

Levels and Expectations

Diplomas AMTB & LMTB



The expected technical difficulty of pieces and studies for Free Choice Repertoire will align to the general requirements of the Set Work(s) for each diploma. Candidates wishing to select suitable Free Choice pieces should therefore look at our suggested repertoire lists and the Set Work(s) for each instrument at each diploma level to establish whether chosen pieces reflect the range of technical demands demonstrated by these pieces. Pieces which are significantly easier (technically/expressively) than these would not be suitable. We strongly recommend that if you have any doubt whether your free choice pieces meet our criteria, you use our optional Free Choice Approval Service. This service requires you to provide an image of the music along with the following information: instrument, diploma level, title, composer and a short description of why you believe it meets the required standard. We are currently offering this service free of charge.

The following are the expected levels of expectation at each Diploma level:

AMTB - RQF Level 4

The levels of expectation for this diploma are significantly higher than those of Grade 8. It would normally take at least one year of intensive study or two or more years for those with other demands on their practice time to move from grade 8 to the level expected at AMTB. To help clarify this, please see the table below which articulates the probable Guided Learning Hours (GLH) that would be required at each level (normally in the form of lessons) and, more importantly, the probable Total Qualification Time (TQT) which is the total number of hours (taught lessons plus personal practice) that would normally be appropriate to achieve the required standard. Performances at this level should demonstrate an ability equivalent to a music student who has completed their first year of undergraduate study as a music specialist.

Candidates need to have the ability to perform, to a level significantly beyond grade 8, complex repertoire which includes technical and musical demands which are sophisticated and complex in nature. Demonstrate a highly developed level of control of the full range of techniques including the controlled use of complex techniques associated with their specialisation (e.g. violin, piano etc). Also, to demonstrate a developed and informed understanding of the stylistic demands of repertoire and the ability to show, through their performance, understanding and awareness of a range of approaches to interpret and convey the composer's intentions.

LMTB - RQF Level 6

The levels of expectation for this diploma are significantly higher than those of AMTB. It would normally take at least two years of intensive study or three or more years for those with other demands on their practice time to move from AMTB to the level expected at LMTB. To help clarify this, please see the table below which articulates the probable Guided Learning Hours (GLH) that would be required at each level (normally in the form of lessons) and more importantly, the probable Total Qualification Time (TQT) which is the total number of hours (taught lessons plus personal practice) that would normally be appropriate to achieve the required standard. Performances at this level should demonstrate an ability equivalent to an undergraduate music student who has completed the final year of their course and should be of a professional standard.

Candidates need to have the ability to perform, to a professional level, advanced repertoire which includes technical and musical demands which are advanced, sophisticated and complex. Demonstrate a highly developed and advanced level of control of the full range of techniques including advanced, complex techniques associated with their specialisation (e.g. violin, piano etc). Also, to demonstrate an advanced, developed and informed understanding of the stylistic demands of repertoire and the ability to show, through their performance, use of personal critical analysis and experiences to interpret and convey the composer's intentions.

Grade/Diploma	Level	GLH	TQT*
Grade 8	RQF Level 3	54	320
AMTB	RQF Level 4	54	900
LMTB	RQF Level 6	108	1800

**Please note that TQT refers to the estimated total number of hours (taught lessons plus personal practice) to achieve this level from beginner to each level (not from the previous grade/level)*