

September 2025 MTB Syllabus Review

UPDATES TO EXAM RULES

- The Marking Criteria for Performance Grades and Diplomas have been updated and are available on our website. Please click [HERE](#) to view.

SYLLABUS ADDITIONS:

Instrument	Exam Type	Grade	Section	Addition
Contemporary Singing	Performance	AMTB & LMTB	Syllabus	New syllabus added.
Flute	Practical	Grade 6	Recital Section	'Maria' (Bernstein) and 'Sonata in Eb 4 th movt.' (J. S. Bach) have been added.
Recorder	Practical	Grade 8	Technical Exercises	Flutter tongue alternative finger vibrato has been added as an option in the Alternative Techniques.
Violin	Practical	Grades 1 to 7	Recital Section	Suzuki Pre-Approved Pieces list has been added.

SYLLABUS UPDATES:

Instrument	Exam Type	Grade	Section	Change	Transition Period Ends
Drums	Practical	All Grades	Musicianship Section	Listening Skills have been added as an option in the Musicianship Section.	31/03/2026
Piano	Practical	Grades 7 & 8	Recital Section	‘Star Wars’ (Williams) and ‘Footprints in the Sand’ (French) have been regraded from Grade 8 to Grade 7. A few pieces have been removed from the repertoire lists.	31/03/2026
Singing	Practical	Grades 4 & 8	Recital Section	‘An die Musik’ and ‘Lob der Tränen’ (Schubert) have been regraded from Grade 4 to Grade 8.	31/03/2026
Violin	Practical	Pre-Grade Introductory & Pre-Grade Higher	Recital Section	‘City Lights’ (from Charanga Fiddle Time) has been regraded from Pre-Grade Higher to Pre-Grade Introductory.	31/03/2026
Violin	Practical	Grade 5	Recital Section	‘Counting Stars’ (One Republic) version in B minor has been removed and replaced by C# minor. ‘Waltz from Serenade from Strings’ (Tchaikovsky), the version in Faber’s ‘Going Solo’ edition has been removed.	31/03/2026

SYLLABUS REVISIONS:

Instrument	Exam Type	Grade	Section	Change	Transition Period Ends
Bass Guitar	Practical	Grade 3	Technical Exercises	A natural minor scale, missing line has been added.	31/12/2025
Bassoon	Practical	Grade 1	Scales	E melodic minor scale has been revised.	31/12/2025
Contemporary Drums	Practical	Grade 1	Technical Exercises	Revised tempo marking for Exercise 3 Option 2.	31/12/2025
Cornet	Practical	All Grades	Syllabus	Full syllabus download available for all grades (no content changes).	Not applicable
Drums	Practical	Pre-Grades to Grade 8	Technical Exercises	<p>Minor changes to the following exercises:</p> <p>Pre-Grade Intro – Exercise 1</p> <p>Pre-Grade Higher – Exercise 1, 3</p> <p>Grade 1 – Exercise 1, 3</p> <p>Grade 2 – Exercise 1, 2</p> <p>Grade 3 – Exercise 1, 2, 3</p> <p>Grade 4 – Exercise 1, 2, 3</p> <p>Grade 5 – Exercise 1</p> <p>Grade 6 – Exercise 1</p> <p>Grade 7 – Exercise 1, 3</p> <p>Grade 8 – Exercise 2</p>	31/12/2025
Keyboard	Practical	Grade 3	MTB Book	'The Geordie Collection', chord 'D' has been moved from bar 9 to bar 8.	31/12/2025
Piano	Practical	Grade 1	Technical Exercises	Revised tempo in Exercise 2.	31/12/2025

Syllabus Revisions continued

Instrument	Exam Type	Grade	Section	Change	Transition Period Ends
Piano	Practical	Grade 7	MTB Book	'Tarantella' (Moszkowski), the chord in bar 95 has been tied to the chord in bar 94.	31/12/2025
Piano	Practical	Grade 8	Alternative Duets & MTB Book	'Tango Argentino', clarified in the syllabus that the version to be performed for the exam is on page 21 (and not the 'easy' version also available in the same edition). 'Le Caprice De Nannette' (Coleridge-Taylor), chords in beats 2 and 3 of bar 169 have been corrected.	31/12/2025
Ukulele	Practical	Grade 4	Duet	The chord at the beginning of bar 12 has been corrected.	31/12/2025
Violin	Practical	Grade 5	Alternative Scales	Dominant 7 th in C, revised bowing in bar 2.	31/12/2025

ADDITIONS AVAILABLE BY THE END OF OCTOBER 2025:

- We will be releasing a Lever Harp (Practical) Syllabus Grades 1 – 8.
- We will be releasing a new grade called Prep Test (no marks awarded, comments only) for all instruments.
- We will be offering an optional alternative set of Jazz scales for Saxophone and Clarinet Grades 1 – 8.
- We are adding Contemporary Singing recordings which include the accompaniments for Technical Exercises Grades 1 – 8.
- We will be releasing a Cello Pre-Grade MTB Book.