

London College of Music Examinations

Acoustic Guitar

Requirements for Recorded Exams:

Steps, Grades 1-8, Recorded Recital Exams

Valid from:

Spring 2020 until further notice

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1. Overview

The following exam alternatives provide the opportunity for the assessment of musical performance, whereby candidates upload a video file of their performance, rather than attending an examination venue. Performances are assessed by trained LCME examiners, using the same standards and criteria as are used for face-to-face, live exams. This offers candidates a reliable, independent, regulated assessment of their performance standard, while benefitting from the flexibility allowed by the submission process.

2. Recorded Exam Requirements

2.1. Pre-grade 1

A recorded submission alternative for candidates who have entered for Step exams

Component 1: Technical Work (25 marks)

Candidates play a selection of technical work. Please see the *Technical Work and Discussion Questions* document on the LCME website.

Component 2: Rhythm Study (25 marks)

Candidates perform one rhythm study, chosen from the studies in the LCME handbook.

Component 3: Melodies (50 marks)

Candidates perform two melodies. At least one must be chosen from the melodies contained in the LCME handbook. One of the melodies can be an own choice melody, provided it is of at least similar technical standard and duration to those within the handbook.

Weighting for examination components

Technical Work	Rhythm Study	Melodies
25 %	25 %	50 %

Assessment

Performances are assessed according to the same standards and criteria as for LCME's face-to-face exams. Refer to the details listed under Performance, in the section *How marks are awarded* in the relevant syllabus.

Submission

Please see *submission guidelines* (page 5).

2.2. Grades 1-8

A recorded submission alternative for candidates who have entered for graded exams (grades 1-8). Candidates who have entered for Recital Grades may transfer to this regulated recorded exam (please note the additional discussion component).

Component 1: Performance (50 marks)

Grades 1 & 2: One Rhythm Study AND either a Melody OR Fingerstyle Study

Grades 3-5: One Rhythm Study AND one Solo Piece

Grades 6-8: Two solo pieces

All pieces must be selected from the set list from the relevant LCME grade.

The melody can be chosen from the melodies included in the exam handbooks or it can be an own choice melody, provided it is of at least similar technical standard and duration to the melodies within the handbook.

At grades 6, 7 and 8 one of the pieces may be a free choice piece but at least one of which must be selected from the relevant exam handbook.

Component 2: Technical Work, Accompaniment OR Performance (40 marks)

Select TWO of the following:

- **Performance of set Fingerboard Knowledge** (see *Technical Work and Discussion Requirements* on the LCME website for details).
- **Prepared Accompaniment:** Candidates should choose one of the accompaniment examples from the LCME Acoustic Guitar syllabus 2020 and play their chord accompaniment along to the audio recording of the melody. Melodies, chord charts and audio recordings of the melodies can be downloaded from LCME website.
- **Additional Melody OR Fingerstyle Study Or Piece:** The Melody and Solo Piece may be either chosen from the relevant handbook or free choice.

Component 3: Discussion

(10 marks)

Set questions for each grade in response to the pieces the candidate has performed and their instrument. Candidates should present their responses orally before or after their performance. (see *Technical Work and Discussion Requirements* on the LCME website for details on the Discussion component).

Weighting for examination components

Performance 1	Performance 2	Technical Work/ Accompaniment/ Performance 3	Technical Work/ Accompaniment/ Performance 3	Discussion
25 %	25 %	20 %	20 %	10 %

Assessment

Performances are assessed according to the same standards and criteria as for LCME's graded exams. Refer to the details listed under Performance, in the section *How marks are awarded* in the relevant syllabus.

Regulation

LCME's recorded exams are regulated in England by Ofqual, and by the corresponding authorities in Wales (Qualifications Wales) and Northern Ireland (CCEA). They have been placed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at Levels 1, 2 and 3.

Submission

Please see *submission guidelines* (page 5).

2.3 Recorded Recital Grades

Component 1: Performance

Steps 1 and 2: Candidates perform one rhythm study and two melodies from the relevant exam handbook. If preferred, one of the melodies can be an own choice melody of similar standard and length to those contained in the handbook.

Grades 1 and 2: Candidates perform one rhythm study, one fingerstyle study and one melody / solo piece from the relevant exam handbook. If preferred, the melody can be an own choice melody of similar standard and length to those contained in the handbook.

Grades 3 to 5: Candidates perform one rhythm study and two solo pieces from the relevant exam handbook. If preferred, one of the pieces can be an own choice piece of similar standard and length to those contained in the handbook.

Grades 6 to 8: Candidates perform four pieces. At least two of these must be selected from the relevant exam handbook. If preferred, up to two of the pieces can be own choice pieces of similar standard and length to those contained in the handbook.

Component weightings

	Performance (Rhythm Study)	Performance (Fingerstyle Study)	Performance (Melody / Solo Piece)
Steps	40%	—	60%
Grades 1 and 2	40%	30%	30%
Grades 3 to 5	40%	—	60%
Grades 6 to 8	—	—	100%

Regulation

Recorded Recital Grades in Acoustic Guitar are not currently regulated by Ofqual.