MTB Syllabus Specification

MUSIC TEACHERS' BOARD

MTB Exams
Qualifications in Music Teaching

The qualifications

MTB Exams Qualifications in Music Teaching (Level 2, Foundation Qualification in Music Teaching, Level 3 Principles of Music Teaching, Level 4 AMTB Diploma in Music Teaching & Level 6 LMTB Advanced Diploma in Music Teaching) are intended to provide a stepped approach towards a career in Music Teaching, either as an instrumental or classroom music teacher. They provide targets to enable candidates to develop their mastery of the skills and knowledge required to teach music from foundation to professional level.

With these qualifications, the Music Teachers' Board aims to increase accessibility to music teaching qualifications by enabling candidates to record and submit videoed assessments without the need to travel to an exam centre. These qualifications are submitted online and marked by an instrument specialist examiner for the instrument specific sections of the assessment (or a classroom music teaching specialist for candidates specialising in classroom music teaching) and a senior MTB Exams' specialist music teaching examiner for the general music teaching sections. This is designed to remove some of the barriers candidates sometimes encounter when taking music teaching qualifications. The nature of delivery of our qualifications means that they 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) qualifications in Music Teaching 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.

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Who may submit our qualifications

These qualifications are designed to allow candidates of any age at Levels 2 or 3 and those aged 16 and above at Diploma Levels 4 and 6, to record and submit videoed assessments of themselves. There is no visiting examiner and the candidate's assessment may take place 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 videoed qualification assessments 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 recording**.** The MTB Exams app (which must be used for these qualifications) manages the recording and submission process 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 1st April 2026 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
610/7051/8	MTB Level 2 Foundation Award in Music Teaching
610/7052/X	MTB Level 3 Principles of Music Teaching Certificate
610/7053/1	MTB Level 4 Diploma in Music Teaching (AMTB)
610/7054/3	MTB Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Music Teaching (LMTB)

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

Qualification	GLH	TQT	Credit Value
MTB Level 2 Foundation Qualification in Music Teaching	32	180	18
MTB Level 3 Principles of Music Teaching Qualification	40	290	29
MTB Level 4 Diploma in Music Teaching (AMTB)	60	1000	100
MTB Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Music Teaching (LMTB)	120	2000	200

Specialisations

These qualifications allow candidates to specialise in teaching violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, recorder, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, cornet, flugel horn, French horn, Eb tenor horn, trombone, baritone, euphonium, tuba, piano, guitar, drum kit, percussion, singing or classroom music teaching. Candidates wishing to specialise in any other instrument need to contact MTB Exams for advice.

What will be assessed

MTB Music Teaching Qualifications are comprised of four modules:

- Performance
- Teaching Your Instrument (Instrument, Voice or Classroom)
- Fundamental Considerations and Situations in Teaching
- Professional Values and Practice

<u>Module 1 – Performance</u>

Level 2: Perform 2 or more pieces of Grade 3 standard or above - Duration 5 to 8 minutes
Level 3: Perform 2 or more pieces of Grade 5 standard or above - Duration 7 to 10 minutes
Level 4: Perform 2 or more pieces of Grade 7 standard or above - Duration 9 to 14 minutes
Level 6: Perform 2 or more pieces of Grade 8 standard or above - Duration 10 to 15 minutes

Performances with a total length outside of these parameters will be penalised.

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Assessment categories:

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.

Repertoire may be selected from the MTB syllabus lists at the minimum grade required or above. Alternatively, music may be selected from the equivalent grade syllabus lists of another Ofqual regulated board or pre-approved Free Choice pieces. Please submit requests for Free Choice piece approval via the MTB Exams website (Free Choice Approval Service).

Modules 2, 3 and 4

For these modules, you will be asked to answer a series of 12 questions covering any areas from the syllabus. There is a maximum time in which all questions need to be completed after which the recording of the assessment will end and the exam is submitted for marking. The questions will ask for explanations and/or demonstrations. Candidates may use demonstrations to clarify their explanations or vice versa even if the question does not specify this. There are no written components in these qualifications, all answers are verbal explanations and/or practical demonstrations.

Assessment Categories:

1. **Knowledge –** This assesses an ability to: demonstrate understanding of the subject area, provide informed responses to questions and show a breadth of knowledge around the subject area.
2. **Communication –** This assesses an ability to communicate and demonstrate answers clearly, effectively and appropriately, as well as to manage time constraints.

To see the detailed marking criteria for our Teaching Qualifications – Marking Criteria - MTB Exams

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The method of assessment

Assessment is by a practical examination submitted via the MTB app or MTB website.

MTB Teaching Qualifications are recorded. For Module 1 (Performance) Candidates may use any device to record their exam but are encouraged to do this via the MTB Exams app. The remaining modules are taken online with questions generated automatically and responses recorded via the device webcam. The examination can be taken at any time within one year of entry. Candidates will need an accompanist (where relevant) for module 1. 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.

For the remaining modules, candidates will require a device (computer, tablet or phone) to generate the questions. Candidates when providing answers and demonstrations will be recorded using MTB's proctoring system. They should also have their instrument available (where relevant) and may have a selection of music and exercises with them to utilise for demonstrations and examples. These copies must however not be annotated in any way and any music used should be shown to the camera to allow the examiner to see that it is a clean unmarked copy.

For Module 1 (Performance), the candidate will record their performance. If recorded using the MTB app, once the recording has ended, the candidate will be prompted to scan the music performed and submit their exam. The app will send the scans and recording directly to MTB Exams to be assessed. The app provides full recording and submission instructions for the candidate.

For the remaining modules, the candidate will start their exam by pressing 'Start Exam' via their exam portal when logged in on the MTB Exams website. Once started, the proctoring system will be initiated and the recording will begin. The recording device should be placed in a position to ensure the candidate, any demonstrations using their instrument and their immediate surroundings are clearly in view throughout the assessment. The exam may be rejected if this is not the case. Once the recording has started, the questions will be automatically and randomly generated. The candidate answers each of the 10 questions in turn before ending the recording. The submission process will then be initiated allowing the recorded exam to be sent to MTB Exams to be assessed. The exam can only be started and recorded once. If the candidate encounters a technical issue, they should contact MTB Exams. There is a time limit for these exams and the candidate is advised to provide as comprehensive, detailed and clear answers as they can bearing in mind the duration of the exam. If they run out of time, they will not be able to answer any remaining questions.

Before beginning the assessment for modules 2 to 4, the candidate should check they have the following:

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- A computer, phone or tablet to record and submit the assessment
- Their Exam Front Cover (generated on entry) which can also be found in the candidate's Exam Portal when logged into the MTB Exams website
- Their instrument and any unmarked copies of music they may wish to use for demonstrations
- Photo ID

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

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

RQF Level 2 – Foundation Qualification in Music Teaching
Candidates will need to demonstrate an ability to perform confidently at Grade 3 level or above and show an awareness of all subject areas in modules 2 and 3 alongside their selected module 4 options. Through their learning journey to date, they will be expected to be able to clearly explain or demonstrate answers to straightforward questions relating to all areas of Music Teaching, including teaching their instrument/vocal/classroom specialisation.

RQF Level 3 – Principles of Music Teaching Qualification
Candidates will need to demonstrate an ability to perform confidently at Grade 5 level or above and show an understanding of all subject areas in modules 2 and 3 alongside their selected module 4 options. Through their learning journey and any teaching experience to date, they will be expected to be able to clearly explain or demonstrate answers to complex questions relating to all areas of Music Teaching, including teaching their instrument/vocal/classroom specialisation.

RQF Level 4 – Diploma in Music Teaching (AMTB)
Candidates will need to demonstrate an ability to perform confidently at Grade 7 level or above and show a clear understanding of all subject areas in modules 2 and 3 alongside their selected module 4 options. They will be expected to have a reasonable level of professional teaching experience, from which they will be able to clearly explain or demonstrate answers to complex and sophisticated questions relating to all areas of Music Teaching, including teaching their instrument/vocal/classroom specialisation.

RQF Level 6 – Advanced Diploma in Music Teaching (LMTB)
Candidates will need to demonstrate an ability to perform confidently at Grade 8 level or above and show an informed knowledge and understanding of all subject areas in modules 2 and 3 alongside their selected module 4 options. They will be expected to have a high level of advanced, professional teaching experience. from which they be able to use personal critical analysis and experiences to clearly explain or demonstrate answers to advanced, complex and sophisticated questions relating to all areas of Music Teaching, including teaching their instrument/vocal/classroom specialisation.

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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

Instrumental Teaching

Module	Exam element	Maximum mark available
Module 1 – Performance (out of 40)	Accuracy	14
	Expression	13
	Technique	13
Module 2 – Teaching Your Instrument (out of 30)	Knowledge	15
	Communication	15
Module 3 – Principles of Teaching (out of 20)	Knowledge	10
	Communication	10
Module 4 – Supplementary Units (out of 10)	Knowledge	5
	Communication	5
Full Exam	Total	100

Classroom Teaching

Module	Exam element	Maximum mark available
Module 1 – Performance (out of 20)	Accuracy	7
	Expression	7
	Technique	6
Module 2 – Principles of Teaching (out of 30)	Knowledge	15
	Communication	15
Module 3 – Classroom Teaching (out of 40)	Knowledge	20
	Communication	20

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Module 4 – Supplementary Units (out of 10)	Knowledge	5
	Communication	5
Full Exam	Total	100

Equipment required to deliver the qualification

The candidate will need to either use the MTB Exams App on a phone or tablet to record their Module 1 Performance or they may use any other suitable recording device. The recording needs to be one continuous unedited take and of sufficient quality, volume and clarity for it to be easily marked by our examiners. The video and additional attachments are submitted directly from the app or through the MTB Exams website. Candidates will also require a second device computer or tablet, to access the questions and record their answers to Modules 2, 3 and 4.

Results

All exams submitted are marked by a combination of two 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 Senior Music Teaching (Instrumental or Classroom) specialist. This means an examiner with wide experience of teaching the relevant area at all levels. 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 for Module 1 (Full Guidelines available on each instrument's Practical Grade syllabus)

- Repeats are optional but all DC and DS marks should be observed (unless the syllabus specifies otherwise)
- 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.

Guidelines for recording

- The recording should not be stopped at any point during the exam until the whole assessment has been completed. It is also vital that the recording device is placed to allow full view of the candidate, their instrument, the immediate surroundings and any demonstrations necessary. Apart from any accompanist for module 1, there should be no other person in the room with candidates during the assessment, the candidate should not access any notes or additional devices while taking the assessment. The area and surroundings should not contain any written or visual material that could unfairly advantage the

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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 2 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 these regards.

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, they 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. Contact - MTB Exams

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