

London College of Music Examinations

Ukulele

Requirements for Recorded Exams:
Steps, Grades and Recital Grades

Valid from:
Spring 2020 until further notice

Updated 07.07.2025

Contents

1.	Overview	1
2.	Recorded Exam Requirements	2
2.1.	Pre-grade 1	2
2.2.	Grades 1-5	4
2.3.	Grades 6-8	6
2.4.	Recital Grades	7

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

Component 1: Rhythm Study (25 marks)

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the LCME Ukulele handbook, using a set 1-bar rhythm pattern. The chart should be played through twice without stopping.

Component 2: Performance (25 marks)

Candidates should select either Option 1: Melody or Option 2: Rhythm Study

Option 1: Melody

Candidates perform one of the melodies outlined in the LCME Ukulele 2019 syllabus. These are provided in the LCME Ukulele handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Option 2: Rhythm Study

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

Component 3: Free Choice Specialism (25 marks)

Candidates should select either Option 1, 2 or 3

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the LCME Ukulele handbook.

Option 2: Melody

Candidates can select and perform an additional melody from those provided in Component 2.

Option 3: Rhythm Study

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment (25 marks)

Candidates should choose one of the accompaniment examples from the LCME Ukulele handbook 2019 and play their chord accompaniment along to the audio recording of the melody. Audio recordings of the melodies can be downloaded from the LCME website: follow the link to **Ukulele Audio Downloads**, select the appropriate grade and scroll to the bottom of the list. The download links are labelled **Accompaniment 1, 2 and 3**. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this level are the same as for Component 1.

After a one bar count in, the melody will be played 3 times without stopping, candidates can play on all three playing's, but will only be assessed on the last two.

Weighting for examination components

Rhythm Study	Performance	Free Choice Specialism	Prepared Accompaniment
25 %	25 %	25 %	25 %

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 for recorded exams* on the LCME website.

2.2. Grades 1-5

Component 1: Rhythm Study

(20 marks)

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the **Ukulele Handbooks 2019 (LCM)** using the set rhythm patterns notated in handbooks. The chart should be played through twice without stopping incorporating the use of variation to the notated strum pattern as indicated in the handbooks.

Component 2: Performance

(25 marks)

Candidates should select either Option 1: Melody or Option 2: Rhythm Study

Option 1: Melody

Candidates perform one of the melodies outlined in the LCME Ukulele 2019 syllabus. These are provided in the LCME Ukulele handbook in standard notation and tablature.

Option 2: Rhythm Study

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

Component 3: Free Choice Specialism

(20 marks)

Candidates should select either Option 1, 2, 3 or 4.

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the LCME Ukulele handbook.

Option 2: Melody

Candidates can select and perform an additional melody from those provided in Component 2.

Option 3: Rhythm Study

Candidates can select an additional rhythm study from Component 1. This chord chart can be performed using the notated rhythm pattern or using rhythms of the candidate's choice that are of at least a similar technical standard to the notated rhythms.

Option 4: Fingerstyle Study (grades 1, 2 and 3 only)

Candidates perform the fingerstyle study from the LCME Ukulele handbook.

Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment

(20 marks)

Candidates should choose one of the accompaniment examples from the LCME Ukulele handbook 2019 and play their chord accompaniment along to the audio recording of the melody. Audio recordings of the melodies can be downloaded from the LCME website: follow the link to **Ukulele Audio Downloads**, select the appropriate grade and scroll to the bottom of the list. The download links are labelled **Accompaniment 1, 2 and 3**. The range of chords and time signatures that will occur at this level are the same as for Component 1.

After a one bar count in, the melody will be played 3 times without stopping, candidates can play on all three playing's, but will only be assessed on the last two.

Component 5: Musicianship

(20 marks)

Set questions for each grade to assess the candidate's knowledge of the pieces performed and of their instrument. Candidates should present their responses orally after the performance section (see *Musicianship Questions* on the LCME website for details of this component).

Weighting for examination components

Rhythm Study	Performance	Free Choice Specialism	Prepared Accompaniment	Musicianship
20 %	20 %	20 %	20 %	20 %

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 for recorded exams* on the LCME website.

2.3. Grades 6-8

Component 1: Performance

(40 marks)

Performance of two of the five solo pieces from the LCME 2023 Ukulele Gr6-8 handbooks.

Component 2: Own Choice Piece

(20 marks)

Performance of either a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). You can sing whilst playing, however only the ukulele playing will be assessed. Your chosen piece must be of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the solo pieces in the handbook. You may choose another piece from the handbook to perform. If your piece is significantly easier than those in the previous section, this will be reflected in the marks awarded.

Component 3: Prepared Accompaniment

(20 marks)

Candidates should choose one of the accompaniment examples from the LCME Ukulele handbook 2023 and play their chord accompaniment along to the audio recording of the melody. Audio recordings of the melodies can be downloaded from the LCME website: follow the link to **Ukulele Audio Downloads**, select the appropriate grade and scroll to the bottom of the list. The download links are labelled **Accompaniment 1, 2 and 3**.

After a one bar count in, the melody will be played 3 times without stopping, candidates can play on all three playing's, but will only be assessed on the last two.

Component 4: Musicianship

(20 marks)

Set questions for each grade to assess the candidate's knowledge of the pieces performed and of their instrument. Candidates should present their responses orally after the performance section ([see Musicianship Questions](#) on the LCME website for details of this component).

Weighting for examination components

Performance	Own Choice Piece	Prepared Accompaniment	Musicianship
40 %	20 %	20 %	20 %

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 for recorded exams* on the LCME website.

2.4. Recital Grades

The requirements for each exam component are the same as for the equivalent graded exam unless specified otherwise below.

Component 1: Rhythm Study

Component 2: Performance

Candidates should select either Option 1 or 2.

Option 1: Melody / Solo Piece

Candidates can select a piece of their own choosing or another piece from the **Ukulele Handbooks 2023 (LCM)** to perform. This can be either a melody, a solo piece or a strummed or fingerstyle accompaniment to a song (backing tracks cannot be used). When selecting an own choice piece, candidates should ensure that this is of at least a similar technical standard and duration to the melodies and/or rhythm studies in the handbook.

Option 2: Rhythm Study

Candidates perform one of the chord charts provided in the handbook

Component 3: Free Choice Piece

Candidates select and perform two of the following, chosen from any mix of the options listed (including choosing both pieces from the same option if preferred).

Option 1: Own Choice Piece

Option 2: Melody / Solo Piece

Option 3: Rhythm Study

Option 4: Fingerstyle Study (Grades 1 to 3 only)

Component 4: Prepared Accompaniment

Candidates perform an accompaniment to a melody played via a recording. The melody is chosen by the candidate from a selection in the handbook.

Weighting for examination components

Rhythm Study	Performance	Free Choice Specialism	Prepared Accompaniment
20 %	20 %	40 %	20 %

Regulation

Recital Grades in Ukulele are not currently regulated by Ofqual.

Submission

Please see *submission guidelines for recorded exams* on the LCME website.