

## SIXTH GRADE

- Piano Solo exam lasts for 30 minutes  
Piano Collaborative exam lasts for 32 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 2 is required for Theory, Musicianship or Music Craft

### Collaborative Option:

Candidates may prepare a substitute 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

Pitch	The examiner will sound the tonic note of a scale followed by another note (interval) and the candidate will sing and identify the interval from either a major or minor scale
Harmony	The examiner will play a major triad in either root or inversion position. The candidate will then state the position of the triad
Pitch	To sing from memory the higher or lower part of a 2-part progression of 4 successive intervals within limits of an octave
Harmony	Recognise perfect or plagal cadences in a major key as they are heard in a short piece played by the examiner

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

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:

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## 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:

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## 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:

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## 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.

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

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

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4. What were the main instruments used?

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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.

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

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8. What country is your composer from?

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14. What time signature is your piece in?

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15. Outline modulations.



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16. What form is your piece in?

