

## MTB Exams Diploma in Music Performance

### The qualifications

MTB Exams Diplomas in Music Performance (AMTB & LMTB) are intended to provide targets to enable candidates to develop their mastery of the skills and knowledge required to play and perform on musical instruments or as a singer, from advanced to professional level.

With these qualifications, the Music Teachers' Board aims to increase accessibility to instrumental music diplomas by enabling candidates to record and submit video recordings without the need to travel to an exam centre. These Diplomas in instrumental and vocal music are submitted online and marked by two senior MTB Exams' specialist examiners. This is designed to remove some of the barriers candidates sometimes encounter when taking Diploma examinations. The nature of delivery of our qualifications means that our qualifications are available to candidates in any location worldwide at any time, without the need to enter a long time in advance or adhere to visiting examiner dates or limited exam periods. We also have a Reasonable Adjustments Policy (available via our website) to further maximise accessibility to our qualifications.

### Regulation

MTB Exams (The Music Teachers' Board) graded awards in Music Performance are regulated in England by Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation).

Recognition by Ofqual is a mark of quality – it shows that as a board we meet their rules and requirements and are able to combine expertise in assessment with effective operational delivery. In turn, this provides assurance that the learners who have taken our Ofqual regulated qualifications have the required level of knowledge and skills in the relevant subject area.

## Who may submit our qualifications

These qualifications are designed to allow candidates aged 16 and above, to record and submit video recordings of themselves. There is no visiting examiner and the candidate's recording may be made on any day of the year. Candidates have up to 1 year from making an entry to submitting it to MTB Exams. Candidates can enter and submit these video recordings themselves or can ask someone else to do this for them. Teachers or candidates submitting our qualifications must adhere to our rules, regulations and policies which are available to view on our website. **Crucially, recordings must be made in one single unedited take to replicate a live performance and not using multiple recordings.** To facilitate this, MTB Exams offer a 'Record & Submit' app allowing the recording and submission process to take place using just a phone or tablet.

## The Specification

This specification provides the information required to help Teachers, Centres, Parents and Candidates to prepare for our qualifications and facilitate their delivery. It should be read along with the syllabuses which are available via the website.

## Specification Review

The specification is valid from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 and will be reviewed in September each year. The specification may be updated from time to time and the most recent version will be available at all times on the website.

The qualifications we offer are as follows:

Qualification Number	Qualification Title
603/7599/1	MTB Level 4 Diploma in Music Performance (AMTB)
603/7600/4	MTB Level 6 Diploma in Music Performance (LMTB)

The Guided Learning Hours (GLH), Total Qualification Time (TQT) and Credits for each grade are as follows:

Diploma	GLH	TQT	Credit Value
AMTB	54	900	90
LMTB	108	1800	180

## Specialisations

These qualifications allow candidates to specialise in the following:  
Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Cornet, Trombone, Violin, Cello, Piano, Classical Guitar, Singing.

## What will be assessed

Diplomas comprise the performance of a 'Set Piece' plus one or more other pieces and a Target Duration

1. **Accuracy** - The skills being assessed here are the ability to accurately play the correct notes and rhythms fluently as well as control of the tempo and intonation.
2. **Expression** - The understanding of the appropriate stylistic expectations of the music and effective use of expressive elements such as dynamics, phrasing and articulation to create consistency and contrast.
3. **Technique** - Any relevant technical ability required to successfully convey the music to an audience such as tone quality, breath control, bow control, shifts across strings, clarity and quality of articulation, technical control of passagework etc. as well as other particular techniques relevant to the instrument or piece being performed.
4. **Stagecraft & Sense of Performance** - This assesses the presentation of the recital plus communication with the audience and other performers such as accompanists. Crucially, examiners will look for a highly developed ability to engage with the music - a *performance* of pieces as opposed to just *playing* the pieces. Engagement with the listener, any verbal communication, posture, deportment, confidence, pace of delivery etc. will also be being assessed.
5. **Programme** - This is the substance of the chosen programme including, length, level of content, range of expressive and technical demands displayed, balance, variety, imagination and how clearly the programme content has been conveyed, be this verbally or through a written programme.

Target Durations for Performance Grades are as follows:

### AMTB & LMTB

At these levels, it is expected that the performer will be responsible the Target Duration of their programme. It should be a skill which has been acquired over time and candidates should by these levels have the confidence to use Target Durations to benefit their programme planning. For this reason, for Performance Diplomas there is a minimum and maximum time for recitals as well as a target duration. **Performances with a total length outside of these parameters will be penalised.**

AMTB – Target Duration: 35 minutes (Minimum duration 32 minutes – maximum 38 minutes)

LMTB – Target Duration: 45 minutes (Minimum duration 42 minutes – maximum 48 minutes)

Suggested repertoire lists and further details about devising a programme for Diplomas will be available soon.

To see the detailed marking criteria for Diplomas – [click here](#).

### **The method of assessment**

Assessment is by a practical examination submitted via video.

Diplomas are videoed. The examination can be taken at any time. Candidates will need an accompanist (where relevant). For Diplomas, all pieces which were composed with an accompaniment must be performed accompanied. Performing such a piece without the accompaniment will not be accepted and may lead to disqualification. A live accompanist is encouraged as this will allow for greater freedom over expression and communication, however, pre-recorded accompaniments may be used. Candidates will also need a means to video the examination.

The simplest way to video and submit an MTB Exam is to use the MTB Exams Record and Submit App on a phone or tablet. The App is available without charge through the App stores on either Android or IOS devices or it can be accessed via the MTB App page on the MTB Exams website. Although using the app is recommended, it is not compulsory and other devices may be used to record an exam and there is a submission portal (page) on the website through which exams recorded on other devices can be uploaded.

Before beginning the assessment, the candidate should check they have the following:

- The MTB Exams Record & Submit App or other video recording equipment
- Photo ID

### **Using the app or an alternative video device please follow the following process:**

1. Start the recording equipment and state clearly: candidate name, instrument, Diploma level and the exam reference number (see top of the assessment sheet)
2. Perform the set piece and all other pieces (in any order)
3. Candidate reads aloud the verification statement
4. Turn off the recording equipment. (The recording equipment should be left running throughout and should not be turned off at any point during the assessment)
5. Scan or photograph all music performed
6. Scan or photograph the candidate's photo ID
7. To submit the exam: upload and send the recording plus scanned music and photo ID to MTB Exams either directly from the app or by clicking on 'submit an exam' on the MTB Exams website and following the instructions.

Recordings deemed of insufficient quality to be accurately marked will be rejected.

## **The criteria against which learners' levels of attainment will be measured**

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

### **RQF Level 4 – AMTB**

Performances at this level should demonstrate an ability equivalent to a music student who has completed their first year of undergraduate study. Candidates need to have the ability to perform, to a level 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.

### **RQF Level 6 – LMTB**

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.

## **Levels of attainment**

The examination is marked out of 100 with a pass mark of 60

Levels of attainment are categorised as follows:

80-100 Distinction

60-79 Pass

40-59 Below Pass

0-39 Unclassified

## Breakdown of mark allocation

### AMTB & LMTB

Exam element	Maximum mark available
Accuracy	20
Expression	20
Technique	20
Stagecraft & Sense of Performance	30
Programme	10
Total	100

### Equipment required to deliver the qualification

The candidate will need to make an unedited video recording of the whole assessment. Although it is recommended that the MTB Exams Record & Submit App is used for this, any device which will produce this may be used to make the recording. The quality of recording needs to be of sufficient quality, volume and clarity for it to be easily marked by our examiners. If using the MTB Exams Record & Submit App, the video and additional attachments are submitted directly from the app. If not using the app, the video is uploaded by the candidate as a digital file via the submission route on our website using the 'submit an exam' page. For advice on acceptable video file types that we can accept and further recording advice, please [click here](#).

### Submitting exams for marking

Scans/photos of the music and photo ID should be uploaded along with the video using the app or the 'submit an exam' page on the website [www.mtbexams.com](http://www.mtbexams.com) **NOTE: If the verification statement is not read aloud verbally on the recording, the submission may be disqualified.**

### Results

All exams submitted are marked by two senior specialist MTB Exams' examiners. One will be an instrument specialist. This means the first examiner will be an examiner who plays or teaches the instrument played by the candidate (e.g. a trombone specialist will mark a trombone exam, a violin specialist a violin exam etc). The second examiner will be a section specialist. This means, for example, that the second examiner for a violin diploma will be a string player/teacher.

The result will be emailed to the candidate usually within 4 weeks of submission and a certificate posted to the address supplied by the candidate after confirmation by the exam board. Certificates will normally be issued/posted within 4-6 weeks of receiving the marksheet. Receipt may vary depending on the speed of the postage delivery service.

### Syllabus guidelines (Full Guidelines available on each instrument syllabus)

- All repeats, DC and DS marks should be observed (unless the syllabus specifies otherwise)

- The candidate should tune up before the exam begins. This should be done before starting the recording. However, it is acceptable to re-tune, if necessary, between pieces.
- The composer's dynamics, phrasing etc should be observed in the pieces presented for the recital. However, any editorial markings may be altered to allow for a personal interpretation. These alterations should be marked on the scanned score.
- **The recording should not be turned off at any point during the exam until the whole performance has been completed and the verification statement has been read aloud by the candidate.** When using the app, if the recording is accidentally stopped or stops due to a technical issue it must be resumed as soon as possible and this must be within 5 minutes. Recordings on the app are time stamped so that MTB can track the length of a gap if the recording stops and restarts midway through the exam. Please explain the reason for any stop or restart of a recording using the submission note. MTB Exams may reject a submission for any reason if it is felt that that a recording does not comply to our expectations in this regard. If the app is not used for the recording, it must be in one continuous unedited take and cannot have any extra recorded sections added.

### Malpractice

Suspected cases of Malpractice will be treated according to our Malpractice & Maladministration Policy – To view this policy please [click here](#).

### Reasonable Adjustments & Special Considerations

Candidates wishing to request a Reasonable Adjustment or Special Consideration should refer to our Reasonable Adjustments or Special Considerations Policy – To view this policy please [click here](#).

### Appeals

Candidates wishing to appeal their result should refer to our Appealing an Assessment Result Policy – To view this policy please [click here](#).

If candidates would like to appeal any other decision by MTB Exams should refer to our Appeals Policy – To view this policy please [click here](#).

### Customer Services

If you require clarification of any aspect of our exams or their delivery, please contact us via the 'contact us' page on the website.