

EIGHTH GRADE – CONGRATULATIONS!!!

- Lasts 55 minutes
- Scales – please refer to *Piano Technical Work* Level 2 for required Scales and Exercises
- 6 works – List A, B, C and D. Extra List 1 and 2 (from any list / earlier editions of grade books)
- Sight reading
- Aural tests
- General knowledge
- To obtain the certificate for this grade, a pass in Grade 4 is required for Theory, Musicianship or Music Craft

Collaborative Option:

Candidates may prepare **2** collaborative works from **List B** and either List C **OR** List D as a piano duet (see syllabus)

Repertoire Option:

Candidates will not be examined on technical work, aural skills, sight reading, general knowledge or extra list pieces.

STAGE 2: DEVELOPING

Grade 5 – Grade 8 and the Certificate of Performance


Fifth grade marks the beginning of a new stage in the AMEB exams for piano. You are expected to:

- To play musically with aural awareness
- Develop technique
- Accurate and fluent performance
- Underlying rhythmic stability
- Understanding of expressive techniques
- Understanding of the period, performance, practice, style and character
- Accurate articulation of ornaments
- Appropriate pedalling

AURAL REQUIREMENTS

Harmony	The examiner, having sounded a triad will ask the candidate to identify it as major or minor triad in either root or inversion or diminished in root position
Harmony	Recognise the perfect, plagal, and interrupted cadences in a major key
Memory	Play or sing from memory a 4-bar melodic phrase after being allowed one and a half minutes to study the piece away from the piano
Pitch	Sing from memory the lower part of a 2-part harmony

HOW TO WORK OUT KEYS FOR DOMINANT 7TH

1. Go to the dominant of the key (this is the fifth note of the scale)
i.e. C major's dominant is G
 2. Make a major tonic triad from this key.
i.e. G B D
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3. The intervals should be a major third (G to B) and a minor third (B to D)
 4. Add the seventh note from the bass note (G). This should form another minor 3rd interval
i.e. F
 5. Your keys should now be G, B, D and F

Dominant 7ths are important as they contain both the subdominant and dominant of the tonic.

i.e. C major's subdominant is F and the dominant is G

This means the chord is useful for harmonic purposes. It also contains a major and minor triad.
Nifty.

Key	Dominant 7th
D	

HOW TO WORK OUT KEYS FOR DIMINISHED 7TH

1. Go to the seventh note of the scale
i.e. C major's leading note is B
2. Make a minor triad
i.e. B D F#
3. Lower the fifth key so it is now a diminished triad
i.e. B D F
4. Add another minor third above
i.e. Ab
5. Your keys should now be B D F Ab

Key

Diminished 7th

Ab



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

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Please refer to Advanced General Knowledge Questionnaire and Summary of Music Time Periods.

At least one question for each List piece with a total of up to 10 questions asked

- Name / explain all notes, rests, signs, terms
- Explain title
- Explain key
- Identify key changes
- Explain form
- Name the time period of the piece, explain characteristics
- Relate how piece exemplifies period
- Brief history on composer

SUMMARY OF MUSIC TIME PERIODS

BAROQUE PERIOD 1600 - 1750

- The period in which music changed from polyphonic (2 or more melodies woven together) to homophonic (melody + accompaniment)
- Introduction of major and minor keys replaced modes
- Vocal and instrumental music were now both important with secular music gaining more popularity over sacred church music
- The period of the music reflected the flamboyance of the time that gave rise to large architecture

Composers

- Germany: JS Bach, Handel, Telemann
- Italy: Domenico Scarlatti, Corelli, Vivaldi
- England: Purcell, Handel
- France: Rameau, Couperin, and Lully

Works

- Keyboard: harpsichord, organ, clavichord
- Opera, Oratorio, Cantata: solo voices, choirs, chorus, orchestra
- Violin, Flute, Cello: sonatas and suites
- Orchestral works: concerti grossi, suites

Forms of Works

- Binary AB
- Ternary ABA
- Simple Rondo ABACA
- Theme and Variations

Your own notes:

CLASSICAL PERIOD 1750 — 1830

- Music in this time period was more restrained
- Clarity of form was important
- Homophonic style was now more important than polyphony with popularity of the Alberti Bass
- In the later half there was growing interest in dynamics as the piano gained popularity

Composers

- Germany: Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, Gluck
- Italy: Boccherini, Clementi

Works

- Keyboard: sonatas
- Symphonies
- Concertos
- Chamber music
- Lieder (German art song in which the accompaniment is as important as the melodic line)
- Opera

Forms of Works

- Binary AB
- Ternary ABA
- Simple Rondo ABACA
- Rondo Sonata ABA (episode) ABA (Coda)
- Theme and Variations

Sonata Form

- Exposition: A (bridge) B (Codetta)
- Development: (goes through different keys)
- Recap: A Bridge B

Your own notes:

ROMANTIC PERIOD 1830 - 1920

- Greater use of expressive techniques
- Use of more imaginative titles, colour and variety
- Use of chromaticism
- Form and structure were not as important
- Also includes periods of Nationalism which saw composers use traditional folk rhythms and Impressionism where composers such as Debussy used music to hint at an image

Composers

- Early Romantic:
 - Germany: Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Liszt, Mendelssohn, Strauss
 - France: Chopin
 - Italy: Puccini
- Late Romantic:
 - Germany: Brahms, Wagner
 - Russia: Tchaikovsky

Works

- Short piano pieces often used dance forms and names such as Mazurka, Polonaise and Waltz
- Symphony: concerto, ballets
- Chamber Music
- Program Music: which aims to create a picture through the use of sound
- Lieder: German art song where the piano is as important as the singer

Forms of Works

- Binary AB
- Ternary ABA
- Simple Rondo ABACA
- Rondo Sonata ABA (episode) ABA (Coda)
- Theme and Variations

Your own notes:

CONTEMPORARY PERIOD 1920 - PRESENT

- Radical experimentation with music using:
 1. Neo Classicism (return to the Classical style of music)
 2. Neo Romanticism (return to the Romantic style of music)
 3. Impressionism (create or hint at an image or thought)
 4. Expressionism (expressing the inner self)
- Incorporation of Folk Music
- Strong use of chromaticism
- Jazz influence grew
- Rhythms and forms are less structured with use of unconventional time signatures 5/4 and use of syncopation

Composers

- Australian: Sutherland, Norton, Brumby, Hyde, Holland
- Russian: Stravinsky
- English: Britten

Your own notes



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ADVANCED GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Clearly define the title of the work.

2. In what time period is this piece set in?

3. What were the main styles of writing for this period?

4. What were the main instruments used?

5. What were the main forms used?



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6. Name 3 composers of note – include one of the same nationality as your composer – who was writing music at the time.

7. Give the birth and death date of your composer?

8. What country is your composer from?

14. What time signature is your piece in?

15. Outline modulations.



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16. What form is your piece in?

