a piece or study. From Grade 4, rests should be damped whenever feasible. In order to accommodate hand-tuned drums, tuning changes in the studies and pieces have been arranged to occur at pauses so they can be negotiated as smoothly as possible.

**Snare drum**: Candidates may use either traditional or matched grip. The different roll notations should be played according to the guidelines contained in the exam books published by ABRSM.

**Sticks/mallets**: Candidates are expected to use the correct sticks and mallets for the instruments they have chosen to play.

**Elements of the exam**

All ABRSM graded Percussion exams comprise the following elements: Scales and arpeggios; two Pieces; one Study; Sight-reading; and Aural tests. In all grades, marks are allocated as follows:

**Tuned percussion**

- Scales and arpeggios: 21 marks
- Piece 1: 30 marks

**Timpani or Snare drum**

- Study: 30 marks
- Piece 2: 30 marks
- Sight-reading: 21 marks
- Aural tests: 18 marks

**Total**: 150 marks

**Marking scheme**: 100 marks are required for a Pass, 120 for a Merit and 130 for a Distinction. A Pass in each individual section is not required to pass overall. See pp. 114–115 for the marking criteria used by examiners.

**Pieces**

**Programme planning**: At each grade, candidates must present two pieces and one study. The first piece (or set combination) must be chosen from the Tuned Percussion list. The second piece and the study must be from the set items for their other chosen instrument (i.e. Timpani or Snare Drum). In the exam, candidates should inform the examiner which pieces they are performing, and they are welcome to use the form on p. 117 for this purpose.

**Accompaniment (Tuned percussion)**: In all grades, a selection of the tuned percussion exam pieces published by ABRSM are provided with optional piano accompaniments. If choosing to play these pieces accompanied, candidates must provide their own accompanist, who may remain in the exam room only while accompanying. The candidate’s teacher may act as accompanist (examiners will not). For any of the tuned percussion pieces, candidates are free to use a piano accompaniment contained in any other published edition, provided it matches the main features and extent of the solo part.
Exam music & editions: All the exam music has been specially composed or arranged and is published by ABRSM in four exam books for each instrument (Tuned Percussion, Timpani, Snare Drum: Grades 1–2, 3–4, 5–6 and 7–8). No other editions of any of the set pieces may be used. NB the ABRSM books contain some additional pieces and exercises that are not set for the exams.

Interpreting the score: Printed editorial suggestions such as hand indications, metronome marks etc. need not be strictly observed. Whether the piece contains musical indications or not, candidates are always encouraged to interpret the score in a stylistically appropriate manner. Ultimately, examiners’ marking will be determined by consideration of pitch, time, tone, shape and performance, and how control of these contributes to the overall musical outcome.

Repeats: All da capo and dal segno indications should be observed but all other repeats (including first-time bars) should be omitted unless they are very brief (i.e. of a few bars) or unless the syllabus specifies otherwise.

Performing from memory: Candidates are free to perform any of their pieces from memory; in such cases they must ensure that a copy of the music is available for the examiner to refer to if necessary. No additional marks are awarded for playing from memory.

Page-turns: Examiners will be understanding if a page-turn causes a lack of continuity during a piece, and this will not affect the marking. A variety of solutions for awkward page-turns exists, including the use of an additional copy of the music or a photocopy of a section of the piece (but see ‘Photocopies’ below). In cases where candidates believe there is no solution to a particularly awkward page-turn, they may apply to bring a page-turner to the exam. The request must be made to the Syllabus Department (syllabus@abrsm.ac.uk) no later than the closing date for entry, and details of the piece, edition and nature of the difficulty should be given. If permission is granted, a confirmation letter will be issued which must be taken to the exam as verification. Examiners are unable to help with page-turning. In a Grade 8 exam, a candidate’s accompanist is permitted to bring a page-turner to assist with page-turns in the piano part (prior permission is not required).

Photocopies: Performing from unauthorized photocopies (or other kinds of copies) of copyright editions is not allowed. ABRSM may withhold the exam result where it has evidence of an illegal copy (or copies) being used. In the UK, copies may be used in certain limited circumstances – for full details, see the MPA’s Code of Fair Practice at www.mpaonline.org.uk. In all other cases, application should be made to the copyright holder before any copy is made, and evidence of permission received should be brought to the exam.

Scales and arpeggios (Tuned percussion)

Examiners will usually ask for at least one of each type of scale/arpeggio etc. required at each grade. When asking for requirements, examiners will specify only:

- the key or starting note
- the pattern for scales and arpeggios (e.g. crotchet beat on tonic, even notes, even notes with repeated tonic)
All scales and arpeggios should:

- be played from memory
- ascend and descend according to the specified range (and pattern)
- be played with the repeat indications (as printed in the syllabus) duly noted and observed
- be played without undue accentuation and at a pace that is consistent with accuracy and distinctness

Candidates are free to start at any octave, provided the required ranges are covered. Arpeggios and dominant sevenths are required in root position only.

**Sight-reading**

Candidates will be asked to play a short piece of music which they have not previously seen. The examiner will choose a test for either tuned percussion or the other instrument being used in the exam. Candidates will be given up to half a minute in which to look through and, if they wish, try out all or any part of the test before they are required to play it for assessment. For practice purposes, specimen sight-reading tests are included in the exam books published by ABRSM.

**Aural tests**

The requirements are the same for all subjects. Full details of the Aural tests are given on pp. 94–99. If they prefer, candidates may choose to play (instead of clap) the pulse-clapping test (Grades 1–3).

**In the exam**

**Examiners:** Generally, there will be one examiner in the exam room; however, for training and quality assurance purposes, a second examiner may sometimes be present. Examiners may ask to look at the music before or after the performance of a piece. They may also decide to stop the performance of a piece when they have heard enough to form a judgment. Examiners will not issue, or comment on, a candidate’s result; instead, the mark form (and certificate for successful candidates) will be issued by ABRSM after the exam.

**Tuning (Timpani):** In Grades 1 and 2, the teacher may tune the timpani (or advise on tuning). In all other grades candidates must tune the timpani themselves. Candidates should also provide their own tuning forks or other pitch sources, and these may be used only before the beginning of each piece. Examiners are unable to help with tuning.

**Order of the exam:** The individual sections of the exam may be undertaken in any order, at the candidate’s choice.

*(continued overleaf)*
Assessment

The tables on pp. 114–115 show the marking criteria used by examiners. These criteria (newly revised and amended) have been in use in exams from January 2014. In each element of the exam, ABRSM operates the principle of marking from the required pass mark positively or negatively, rather than awarding marks by deduction from the maximum or addition from zero. In awarding marks, examiners balance the extent to which the qualities and skills listed on pp. 114–115 (broadly categorized by pitch, time, tone, shape and performance) are demonstrated and contribute towards the overall musical outcome.

Obtaining exam music

ABRSM’s Percussion exam books are available from music retailers as well as online, including at the ABRSM music shop: www.abrsm.org/shop. Candidates are advised to obtain their music well in advance of the exam in case of any delays with items not kept in stock by retailers.
All candidates are required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument and, at their choice, either timpani or snare drum.

**TUNED PERCUSSION**

**SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS:** from memory, in the following keys:

- C, G, F majors; A, E, D minors (one octave)

**Scales:** in the above keys (minors in natural or harmonic or melodic form at candidate’s choice):

(i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example below:

(ii) even notes, as example below:

**Arpeggios:** the common chords of the above keys:

(i) even notes, as example below:

(ii) even notes with repeated tonic, as example below:

**ONE PIECE (or set combination):** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. **Anon.** American Shaker melody ‘Simple Gifts’
2. **Anon.** John Brown’s Body
   and
   **Anon.** Deck the hall with boughs of holly
3. **Anon.** Men of Harlech*
   and
   **S. C. Foster** Oh! Susanna*
4. **Anon.** Waltzing Matilda
   and
   **Hook** The Lass of Richmond Hill
5. **Haydn** Scherzo: from Sonata in F, Hob. XVI/9*

### TIMPANI

**STUDY:** No. 1 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 1 (ABRSM)*

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. **March Past**
2. **Fanfare**
3. **Allegretto**
4. **Prelude**

(continued overleaf)

* Published with optional piano accompaniment  † Specimen Sight-Reading Tests included in the *Graded Music* books
§ Specimen Aural Tests published by ABRSM

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SNARE DRUM

STUDY: No. 1 as published for the grade.  *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 1 (ABRSM)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1  Marking Time
2  On Parade
3  Stick together
4  Two Step
5  Tempo Timekeeper
6  Step lightly

SIGHT-READING†: a short piece in simple time, either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. The test for tuned percussion will be within the keys, notes and overall range of the scale requirements set for the grade. Some accidentals, dotted and tied notes may be included. See also p. 81.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE§: see pp. 94 and 95
All candidates are required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument and, at their choice, either timpani or snare drum.

**TUNED PERCUSSION**

**SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS:** from memory, in the following keys:

- D, B♭ majors; B, G minors (one octave)

**Scales:** in the above keys (minors in natural or harmonic or melodic form at candidate’s choice):

(i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1
(ii) even notes, as example in Grade 1

**Arpeggios:** the common chords of the above keys:

(i) even notes, as example in Grade 1
(ii) even notes with repeated tonic, as example in Grade 1

**ONE PIECE (or set combination):** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Anon. The Ash Grove
   
   H. C. Work Marching through Georgia

2. J. S. Bach Menuet in G, BWV Anh.116*

3. Bizet ‘Je vais danser en votre honneur’: from Carmen
   
   Sullivan ‘Poor wand’ring one’: from The Pirates of Penzance

4. Handel Bourrée: from Music for the Royal Fireworks

5. Léhar Gold and Silver Waltz, Op. 75*

   Johann Strauss Beliebte Annen-Polka, Op. 137*

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**TIMPANI**

**STUDY:** No. 2 as published for the grade.  
*Graded Music for Timpani, Book 1 (ABRSM)*

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Step Three
2. Alla Marcia
3. Contrasts
4. Rondino

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**SNARE DRUM**

**STUDY:** No. 2 as published for the grade.  
*Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 1 (ABRSM)*

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Beat it out
2. Mind the Accent
3. Three Step
4. Ben marcato
5. Flam and Drag

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**SIGHT-READING**: a short piece in simple time, either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. The test for tuned percussion will be within the keys, notes and overall range of the scale requirements set up to and including this grade. Some accidentals, dotted and tied notes may be included. See also p. 81.

**AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE**: see pp. 94 and 95
All candidates are required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument and, at their choice, either timpani or snare drum.

TUNED PERCUSSION

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS: from memory, in the following keys:

- A, E♭, majors; F♯, C minors (one octave)

Scales: in the above keys (minors in harmonic or melodic form at candidate’s choice):
- (i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1
- (ii) even notes, as example in Grade 1

Arpeggios: the common chords of the above keys:
- (i) even notes, as example in Grade 1
- (ii) even notes with repeated tonic, as example in Grade 1

ONE PIECE (or set combination): chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Anon. Greensleeves
2. Anon. ‘Put up your dagger, Jamie’*
3. J. S. Bach Menuet in D minor, BWV Anh.132
4. Beethoven Minuet in G, WoO 10 No. 2*
5. Delibes Waltz: from Coppélia
7. Kevin Hathway 3 Short Pieces
8. Hummel Gigue in D

TIMPANI

STUDY: No. 3 as published for the grade. Graded Music for Timpani, Book 2 (ABRSM)

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Maestoso and Allegro
2. Mazurka
3. Rondo vivace
4. Galop

SNARE DRUM

STUDY: No. 3 as published for the grade. Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 2 (ABRSM)

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Rhythmic Accents
2. Slow Waltz
3. Marche grandioso
4. Five Stroke
5. Flam Waltz
6. Three Wheeler

SIGHT-READING†: a short piece in simple time, either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. The test for tuned percussion will be within the keys, notes and overall range of the scale requirements set up to and including this grade. See also p. 81.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE§: see pp. 94 and 96

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All candidates are required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument and, at their choice, either timpani or snare drum.

**TUNED PERCUSSION**

**SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS:** from memory, in the following keys:

- E, Ab majors; C#, F minors (one octave)

Scales: in the above keys (minors in harmonic or melodic form at candidate’s choice):

(i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1
(ii) even notes, as example in Grade 1

Arpeggios: the common chords of the above keys:

(i) even notes, as example in Grade 1
(ii) even notes with repeated tonic, as example in Grade 1

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Camidge  Scherzando: from Sonata No. 1 in G
2. Clementi Allegro: from Sonatina in C, Op. 36 No. 1
3. Gossec  Gavotte
4. Kevin Hathway  Prelude
5. Mozart  Minuetto and Trio: from *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*, K. 525*
6. Johann and Josef Strauss  Pizzicato Polka*

**TIMPANI**

**STUDY:** No. 4 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 2 (ABRSM)*

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. 6/8 Variations
2. Alleluia
3. Waltz
4. Prelude and Scherzo

**SNARE DRUM**

**STUDY:** No. 4 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 2 (ABRSM)*

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Mazurka
2. Vienna Woods
3. Amazing Grace Notes
4. Rock steady
5. Interrupted Waltz
6. Con spirito
7. Constant Quaver

**SIGHT-READING**†: a short piece in simple or compound time, either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. The test for tuned percussion will be within the keys, notes and overall range of the scale requirements set up to and including this grade. See also p. 81.

**AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE**§: see pp. 94 and 96

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* Published with optional piano accompaniment  † Specimen Sight-Reading Tests included in the *Graded Music* books
§ Specimen Aural Tests published by ABRSM
All candidates are required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument and, at their choice, either timpani or snare drum.

**TUNED PERCUSSION**

**SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS:** from memory, in the following keys:
- B, D♭ majors; G♯, B♭ minors (one octave)
- G, F major *scales only* (two octaves)

**Scales:** in the above keys (minors in harmonic or melodic form at candidate’s choice):
(i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1, but two-octave scales without repeat
(ii) one-octave scales in even notes, as example in Grade 1; two-octave scales in even notes, as example below:

Chromatic scale: starting on C, as example below (one octave):

Arpeggios: the common chords of the one-octave keys as set above:
(i) even notes, as example in Grade 1
(ii) even notes with repeated tonic, as example in Grade 1

**Dominant sevenths:** in the keys of C, G and F, as example below (one octave):

**Dimensioned sevenths:** starting on C, E♭, F♯ and A, even notes, as example below (one octave):

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:
1. **Anon.** 2 Scottish Dances: The De’il among the Tailors *and* Meg Merrilees
2. **J. S. Bach** Invention No. 4 in D minor, BWV 775
3. **Clementi** Allegretto: from Sonatina in G, Op. 36 No. 2*
4. **Dvořák** Humoresque, Op. 101 No. 7*
5. **Gossec** Tambourin: from *Le Camp de Grand-Pré*
6. **Schubert** Moment Musical (Air Russe), Op. 94 No. 3, D. 780/3
7. **Steibelt** Rondo in G

**TIMPANI**

**STUDY:** No. 5 as published for the grade.  *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 3 (ABRSM)*

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:
1. Sea Storm
2. Beethoven Plus
3. Marche Funèbre
4. Fives and Threes

* Published with optional piano accompaniment  † Specimen Sight-Reading Tests included in the *Graded Music* books
§ Specimen Aural Tests published by ABRSM

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SNARE DRUM

STUDY: No. 5 as published for the grade.  *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 3 (ABRSM)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Sophisticated Syncopation
2. Radetsky
3. Tarantella
4. Alborada
5. Allegro energico

SIGHT-READING†: a short piece in simple or compound time, either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. The test for tuned percussion will be in any one of the keys of the scale requirements set up to and including this grade. See also p. 81.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE§: see pp. 94 and 97.
All candidates are required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument and, at their choice, either timpani or snare drum.

**PREREQUISITE FOR ENTRY:** ABRSM Grade 5 (or above) in Music Theory, Practical Musicianship or any solo Jazz subject. For alternatives, see www.abrsm.org/prerequisite.

### TUNED PERCUSSION

**SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS:** from memory, in the following keys:
- F#, C# majors; Eb minor (one octave)
- D, Bb major scales only; B, G minor scales only (two octaves)

**Scales:** in the above keys (minors in harmonic or melodic form at candidate’s choice):
1. with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1, but two-octave scales without repeat
2. one-octave scales in even notes, as example in Grade 1; two-octave scales in even notes, as example in Grade 5

**Chromatic scales:** starting on any natural, as example in Grade 5 (one octave)

**Arpeggios:** the common chords of the one-octave keys as set above:
1. even notes, as example in Grade 1
2. even notes with repeated tonic, as example in Grade 1

**Dominant sevenths:** in the keys of D, A, Bb and Eb, as example in Grade 5 (one octave)

**Diminished sevenths:** starting on Db, E, G and Bb, as example in Grade 5 (one octave)

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. **J. S. Bach** Invention No. 10 in G, BWV 781
2. **Handel** Allegro: from Sonata in F, Op. 1 No. 12*
3. **Joplin** Maple Leaf Rag*
4. **Mendelssohn** Song without Words, Op. 102 No. 3
5. **Johann Strauss** Radetsky March, Op. 228
6. **Telemann** Vivace: from Fantasia No. 5 in F (1st Dozen)

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**TIPMAMI**

**STUDY:** No. 6 as published for the grade.  *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 3 (ABRSM)*

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Unsquare Dance
2. Square Dance
3. Diversions
4. Scherzoid

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**SNARE DRUM**

**STUDY:** No. 6 as published for the grade.  *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 3 (ABRSM)*

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Malvern March
2. Con anima
3. Fanfare and Dance
4. Waltz Variations
5. Midsummer Dream
6. Con forza

**SIGHT-READING†:** a piece either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. See also p. 81.

**AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE‡:** see pp. 94 and 97
All candidates are required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument and, at their choice, either timpani or snare drum.

**PREREQUISITE FOR ENTRY:** ABRSM Grade 5 (or above) in Music Theory, Practical Musicianship or any solo Jazz subject. For alternatives, see www.abrsm.org/prerequisite.

**TUNED PERCUSSION**

**SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS:** from memory:

- **Scales:** in all keys, major and minor (minors in harmonic or melodic form at candidate’s choice) (two octaves):
  - (i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1, but without repeat
  - (ii) even notes, as example in Grade 5
- **Chromatic scales:** starting on any accidental, as example in Grade 5 (one octave)

**Arpeggios:** the common chords of all keys, major and minor (two octaves):

- (i) even notes, as example below:

- (ii) broken chords, as example below:

**Dominant sevenths:** in the keys of E, B, A♭ and D♭, as example in Grade 5 (one octave)

**Diminished sevenths:** starting on D, F, A♭ and B, as example in Grade 5 (one octave)

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. **J. S. Bach** Bourrée anglaise: from Flute Sonata in A minor, BWV 1013
2. **Handel** Allegro: from Sonata in E, Op. 1 No. 15
3. **Joplin** The Favourite and Ragtime Two Step
4. **Kreisler** Liebesfreud* 
5. **Johann Strauss** Thunder and Lightning Polka, Op. 324
6. **Vivaldi** Presto: from Concerto in A minor, Op. 3 No. 6*

**TIMPANI**

**STUDY:** No. 7 as published for the grade.  *Graded Music for Timpani, Book 4 (ABRSM)*

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. **Tchaikovsky** Plus
2. **Conflict in Verona**
3. **Impulse**
4. **Soliloquy**  

(continued overleaf)

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* Published with optional piano accompaniment  † Specimen Sight-Reading Tests included in the *Graded Music* books  
§ Specimen Aural Tests published by ABRSM
SNARE DRUM

STUDY: No. 7 as published for the grade. *Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 4 (ABRSM)*

ONE PIECE: chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Contemporary Patterns
2. Scherzo Caprice
3. Light Infantry
4. Allegro giocoso
5. Prelude and Scherzo

SIGHT-READING†: a piece either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. See also p. 81.

AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE§: see pp. 94 and 98

* Published with optional piano accompaniment  † Specimen Sight-Reading Tests included in the *Graded Music* books

§ Specimen Aural Tests published by ABRSM

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All candidates are required to perform on one tuned percussion instrument and, at their choice, either timpani or snare drum.

**PREREQUISITE FOR ENTRY:** ABRSM Grade 5 (or above) in Music Theory, Practical Musicianship or any solo Jazz subject. For alternatives, see www.abrsm.org/prerequisite.

**TUNED PERCUSSION**

**SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS:** from memory:

- **Scales:** in all keys, major and minor (minors in harmonic or melodic form at candidate’s choice) (two octaves):
  - (i) with a crotchet beat on the tonic, as example in Grade 1, but without repeat
  - (ii) even notes, as example in Grade 5

- **Chromatic scales:** starting on any note, as example in Grade 5 (two octaves)

- **Arpeggios:** the common chords of all keys, major and minor (two octaves):
  - (i) even notes, as example in Grade 7
  - (ii) broken chords, as example in Grade 7

- **Dominant sevenths:** in all keys, as example in Grade 5, but with only one repeat (two octaves)

- **Diminished sevenths:** starting on any note, as example in Grade 5, but with only one repeat (two octaves)

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. J. S. Bach Gigue: from Violin Partita No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004
2. Bizet Danse Bohème: from Carmen
3. George Botsford Black and White Rag*
4. Kreisler Schön Rosmarin
5. Monti Czardas
6. Mozart Alla Turca: from Sonata in A, K. 331*
7. Johann and Josef Strauss Pizzicato Polka
8. Vivaldi Allegro: from Concerto in A minor, Op. 3 No. 6

**TIMPANI**

**STUDY:** No. 8 as published for the grade. Graded Music for Timpani, Book 4 (ABRSM)

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Bacchanale
2. Modern Times
3. Burlesque
4. Waltz Variations

**SNARE DRUM**

**STUDY:** No. 8 as published for the grade. Graded Music for Snare Drum, Book 4 (ABRSM)

**ONE PIECE:** chosen by the candidate from the following list:

1. Sicilienne
2. Overture to Accents
3. A Bar from Mars
4. Scheherazadia

**SIGHT-READING:** a piece either for tuned percussion or the other instrument offered by the candidate, as directed by the examiner. See also p. 81.

**AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE:** see pp. 94 and 99