



Victoria College Examinations
vcmexams.com

Electronic KEYBOARD



Victoria College of Music and Drama, London

Ltd

Founded 1890

71 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON EC4V 4AY

T: 020 7405 6483 E: info@vcexam.com W: vcexam@aol.com



Governing Council:

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Dr. Martin Ellerby HonDLitt DMA HonVCM FVCM GLCM LMusLCM FTCL FRSA

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Curriculum Specialist

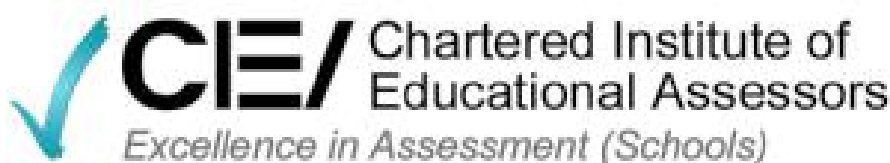
Dr June Fíletí PhD MA(Mus)(Open), MEd BA(Hons) CT, FVCM, LMusEdASMC(Hons)

ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD CONSULTANT

Diane Barton CT, FVCM Dip.Ed.

Electronic Keyboard Syllabus

Member of



Foreword

The Electronic Keyboard should not be taught as if it is a piano. The two instruments are completely different and both demand different skills.

The Electronic Keyboard pieces, particularly at the higher grades, demand many technical skills which are not required when preparing for piano examinations:

- They demand a good knowledge of the keyboard and its technical functions.
- They demand an ability to keep constantly with the backing rhythm.
- They demand an ability to play pieces in a variety of styles including classical, jazz and pop.
- They demand an ability to improvise and compose (particularly when medleys are played).
- They demand an ability to change voices, rhythms, and fill ins, with the use of foot switches.
- They demand an ability to change dynamic ranges through use of an expression pedal.

So keyboard examiners expect the following at these levels:

- First Steps Exam: Pieces can be played without backing rhythm.
- Preliminary, Preparatory and Advanced Preparatory: Pieces to be played with backing rhythm. Ability to change to different voices at the start of each piece and exercises is encouraged.
- Grades 1 to 3: Use of fill in button and dynamics is encouraged. Ability to change to different voices at the start of each piece is expected.
- Grades 4 to 5: Dynamic expression is expected. Changing voices and rhythms in the middle of the piece is encouraged.
- Grades 6-8: Dynamic expression is expected. Changing voices and rhythms fluently in the middle of the piece is expected. A full command of the keyboard functions is expected including the ability to save and retrieve data on the disc drives or SD card.

*Claire Pashley,
Chief Examiner, Victoria College Exams*

ABOUT THE VCM

Victoria College of Music and Drama, London, is an independent body providing examinations in Music, Speech and Drama subjects. It has held examination sessions throughout the British Isles and certain overseas countries since it was founded in 1890. It no longer operates a full-time teaching institution. The VCM is a corporate member of the Music Education Council, the European Teachers Association, the European String Teachers Association, the Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama, the National Association of Music Educators, the Association of British Choral Directors, Metier, the National Training Organisation of the Arts and Entertainment Sector and is an institutional member of the College of Teachers and abides by its code of practice.

ABOUT THIS SYLLABUS

Victoria College of Music and Drama, London, was a pioneer in the recognition of the Electronic Organ as a serious musical instrument and has been holding local centre examinations in Electronic Organ Playing for almost as long as the instrument has been available. The College did, and still does, hold examinations in American Organ and Harmonium Playing since it was founded in 1890.

It therefore followed that the College should recognise the portable electronic keyboard as a valid musical instrument, which, if taught correctly, can be the means of introducing self-made music to students of all ages. The VCM was the first recognised board to offer Keyboard examinations up to and including diploma level.

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

VCM examination requirements do not alter annually. Updates are made periodically and the current valid syllabus is the one available for download from our website www.vcmexams.com. Candidates preparing work from an older version may continue to use it for an overlap period of twelve months. Requests to do so beyond that date will be considered on their merits. The current or previous syllabus must be used in its entirety; it is not possible to mix the two.

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER EXAMINATION BODIES

VCM Grades 1 to 8 are intended to compare on a level for level basis with the grades 1 to 8 of other similarly recognised examination boards.

In addition to Grades 1 to 8, VCM examinations are available at several introductory levels prior to Grade 1 as a means of encouraging beginners, or students with special needs. Medal and Diploma examinations are also available in all subjects. Candidates at all levels receive a written report and, if successful, a certificate or diploma.

WHICH INSTRUMENT?

A wide variety of makes and designs is on the market. The instruments used for examination purposes should have:

- standard or near standard size keys
- a range of at least four octaves
- touch sensitive keys or an expression pedal for dynamics from Grade One upwards

The use of disk drives, SD memory cards or USB sticks where available, to preset the instrument registrations for a more professional performance is acceptable, provided candidates understand the principles involved and have done the work themselves, albeit under the tutor's guidance.

Candidates may be asked to explain briefly the function of any features used.

All pieces from **Preliminary Grade upwards should be performed with rhythm accompaniment** and marks will be awarded for proficient use of rhythm systems especially at the start and end of pieces. Use of a **synchro+button**, where provided, is acceptable. It is expected that a fingered chord system will be used.

Prerecording facilities and single-finger chords are **not** accepted for examination purposes unless previously agreed in the case of candidates with special needs. It is perfectly permissible for candidates to modify or adapt the chord positions suggested where this will produce a more satisfactory musical effect.

NB. At **ALL** grades, each piece must be by a different composer.

MEDAL EXAMINATIONS

Successful candidates at medal examinations receive a certificate and a medal order form. Prices of medals are shown on the medal order form. Medals are supplied in boxes and are engraved with the candidate's name, subject of examination and the year.

Medal awards do not entitle holders to put letters after their names.

REGULATIONS

All entries are accepted on the conditions laid down in *General Regulations and Information*. A copy of which is available free of charge. It is also on our website: www.vcmexams.com

ENTRY FORMS

All Grades and medal examinations can be entered on white entry forms with no more than ten candidates listed on a page. Please use the code KB in the column headed **subject+** and the letter(s) or numbers in the **grade no.+column** as shown at the head of each grade in this syllabus. ALL diploma candidates should be entered on individual pink entry forms.

PASS MARKS

Introductory grades	65%
Grades 1 to 8 with Merit	65%
with Distinction	80%
Merit is shown as % Honours+in Ireland	90%
Medal examinations	75%
Diplomas	75% (85% with Honours)

QUESTIONS

Questions are based principally on the music performed; but, in addition, examiners are at liberty to ask questions on notes, rests, musical terms and signs, key and time signatures, according to the Grade. Also, specifically on minor keys; perfect, major and minor interval (Grade 3 upwards); the usual ornaments; harmonic/melodic minor scales (Grade 4 upwards); degrees of the scale; diminished and augmented intervals (Grade 5 upwards); and triads and cadences (Grade 6.)

EXEMPTION FROM QUESTIONS AT PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS

Candidates who have passed certain VCM Theoretical Examinations are entitled to claim full marks for questions at Practical Examinations as follows:

- VCM Grade 1 Theory exempts up to and including Preliminary Practical
- VCM Grade 1A Theory exempts up to and including Grade 1 Practical
- VCM Grade 2 Theory exempts up to and including Grade 3 and JBM Practical
- VCM Grade 3 Theory exempts up to and including Grade 5 and JSM Practical
- VCM Grade 4 Theory exempts up to and including Grade 7 and SM Practical

In all such cases the theory result or certificate must be produced for the Examiner at the beginning of the practical examination. Examiners do not take it amiss if reminded not to ask questions if they have been shown a qualifying Theory pass. This concession applies only to VCM Theory qualifications, not to those of any other examination board.

SIGHT READING

Sight Reading tests are included from Preparatory level upwards. The relative standard will be that of approximately two grades below the grade being taken. For guidance, specimen Sight Reading Tests are published by *London Music Press* and are obtainable on-line from www.vcmpublications.co.uk Examiners will be at liberty to discuss the Sight Reading Test with candidates as part of the Questions.

MUSICIANSHIP TESTS

Musicianship Tests are set from Grades 1 to 8. Specimen Musicianship Tests are available from www.vcmpublications.co.uk An own composition may be performed in lieu of Musicianship Tests (see below)

OWN COMPOSITIONS

Candidates at Grades 1 to 8 may offer an own composition in lieu of Musicianship Tests. This should be approximately the standard of difficulty of a set piece two grades lower. It should clearly show form i.e. Binary, Ternary etc. It should last for no more than two to three minutes. A second copy must be brought for the use of the examiner. Marks will be awarded both for skill in composition and competence in performance. The examiner will ask questions on the candidate's method of composition. For more details see *Crazy Composing* published by LMP.

ESSAYS, FOLIOS, ETC.

Where essays, folios, etc. are required, these must be submitted **at the time the entry is submitted**. Emailed submissions are acceptable. Separate or late submission is not permitted. Dissertations should be on plain white A4 paper, legibly written, typed or word processed. Binding must NOT be used as they are processed using a sheet feeder. All dissertations should contain a bibliography and contents page. For more guidance see *Essay Writing for the Victoria College Teaching Diplomas* published by LMP.

PIECES

Candidates are required to prepare one item from each list in Grade 1 to 8 Examinations. In all examinations each piece being performed should be written by a different composer.

Where pieces are selected from piano/vocal/guitar editions candidates should perform melody and chords with own choice voices and rhythms.

EXERCISES

Any rhythmic backing or auto accompaniment must NOT be used for the exercises but the exercises should be played rhythmically and in time. The left hand chords **MUST** be held throughout and any satisfactory inversion will be accepted.

MEMORY

In all examinations credit will be given for playing at least one piece from memory, but candidates will not be penalised for not doing so. If playing from memory, the piece(s) must be handed to the examiner. Where syllabus requirements allow for an own choice+piece, there is no reason why this should not be the piece from memory if the candidate wishes.

MEDLEYS & OWN CHOICES

Where examination requirements include medleys or own choices, a second copy of the score must be provided for the examiner. Medleys should include a minimum of three tunes; an introduction; suitable links and a coda/codetta drawing on the musical material of the music performed. At diploma level, the medley should have a key signature of at least three sharps or flats and include at least one modulation. A time limit of two to three minutes for a medley or own choice is sufficient. At all levels, the examiners may penalise an option clearly chosen for its comparative ease.

ADAPTATIONS

A new component of the syllabus enables candidates to demonstrate how they would adapt a conventional piece of piano music (or music transcribed for piano) for keyboard. Candidates should read from the piano score; it is, however, acceptable to annotate this in any way which aids performance. Credit will be given for imaginative use of the keyboard. Though candidates have free choice, they may wish to consider the Chester series of books.

Examiners are looking for a clear melody in the right hand with block chords and independent voices as appropriate. These may be taken straight from the piano copy or the candidate's own work.

The left hand should contain appropriate chords based on the piano copy and these may be written on the score if required. From Grade 6 some melodic left hand playing is expected as well as chords.

Backing should be used appropriately at all grades, and voices should be chosen to suit the style. Dual voices, split keyboard and voice changes, as well as in-fills, auto introductions/endings may all be used as part of the adaptation where appropriate. Creative and imaginative use of the score for electronic keyboard rather than a simple pianistic performance is the intended outcome.

Teachers may assist in creating arrangements, especially in identifying chords at lower grades but candidates should be responsible for the overall adaptation and may be asked questions on the arranging process.

For further guidance see the Tutor Book for the grade and/or Guidance Notes for Piano Adaptations available from www.vcmpublications.co.uk

PHOTOCOPIES

All VCM and LMP publications are copyright. Photocopying LMP publications is not permissible and candidates using unauthorised photocopies at examinations will be disqualified. It is acceptable, however, to use a photocopy for the second copy when the syllabus requires one to be handed to the examiner, provided the original is also brought to the examination. It is also acceptable to use photocopies of parts of long pieces to avoid awkward page turns, provided the original is also brought to the examination.

EXAM CENTRES

If more than one keyboard is being used, it would be helpful for the keyboards to be set up ready before the start of the examinations. Where possible, one keyboard could be used for all the candidates.

REPEATS, DA CAPO, ETC.

Where Solo Pieces show repeats, it is not necessary to perform these at examinations unless asked to do so by the Examiner. However, candidates must be able to explain the various terms and signs printed in their music copies relating to repeats.

SET BOOKS

The set books prescribed rely on the popular *Complete Keyboard Player* books by Kenneth Baker published by *Wise Publications* and these are available from music shops or on-line from sites such as www.Musicroom.com. A limited range are also available from www.vcmpublications.co.uk

Also used are the *Supplementary Electronic Keyboard Pieces* by David Ledingham, available from www.djlpublishings.co.uk or through most music shops.

Second hand and out of print music can be purchased on www.Amazon.co.uk or www.ebay.co.uk
For the higher grades and diplomas the *Chester Music* series of books for piano are suggested.

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	A

A – First Steps in Keyboard Playing

Exercises (20 Marks)

Candidates must perform rhythmically and in time, both the exercises set out in the Exam Sheet (or Tutor Book) for the grade without any rhythmic backing or auto accompaniment.

Scalework (10 marks)

Scale of C major ascending and descending, one octave, separate hands only.
Tonic chord of C major in root position only, left hand only

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any TWO pieces by different composers from the following :

First Steps Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Crotchety Crotchet
The Mystic Minim
Dotty The Dotted Minim
Sluggish Semibreve
Playing Tied Notes
A Happy Song
My House
Oats And Beans

The Complete Keyboard Player Book 1 Supplement **Wise Publications**

Little Bo Peep
Merrily We Roll Along

The Complete Keyboard Player Book 1 **Wise Publications**

White Rose Of Athens

Questions (10 marks)

B – Preliminary Keyboard Playing

Exercises (20 Marks)

Candidates must perform rhythmically and in time, both the exercises set out in the Exam Sheet (or Tutor Book) for the grade without any rhythmic backing or auto accompaniment.

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	B

Scalework (10 marks)

Scales of C major and G major one octave, separate hands.
Tonic chords of C major and G major in root position only, left hand only.

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any TWO pieces by different composers from the following :

Preliminary Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

This Old Man Michael Row the Boat Ashore Bingo
Michael Finegan Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush
Upbeat Rock and Roll Using crossovers in C or G position

The Complete Keyboard Player Supplement **Wise Publications**

Banks Of The Ohio

Complete Keyboard Player Book 1 **Wise Publications**

One More Night
Rio Grande

The Complete Keyboard Player Songbook 1 **Wise Publications**

Jingle Bells
Eight Days A Week
Supercalifragilistic
Where Have All The Flowers Gone?

Questions (10 marks)

These introductory examinations should be shown on entry forms in the Grade column as simply A, B, C or D as appropriate

C - Preparatory Keyboard Playing

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	C

Exercises (20 Marks)

Candidates must perform rhythmically and in time, both the exercises set out in the Exam Sheet (or Tutor Book) for the grade without any rhythmic backing or auto accompaniment.

Scalework (10 marks)

Scales of G major and F major one octave, separate hands
 Arpeggios of G major and F major one octave, right hand only
 Tonic chords of G major and F major, left hand only. All inversions

Solo Pieces (50 marks)

To play any TWO pieces by different composers from the following :

- | | | |
|--|--|-------------|
| <i>Preparatory Keyboard Exam Sheet</i> London Music Press | <i>Easiest Keyboard Player Children's Favourites</i> | Wise |
| Superior Tango Endings Texting like Crazy | She'll Be Coming Round The Mountain | |
| Ode To Joy Butterflies in My Tummy | Popo Popeye, The Sailor Man | |
| Rest A While I Can Play Quiet Notes | | |
| Dangerous Dotted Crotchet Dynamics | <i>The Complete Keyboard Player Disney Songs</i> | Wise |
| Interval Frenzy Steamy Summer Blues | Who's Afraid Of The Big Bad Wolf? | |
| Round and Round the Village Two Four Polka | | |
| Boogie Woogie C time Ode to Joy | <i>The Complete Keyboard Player Children's Songs</i> | Wise |
| | The Marvellous Toy | |
| <i>The Complete Keyboard Player Book 1</i> | Wise | |
| Any Dream Will Do | <i>The Complete Keyboard Player Songbook 1</i> | Wise |
| Do Wah Diddy | Tennessee Waltz | |

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

D - Advanced Preparatory Keyboard Playing

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	D

Exercises (20 Marks)

Candidates must perform rhythmically and in time, both the exercises set out in the Exam Sheet (or Tutor Book) for the grade without any rhythmic backing or auto accompaniment.

Scalework (10 marks)

Scale of F major and D major, one octave, separate hands Arpeggio of F major and D major one octave, right hand only.
 Tonic chord of F major and D major left hand only. All inversions

Solo Pieces (50 marks)

To play any TWO pieces by different composers from the following :

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------|
| <i>Advanced Preparatory Keyboard Exam Sheet</i> London Music Press | <i>The Complete Keyboard Player Book 2</i> | Wise |
| The Can Can Skye Boat Song | Fields of Gold | |
| Scarborough Fair* Dreamy D Chords | Scarborough Fair* | |
| Rippling A Notes Octave Octogenarian | <i>The Complete Keyboard Player The Beatles</i> | Wise |
| Making Big Sounds Lullaby | And I Love Her | |
| Joe Cool | | |
| <i>The Complete Keyboard Player Irish Songs</i> London Music Press | <i>The Complete Keyboard Player Anthology</i> | Wise |
| The Spinning Wheel | One Moment In Time | |
| The Irish Rover | | |
| <i>The Complete Keyboard Player Songbook 2</i> Wise | <i>Easiest Keyboard Player Children's Favourites</i> | Wise |
| Younger Than Springtime | Mah Na, Mah Na | |
| | My Grandfather's Clock | |

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

*either version.

Grade 1 Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		K8	1

Scalework (10 marks)

The examiner will request a representative sample of

SCALES (similar motion) ONE octave legato hands separately and together C major, G major, D major and A harmonic minor

ARPEGGIOS RH only ONE octave C, G, D majors and A minor

TONIC CHORDS LH only ALL inversions C, G, D majors and A minor

CONTRARY ONE octave C major

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any THREE pieces by different composers, ONE from each List:

List A

Grade One Keyboard Exam Sheet **LMP**

Shortning Bread

When The Saints Go Marching In

Roaming In The Gloaming

The Complete Keyboard Player Irish Songs **Wise Publications**

Forty Shades Of Green

The Black Velvet Band

The Complete Keyboard Player Classics **Wise Publications**

Theme from Violin Concerto

List B

Grade One Keyboard Exam Sheet **LMP**

Pasadoble E7 Chords

Heart to Heart

Easy Keyboard Library The Twenties **IMP**

Pennies From Heaven

When You're Smiling

The Complete Keyboard Player **Wise Publications**

Easy Listening

I'd Know

The Complete Keyboard Player Book 1 **Wise Publications**

The Winner Takes It All

I'm A Believer

Easy Keyboard Library The Twenties **IMP**

Sweet Georgia Brown

When You're Smiling

List C

Grade One Keyboard Exam Sheet **LMP**

Terrestrial Triplets

The Dark Forest

The Complete Keyboard Player Book 3 **Wise**

Reach

Can't Get You Out of My Head

The Complete Keyboard Player Pops 5 **Wise**

You Must Love Me

Book One. David Ledingham **DJL Publications**

Anthem

The Singing Waltz

Sunset On The Dee

Or

An own choice piece of comparable standard written in the last 25 years.

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

Musicianship Tests (10 Marks)

Test 1: To clap a rhythm in 2/4 time. 2 bars in length, played twice by the examiner.

Test 2: To identify any note in the arpeggio C/E/G/C', Middle C being given

Test 3: To echo a five-note phrase played twice by the examiner.

OR Composition (10 Marks)

Perform an own composition of about 8 bars in the key of C major. It should be balanced as an opening 4-bar phrase which forms a question and a 4-bar phrase that forms an answer.

Grade 2 Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	2

Scalework (10 marks)

The examiner will request a representative sample of

SCALES (similar motion) TWO octaves legato hands separately and together F major, A major; D, E and G harmonic minors

ARPEGGIOS RH only TWO octaves F and A majors; D, E and G minors

TONIC CHORDS LH only ALL inversions F and A majors; D, E and G minors

CONTRARY TWO octaves C major

CHROMATIC ONE octave hands separately beginning on D

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any THREE pieces by different composers, ONE from each List

List A

Grade Two Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**
Getting In The Scottish Spirit
Greensleeves

The Complete Keyboard Player Irish Songs **Wise**
Idj take You Home Again, Kathleen
Wild Colonial Boy

The Complete Keyboard Player Classics **Wise**
Melody in F
Scene from Swan Lake

List B

Grade Two Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**
Jericho

The Complete Keyboard Player Disney Songs **Wise**
Fortuosity

The Complete Keyboard Player Easy Listening **Wise**
If Not For You
Without You

The Complete Keyboard Player Children's Songs **Wise**
Nursery Rhyme Medley

The Complete Keyboard Player Book 4 **Wise**
House of The Rising Sun

List C

Grade Two Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**
Country E Flat Blues
Early Mist Rising
Mysterious Places

The Complete Keyboard Player Book 3 **Wise**
Angels

Book Two. David Ledingham **DJL Publications**
New Age

Book Three. David Ledingham **DJL Publications**
Catchy Cha Cha

Or

An own choice piece of comparable standard written in the last 25 years.

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

Musicianship Tests (10 Marks)

Test 4: To clap a rhythm in 2/4 time. 2 bars in length, played twice by the examiner.

Test 5: To identify any note C to G, played from C

Test 6: To hum, play or play a group of 5 or 6 notes played twice by the examiner, and to complete the phrase by adding **one** note

or Composition (10 Marks)



Perform an own composition of about 16 bars in the key of C, G or F major. It should be balanced as an opening 4-bar phrase which forms a question+, a 4-bar phrase that forms an answer+, a repeat of the opening 4-bar phrase, and a second answering+ phrase

Grade 3 Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	3

Scalework (10 marks)

The examiner will request a representative sample of

SCALES TWO octaves legato hands together B and E majors; C, F and B harmonic minors

ARPEGGIOS RH only TWO octaves B and E majors; C, F and B minors

TONIC CHORDS LH only ALL inversions B and E majors; C, F and B minors

CONTRARY TWO octaves E major and A minor

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any THREE pieces by different composers, ONE from each List

List A

Grade Three Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Sailors Hornpipe

Pomp and Circumstance

The Complete Keyboard Player Classics **Wise**

La Paloma

Radetzky March

Classics For Keyboard **London Music Press**

Theme from Symphony No. 5

The Complete Keyboard Player Irish Songs **Wise**

The Town I Loved So Well

List B

Grade Three Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Tender Moments

Summer Sunset

The Complete Keyboard Player Frank Sinatra **Wise**

The Girl From Ipanema

The Complete Keyboard Player Timeless Hits **Wise**

Eternal Flame

Tonight

Mrs Robinson

The Complete Keyboard Player Easy Listening **Wise**

What The World Needs Now

List C

Grade Three Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Innocence

A Day on the Beach

The Complete Keyboard Player Pops 5 **Wise**

Time To Say Goodbye

Book Three. David Ledingham **DJL Publications**

Euro Dance

Tango Nights

Or

An own choice piece of comparable standard written in the last 25 years.

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

Musicianship Tests (10 Marks)

Test 7: To clap a rhythm in 2/4 or 3/4 time, 2 bars, played twice by the examiner and identify the time as 2/4 or 3/4

Test 8: To identify any note(s) in the chords of C, G, or F, played from the root note.

Test 9: To hum, play or whistle a group of 5 or 6 notes played twice by the examiner, and then to complete the phrase by adding two or three notes.

OR Composition (10 Marks)

Perform an own composition in simple binary form in the key of C, G, F, D or B flat major.

Junior Bronze Medal in Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	JBM

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any three of the following pieces.

One of the Solos may be played from memory, but candidates will not be penalised if they do not do so.

Any one of the pieces listed for Grade 3

Circus Suite

London Music Press

The Grand Procession

Complete Keyboard Player Book 4

Wise Publications

The Wonder of You

Complete Keyboard Player Classics

Wise Publications

Prelude (Chopin)

Complete Keyboard Player Gershwin

Wise Publications

Rhapsody in Blue

Classics for Keyboard

London Music Press

Schubert: German Dance

Junior Jazz

London Music Press

Shed Be Coming Round the Mountain

Complete Keyboard Children's Songs

Wise Publications

Nursery Rhyme Medley

A Spoonful of Sugar

Complete Keyboard Player Greatest Hits

Wise Publications

Skye Boat Song

Complete Keyboard Player Chart Hits

Wise Publications

Black Coffee

It Feels So Good

Sing It Back

Plus a further own choice item of appropriate standard of the candidates selection not listed elsewhere in the syllabus (20 marks)

Scalework

There are no scale or arpeggio requirements for Medal examinations

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

Grade 4 Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	4

Scalework (10 marks)

The examiner will request a representative sample of

SCALES TWO octaves legato hands together B flat, E flat and A flat majors;

C sharp and G sharp harmonic minors

ARPEGGIOS RH only TWO octaves B flat, E flat and A flat majors; C sharp and G sharp minors

TONIC CHORDS LH only ALL inversions B flat, E flat and A flat majors; C sharp and G sharp minors

CONTRARY TWO octaves F major and D minor

CHROMATIC TWO octaves (similar motion) hands together beginning on F.

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any THREE pieces by different composers, ONE from each List:

List A

Grade 4 Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Bertie The Hot Bavarian Trickster

Trumpet Voluntary

The Complete Keyboard Player Irish Songs **Wise**

Danny Boy

The Complete Keyboard Player Classics **Wise**

Hungarian Dance

Air On The G String

Classics For Keyboard **London Music Press**

With Cat Like Tread

List B

Grade 4 Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

When Johnny Comes Marching Home

The Complete Keyboard Player Timeless Hits **Wise**

Here, There And Everywhere

The Complete Keyboard Player The Carpenters **Wise**

Goodbye To Love

The Complete Keyboard Player Easy Listening **Wise**

Wonderful Tonight

The Complete Keyboard Player Frank Sinatra **Wise**

The Lady Is A Tramp

The Complete Keyboard Player Gershwin **Wise**

Fascinating Rhythm

List C

Grade 4 Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Future Disco

Contemplation

The Complete Keyboard Player Chart Hits **Wise**

Iqon Outta Love

The Complete Keyboard Player Pops 5 **Wise**

Tell Him

Spice Up Your Life

Book Five. David Ledingham **DJL Publications**

Discogroove

Serious

Or

An own choice piece of comparable standard written in the last 25 years.

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

Musicianship Tests (10 Marks)

Test 10: To clap a rhythm in 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 time played twice by the examiner, to state the time and then to identify the melody as major or minor.

Test 11: To identify triads as major or minor and then to name the notes in them, the root being named by the examiner.

Test 12: To hum, play or whistle a group of notes- 2 bars - played by the examiner, and then to complete the melody by adding 4 or 5 notes.

or **Composition (10 Marks)**

Perform an own composition in simple binary form in the key of D or B flat major, including a modulation to a related key.

Junior Silver Medal in Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	JSM

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any three of the following pieces.

One of the Solos may be played from memory, but candidates will not be penalised if they do not do so.

Any one of the pieces listed for Grade 4

Complete Keyboard Player Irish Songs
Danny Boy (Londonderry Air)

Wise Publications

Complete Keyboard Player Pop Hits
Don't Know Why
Feel
Gravity
Leave Right Now

Wise Publications

Complete Keyboard Player 90s Love Songs
Lifted
What Can I Do?
You're Still the One
When I Need You
Can You feel The Love Tonight?

Wise Publications

The Complete Keyboard Player (Easy Listening) **Wise Publications** (available from Whitepublishng.co.uk)
If Not For You
It's Impossible
The First Time I Ever Saw Your Face
Try A Little Tenderness
The Look Of Love

Plus a further own choice item of appropriate standard of the candidates selection not listed elsewhere in the syllabus (20 marks)

Scalework

There are no scale or arpeggio requirements for Medal examinations

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)



Grade 5 Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	5

Scalework (10 marks)

The examiner will request a representative sample of

SCALES TWO octaves legato hands together D flat, F sharp majors; E flat, F sharp and B flat harmonic minors

ARPEGGIOS RH only TWO octaves D flat, F sharp majors; E flat, F sharp and B flat minors

TONIC CHORDS LH only ALL inversions D flat, F sharp majors; E flat, F sharp and B flat minors

CONTRARY TWO octaves G, D and A majors; E harmonic minor

CHROMATIC TWO octaves (similar motion) hands together beginning on any BLACK note

DOMINANT 7th ARPEGGIOS RH only ROOT position only TWO octaves in the keys of C, G and F

DOMINANT 7th CHORDS LH only ALL inversions in the keys of C, G and F

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any THREE pieces by different composers, ONE from each List:

List A

The Complete Keyboard Player Gershwin **Wise**

The Man I Love

Summertime

The Complete Keyboard Player Classics **Wise**

Theme from Symphony No.40

Four Romanian Dances **London Music Press**

No. 1 only

List B

Grade Five Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Bitter Lemons

The Complete Keyboard Player Songbook 6 **Wise**

She

The Complete Keyboard Player Frank Sinatra **Wise**

I've Got You Under My Skin

The Complete Keyboard Player Jazz and Blues **Wise**

Satin Doll

Classic Kern For Keyboard **London Music Press**

Smoke Gets In Your Eyes

List C

Grade Five Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Fervent Character

A Taste Of The Orient

Harbour Lights

The Cherub's Touch

The Complete Keyboard Player Timeless Hits **Wise**

Maybe I'm Amazed

Book Six. David Ledingham **DJL Publications**

Synth Rock

Or

An own choice piece of comparable standard written in the last 25 years.

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

Musicianship Tests (10 Marks)

Test 13: To clap a rhythm in 3/4, 4/4 or 6/8 time - 2 bars - played twice by the examiner, and to state the time, and then to say if the melody is in a major or minor key.

Test 14: To identify triads as major, minor, or diminished; and then to name the notes in them, the root note being named by the examiner.

Test 15: To hum, play or play a two bar phrase played twice by the examiner, and then to continue with an answering two bar phrase.

OR Composition (10 Marks)

Perform an own composition in simple ternary form in a key of up to and including 3 sharps or 3 flats, including a modulation to a related key.

Bronze Medal in Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	BM

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any three of the following pieces.

One of the Solos may be played from memory, but candidates will not be penalised if they do not do so.

Any one of the pieces listed for Grade 5

Seascape **London Music Press**
Last movement only

Steam Train Blues **London Music Press**
First movement only

Great Classics for Keyboard **London Music Press**
Alla Turca (Mozart)

Complete Keyboard Player Beatles **Wise Publications**
Hard Day's Night
Michelle

Complete Keyboard Player Scottish Songs **Wise Publications**
Scottish Jig Medley
The Gay Gordons

Complete Keyboard Player 90s Love Songs **Wise Publications**
I Love the Way You Love Me
Something Changed
Always
Stranded
My All

Complete Keyboard Player Book 4 **Wise Publications**
I Dreamed A Dream

Andrew Lloyd Webber for Electronic Keyboard **Really Useful Group**
Close Every Door to Me

Plus a further own choice item of appropriate standard of the candidates selection not listed elsewhere in the syllabus
(20 marks)

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

Pass mark 75



Grade 6 Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	6

Scalework (10 marks)

The examiner will request a representative sample of

SCALES TWO octaves hands together D flat, F sharp majors; E flat, F sharp and B flat harmonic minors; A, D, G and C melodic minors.

TWO octaves RH only: C major **in 3rds**; C major **in 6ths**.

ARPEGGIOS RH only TWO octaves: All minor keys

TONIC CHORDS LH only ALL inversions: All minor keys

CONTRARY TWO octaves: B major and G and C harmonic minors

CHROMATIC TWO octaves (similar motion) hands together beginning on any WHITE note

DOMINANT 7th ARPEGGIOS RH only ROOT position only TWO octaves in the keys of D and A majors

DOMINANT 7th CHORDS LH only ALL inversions in the keys of D and A majors

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any THREE pieces by different composers, one taken from each list :

List A

Grade 6 Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Schumann: *The Happy Farmer*
Traumerei

arr. Pashley: Mordants on a *Theme of Paganini*

Delibes: *Valse Lente* from *Coppelia*

Bach/Gounod: *Ave Maria*

or

your own adaptation of any piano piece from

Tunes You've Always Wanted To Play

from *Easy Classics For Piano* published by **Chester Music**

or

an adaptation* of any piano piece (or piano transcription) drawn from Classical/Light Classical repertoire. *This must have a key signature of at least one sharp or one flat; last no more than TWO minutes and must NOT have appeared in this syllabus at an earlier grade.*

Marks will be deducted if the examiner considers the chosen piece to be below an appropriate standard of difficulty for the exam and should be comparable with other pieces for the grade.

List B

Grade 6 Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Mango Chutney

The Punch and Judy Show

The Complete Keyboard Player The Beatles **Wise**

Penny Lane

The Complete Keyboard Player Easy Listening **Wise**
My Kind Of Girl

List B continued..

Classic Kern For Keyboard **London Music Press**

I Won't Dance

The Complete Keyboard Player Abba **Wise**

Thank You For The Music

Dancing Queen

List C

Grade 6 Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

City Life

The Savvy Saxophones

The Complete Keyboard Player Timeless Hits **Wise**

Copacabana

The Complete Keyboard Anthology or Greatest Hits **Wise**

Another day In Paradise

How Am I Supposed

The Complete Keyboard Player Chart Hits **Wise**

Irresistible

Tribe: Dance Suite **London Music Press**

Movements 2 and 3

Or

An own choice piece of comparable standard written in the last 25 years.

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

Musicianship Tests (10 Marks)

Test 16: To clap a rhythm in 4/4, 6/8, or 9/8 time - 2 or 3 bars, played twice by the examiner, to state the time and then to identify whether the phrase is in a major or minor key.

Test 17: To identify any type of triad, and then to name the notes in them, the root note having been named by the examiner.

Test 18: To hum, play or whistle 3 or 4 bars played twice by the examiner, and then to continue by adding an answering phrase.

Test 19: To identify a cadence as Perfect or Plagal.

or Composition (10 Marks)

Perform an own composition in variation form to the theme of *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* or your own choice of theme. It should have balanced phrases and move to at least two related keys.

*** See notes on Piano Adaptations on page 7.**

Silver Medal in Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	SM

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any three of the following pieces.

One of the Solos may be played from memory, but candidates will not be penalised if they do not do so.

Any one of the pieces listed for Grade 6

Complete Keyboard Player Greatest Hits **Wise**

Rocket Man
A Whole New World
A Woman in Love
America
Black Velvet

Complete Keyboard Player Chart Hits of the 90s **Wise**

The Circle of Life
Father and Son

Complete Keyboard Player Abba **Wise**

Mamma Mia

Plus A short medley based on the works of Abba or Boyzone or The Beatles or The Carpenters or The Corrs or Coldplay (20 marks)

Scalework

There are no scale or arpeggio requirements for Medal examinations

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)



Grade 7 Keyboard Playing

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	7

Scalework (10 marks)

Show on entry form as

The examiner will request a representative sample of

SCALES TWO octaves hands together *legato* and *staccato*

Major and minor keys (both harmonic and melodic) in the following keys:-
C, D, E, F sharp, B flat, D flat / C sharp

ARPEGGIOS RH only TWO octaves in ALL the above keys *legato* only

TONIC CHORDS LH only ALL inversions in ALL the above keys *legato* only

CONTRARY TWO octaves *legato* only All major keys from any BLACK note

CHROMATIC CONTRARY TWO octaves beginning on D and A flat

DOMINANT 7th ARPEGGIOS RH only ROOT position only TWO octaves in the keys of B flat, E flat and E

DOMINANT 7th CHORDS LH only ALL inversions in the keys of B flat, E flat and E

DIMINISHED 7th ARPEGGIOS RH only TWO octaves beginning on B

DIMINISHED 7th Chords LH only ALL inversions beginning on B

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any THREE pieces by different composers, one taken from each list:

List A

Grade Seven Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Dvorak: Humoresque

Mozart: Adagio from Clarinet Concerto

Tribe: Dance Suite **London Music Press**

Movement One only; Jocul cu Baka

Four Romanian Dances **London Music Press**

All movements

or your own adaptation for keyboard of any piano piece from:-

More Tunes You've Always Wanted To Play **Chester Music**

or *All The Tunes You've Ever Wanted To Play* **Chester Music**

or an adaptation* of any piano piece (or piano transcription)

drawn from Classical/Light Classical repertoire. *This must last*

have a key signature of at least two sharps or two flats; last no

more than THREE minutes and must NOT have appeared in

this syllabus at an earlier grade. Marks will be deducted if the

examiner considers the chosen piece to be below an

appropriate standard of difficulty for the exam and

should be comparable with other pieces for the grade.

List B

Grade Seven Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Pashley: Shall We Dance

The Complete Keyboard Player Jazz and Blues **Wise**

Moonglow

Tuxedo Junction

It's A Raggy Waltz

List B continued..

The Complete Keyboard Player Dinner Jazz **Wise**

Lullaby Of Birdland

Fever

The Nearness Of You

Classic Kern For Keyboard **London Music Press**

The Folks Who Live On The Hill

List C

Grade Seven Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Pashley: Beautiful Things

Pashley: Phantasmagorical

The Complete Keyboard Player Timeless Hits **Wise**

Maybe I'm Amazed

Where Is The Love?

101 No.1 Hits For Buskers **Music Sales**

Uptown Girl

Killing Me Softly

The Complete Keyboard Player **Wise**

Richard Clayderman

La Fiancee Imaginaire

Or

An own choice piece of comparable standard written in the last 25 years.

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

Musicianship Tests (10 Marks)

Test 20: To clap a rhythm in 3/4, 6/8, 9/8 or 5/4 time, for 3 or 4 bars, played twice by the examiner, to identify the time and then to identify whether the phrase is in a major or minor key.

Test 21: To hum, play or play a group of 3 or 4 bars, played twice by the examiner, and then to complete by adding an answering phrase of 3 or 4 bars.

Test 22: To identify triads, played in any position, and then to name the notes in them, the root note being given by the examiner.

Test 23: To identify a cadence as Perfect or Interrupted.

Test 24: To name and play or play the notes in any supertonic triad (major keys only), the Tonic chord having been played and named by the examiner.

or Composition (10 Marks)

Perform an own composition in Sonata form. It should have balanced phrases and move to at least two related keys.

* See notes on Piano Adaptations on page 7.

Gold Medal in Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	GM

Entry to the Gold Medal is restricted to those who have already passed the Silver Medal in Keyboard Playing.

Candidates are to present a balanced programme showing a range of styles of their own choice, in consultation with their teacher. There should be a total of five pieces that do not appear elsewhere in the syllabus and are of appropriate standard for this level of examination. The programme is to be introduced as to a live audience and the examiner will expect to be treated as such. Introductions should therefore be informative but also show some variety of approach.

There are no other tests for this examination and the marks are as follows:

Solo recital (90 marks)

Discussion of the work performed (10 marks)



Grade 8 Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	8

Scalework (10 marks)

The examiner will request a representative sample of

SCALES (similar motion) TWO octaves hands together *legato* and *staccato*

Major and minor keys (both harmonic and melodic) in the following keys:- G, A, B, A flat/G sharp, E flat, F

ARPEGGIOS RH only TWO octaves in ALL the above keys *legato* only

TONIC CHORDS LH only ALL inversions in ALL the above keys *legato* only

CONTRARY TWO octaves *legato* only All major keys from any WHITE note

CHROMATIC CONTRARY TWO octaves beginning on C and F sharp (unison)

DOMINANT 7th ARPEGGIOS RH only ROOT position only TWO octaves in the keys of A flat, D flat, F sharp and B

DOMINANT 7th CHORDS LH only ALL inversions in the keys of A flat, D flat, F sharp and B

DIMINISHED 7th ARPEGGIOS RH only TWO octaves beginning on A and C sharp

DIMINISHED CHORDS LH only ALL inversions beginning on A and C sharp

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any THREE pieces by different composers, one taken from each list :

List A

Grade 8 Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Chanson De Matin

Medley from *Carmen*

Sonatina

Pavane

Ritual Fire Dance

or your own adaptation for keyboard of any piano piece from:-

More Tunes You've Ever Wanted To Play **Chester**

or *More of All The Tunes You've Ever Wanted To Play* **Chester**

or an adaptation (see notes on page 7) of any piano piece (or piano transcription) drawn from Classical/Light Classical repertoire.

This must have a key signature of at least three sharps or three flats; last no more than THREE minutes and must NOT have appeared in this syllabus at an earlier grade. Marks will be deducted if the examiner considers the chosen piece to be below an appropriate standard of difficulty for the exam and should be comparable with other pieces for the grade.

List B

Grade 8 Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Variations on a Negro Spiritual

Dry Bones

The Complete Keyboard Player Dinner Jazz **Wise**

Misty

The Lonesome Road

The Complete Keyboard Player Jazz And Blues **Wise**

In A Sentimental Mood

The Complete Keyboard Player Book 4 **Wise**

Body And Soul

Ballroom Favourites 2 **Faber**

Medley No.13 The Roaring Twenties

Medley No.3 In The Mood For Love

List C

Grade 8 Keyboard Exam Sheet **London Music Press**

Pashley: Hawaiian Sunset

Tribe. Dance Suite.

Movement 1 - Whitecross Hornpipe

& movement 2 - Nuthatch Reel

Tribe: *Tricante*

Life Thru A Lens **Faber**

Let Me Entertain You

Angels

The Very Best of Elton John **Faber**

Upn Still Standing

Sad Songs Say So Much

Or An own choice piece of comparable standard written in the last 25 years.

Candidates for Grade 8 must pass VCM Grade IV Theory of Music (or hold an exemption certificate) before the Grade 8 certificate is awarded.

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

Either Musicianship Tests (10 marks)

Test 25: To clap a rhythm in 2/2, 6/8, 5/4, or 7/8 time - four bars played twice by the examiner, to

identify the time-signature, and to say if the melody is in a major or minor key.

Test 26: To hum, play or play a 4-bar phrase played twice by the examiner, and then continue for 4 further bars with an answering phrase, not necessarily in sequence.

Test 27: To identify triads as major, minor, diminished or augmented, and to name the notes in them, the root note being given by the examiner.

Test 20: To identify a cadence as Perfect or Imperfect.

Test 29: To name the notes in a mediant triad in a major key, and the tonic chords having been played and named by the examiner.

Or Own Composition (10 marks)

Perform an own composition in Rondo form. It should have balanced phrases and move to at least two related keys.

Platinum Medal in Keyboard Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		KB	PM

Candidates are to present a balanced programme showing a range of styles of their own choice, in consultation with their teacher. There should be a total of five pieces that do not appear elsewhere in the syllabus and are of appropriate standard for examination.

At least three composers of different nationalities should be represented.

Allowing for the development of the instrument candidates should ensure a balanced spread of historical periods/styles in their programmes.

One piece must be by a contemporary composer of the last 40 years.

The programme is to be introduced as to a live audience and examiners will expect to be treated as such. Introductions should therefore be informative but also show some variety of approach.

Solo recital (90 marks)

Discussion of the work performed (10 marks)

Pass mark 75



DIPLOMAS

Successful candidates in Diploma examinations receive an A3-sized diploma of a design little changed from 1890, along with the examiner's report and an authorisation to purchase the appropriate academical robes.

All correspondence and payment for academical robes must be addressed directly to the official Robemakers Knights of Castle Cary, Knights Yard, Castle Cary, BA7 7AW United Kingdom.

Robes

Diploma (DipVCM):

A black gown of bachelors style and rigid black square hat with tassel.

Associate (AVCM, AMusVCM):

A hood of Oxford simple shape in royal blue lined light blue, a black gown of Cambridge bachelor style with ½ inch blue ribbon on the facings and rigid black square hat with tassel.

Licentiate (LVCM, LMusVCM):

A hood of Oxford simple shape in royal blue lined scarlet, a black gown of Cambridge bachelor style with ½ inch of scarlet ribbon on the facings and rigid black square hat with tassel.

Fellowship (FVCM):

A hood of Oxford simple shape in royal blue lined scarlet edged with white binding, a black gown of Cambridge bachelor style with 1 inch of scarlet ribbon on the facings and rigid black square hat with tassel.

Diploma (DipVCM) in Keyboard Playing

Entry should be made on pink diploma entry form. This diploma is available to candidates of any age. Successful candidates receive a diploma and are entitled to wear the appropriate academical robes.

PAPERWORK

Candidates for DipVCM must pass Victoria College of Music Grade V Theory of Music before the Diploma certificate is awarded. Candidates who can produce evidence of having passed GCSE in Music or equivalent may apply for exemption from the Theory requirement.

Part One Performance (80 marks)

To Play **Two Solos** drawn from the Associate lists. In the case of a major work only one movement is required.

To Play **One Solo** drawn from the Grade 8 List

To Play **One Own Choice** piece of a suitable standard which may be an own composition.

Part Two Sight Reading (10 marks)

Candidates are required to perform and answer questions on an unseen test after a few moments perusal.

Questions (10 marks)

Pass mark 75; with Honours 85

ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA (AVCM) SYLLABUS ONE IN ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD PLAYING

This is a Performer's Diploma and a high standard of competence will be expected.

Candidates must pass, or have passed, VCM Grade V Theory of Music examination before the Diploma is awarded.

Candidates who can produce evidence of having passed GCSE in Music or equivalent may apply for exemption from the Theory requirement, provided this information is given at the time of entry.

Scalework (20 marks)

The examiner will request a representative sample of

SCALES a THIRD APART (similar motion) TWO octaves hands together in ALL MAJOR keys *legato*

SCALES in DOUBLE THIRDS RH only TWO octaves in the keys of C G D A E B majors

CONTRARY TWO octaves - ALL MAJOR KEYS *legato* only

CHROMATIC CONTRARY TWO octaves beginning on E (unison,) B flat (unison), A and E flat (unison)

PENTATONIC SCALES RH only TWO octaves in the keys of C F and G

BLUES SCALES RH only TWO octaves starting on the notes C G D A E and B

DOMINANT 7th ARPEGGIOS RH only ROOT position only TWO octaves in ALL keys

DOMINANT 7th CHORDS LH only ALL inversions in ALL keys

DIMINISHED 7th ARPEGGIOS RH only TWO octaves beginning on ANY note

DIMINISHED 7th CHORDS LH only ALL inversions beginning on ANY note

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

Candidates must complete ALL THREE sections.

Candidates should demonstrate competent use of keyboard functions and facilities, making use of voice changes, rhythm changes and dynamics. The use of a floppy disc or an SD card to store keyboard settings and the use of a foot switch to manipulate and change voices is acceptable if available. The use of an expression pedal to vary dynamics is also recommended.

Section One

To play one of the following:

Berlioz	Hungarian March from <i>Damnation Of Faust</i>	London Music Press
Grieg	Morning Mood in <i>Great Keyboard Classics</i>	London Music Press
Haydn	Divertimento in <i>Great Keyboard Classics</i>	London Music Press

Section Two

To devise and play an own medley drawn from the Classics or Popular Music.

The medley should have a key signature of at least three sharps or flats and include at least one modulation. It should include a minimum of three tunes; an introduction; suitable links and a coda/codetta drawing on the musical material of the music performed. A time limit of three minutes is sufficient.

Section Three

An adaptation* for keyboard of any piano piece from:-

More Tunes You've Ever Wanted To Play **Chester**

or *More of All The Tunes You've Ever Wanted To Play* **Chester**

or an adaptation for keyboard of any piano piece (or piano transcription) drawn from Classical/Light Classical repertoire

or a second piece from Section Two

or an own composition of standard appropriate for this level of Diploma

The adaptation should last no more than THREE minutes and must NOT have appeared in this syllabus at an earlier grade. It should be comparable with other pieces for the grade. Marks will be deducted if the examiner considers the chosen piece to be below an appropriate standard of difficulty for the exam. Candidates should be reading from a conventional piano score. This may be annotated in any way to aid performance.

Or An own composition of appropriate standard to the examination.

Questions (10 marks)

To answer questions on:

- the construction of intervals, scales, arpeggios and chords;
- the resources of the keyboard;
- the pieces presented at the examination;
- the keyboard repertoire in general.

*** See notes on Piano Adaptations on page 7.**

Sight Reading (10 marks)

ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA (A.V.C.M.) SYLLABUS TWO IN ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD PLAYING

As outlined under Syllabus 1 above, except that, instead of Scales, Arpeggios and Chords, an own choice solo of a similar standard to the pieces listed in Section 2 is to be offered in addition.

Theory requirements for Diplomas

- Candidates for DipVCM and Associate (Syllabus 1, 2 or 3) must pass VCM Grade V Theory of Music before the diploma is awarded.
- Candidates for Licentiate (Syllabus 1, 2 or 3) must pass VCM Grade VI Theory of Music before the diploma is awarded.
- There are no Theory requirements for Fellowship (Syllabus 1 or 2)
- Whilst it is sensible to complete the Theory requirement in advance, or at the same session as the Practical examination, it is not essential to do so. Candidates are at liberty to sit the Theory exam later but will not be awarded the diploma until the Theory requirement is fulfilled.

Exemptions

- Candidates who have passed Theory examinations of other Boards, or who have passed GCSE in Music, or equivalents; may submit evidence (photocopies are acceptable, as are emailed scanned copies) of their existing qualifications and request exemption from the Theory Grade V requirement. If exemption is granted, a certificate to that effect will be issued and VCM records noted accordingly.
- For a Grade VI Theory exemption, candidates must submit evidence of having passed GCE Advanced Level Music, or equivalent.
- Candidates with superior qualifications, such as a recognised Degree in Music, may also apply for exemption from Theory requirements.
- The importance of teaching Theory of Music alongside practical subjects in a structured graded basis should be emphasised and exemptions from Theory requirements are intended only to assist candidates who are facing many examinations in a short period.

ASSOCIATE TEACHING DIPLOMA (AVCM(TD.))

SYLLABUS THREE

IN TEACHING OF ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD PLAYING

This is an initial Teacher's Diploma for those with some experience of teaching at the lower grades and who intend to study further for teaching qualifications

Candidates must submit with their entry ONE of the following:

(a) A Folio showing work and notes for a 10-week term of lessons for ONE of these categories:

1. The young beginner
2. The teenage beginner
3. The adult beginner

(b) A 25 minute DVD of themselves teaching any pupil at any level from Grade 1 to Grade 5. Approximately 15 minutes should show work on at least one repertoire or examination piece, and approximately 10 minutes should work on TWO other aspects of Teaching the instrument, such as Sight Reading, Aural Training, Scales/ Arpeggios etc.

PERFORMING SECTION (40 Marks)

To play TWO pieces by DIFFERENT composers, from the AVCM Syllabus I list (one of which may be an own choice)

TEACHING SECTION (50 Marks)

The candidate is to present TWO contrasted pieces by DIFFERENT composers from the VCM Grade Examination lists for this instrument, as follows

ONE piece from the Grade 1-3 lists;

ONE piece from Grades 4-5.

The candidate must be able to demonstrate/discuss the teaching of these pieces to examination readiness, to explain the difficulties likely to be encountered by the pupil, and to suggest ways of overcoming these problems.

The examiner may request extracts or complete performances of the chosen pieces, and the candidate's playing of them WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT when arriving at the mark for this section.

The candidate must be able to demonstrate/discuss the teaching of Scalework as set for up to Grade 5.

The examiner may also play extracts from the chosen pieces, with errors for the candidate to identify and correct, and questions may also be asked on the teaching of the pieces presented in the PERFORMING SECTION, on teaching matters generally, points arising from the Folio/DVD, and such aspects of an unseen piece, as tempo, phrasing, expression marks, fingering etc.

SIGHT READING (10 Marks)

LICENTIATE DIPLOMA (LVCM) SYLLABUS ONE IN ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD PLAYING

This is a Performing Diploma. Candidates must be Associates of the College, though not necessarily in Keyboard Playing. In addition, candidates must pass, or have passed, VCM Grade VI Theory of Music examination.

Scalework (20 marks)

The examiner will request a representative sample of

DOUBLE OCTAVE SCALES (similar motion) in C major and C minor (both forms) TWO octaves. ALL other MAJOR and MINOR KEYS (both forms) ONE octave.

SCALES a THIRD APART (similar motion) in ALL major and Harmonic minor keys TWO octaves *legato* hands together.

SCALES in DOUBLE THIRDS RH ONLY TWO octaves in the keys of A flat, F, D flat, F sharp and D and C harmonic minors.

CONTRARY TWO octaves *legato* only - ALL harmonic minors

CHROMATIC SCALE in MINOR THIRDS RH only beginning on A sharp / C sharp

CHROMATIC CONTRARY TWO octaves beginning on G (unison), B and F (unison)

PENTATONIC SCALES RH only TWO octaves in the keys of A, E and B

BLUES SCALES RH only starting on the notes F, B flat, E flat, A flat and D flat.

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

Candidates must complete ALL FIVE sections.

Candidates should demonstrate competent use of keyboard functions and facilities, making use of voice changes, rhythm changes and dynamics. The use of a floppy disc or an SD card to store keyboard settings and the use of a foot switch to manipulate and change voices is acceptable if available. The use of an expression pedal to vary dynamics is also recommended.

Section One

To play one of the following:

Bach Toccata in D minor **London Music Press**

Joplin The Entertainer **London Music Press**

Bach Badinerie arr. Tribe **London Music Press**

Bartok An Evening in a Village **London Music Press**

or

An adaptation for keyboard of any piano piece from:-

More of All The Tunes You've Ever Wanted To Play **Chester**

or Even More of All The Tunes You've Ever Wanted To Play **Chester**

or

an adaptation of any piano piece (or piano transcription) drawn from Classical/Light repertoire.

The adaptation must last no more than THREE minutes and must NOT have appeared in this syllabus at an earlier grade. It should be comparable with other pieces for the grade. Marks may be deducted if the examiner considers the chosen piece to be below an appropriate standard of difficulty for the exam.

Section Two

A medley which incorporates one piece from each of the following:

(a) the Baroque Era

(b) the Classical Era

(c) the Romantic Era

(d) Popular and Jazz repertoire from the 20th century onwards

Candidates should give a short introductory talk before playing the medley, giving details of the composers and historical information about the pieces included. Examiners will expect to be treated as an audience and addressed accordingly.

Introductions should be interesting and show some variety. The medley should have a key signature of at least three sharps or flats and include at least two modulations. It should include an introduction; suitable links and a coda/codetta drawing on the musical material of the music performed. There should be some variation of tempi. A time limit of three minutes is sufficient.

Section Three

EITHER a second solo from Section One

Or

an own composition written in standard notation (Treble and Bass Clef). The choice of form is to be chosen by the candidate but must be stated on the piece, must include examples of syncopation and last no more than three minutes.

A copy must be provided for the examiner. The candidate will be required to answer questions on the composition submitted.

Questions (10 marks)

To answer questions on

(a) the construction of intervals, scales, arpeggios and chords;

(b) the resources of the keyboard;

(c) the pieces presented at examination;

(d) Keyboard repertoire in general.

LICENTIATE DIPLOMA (LVCM) SYLLABUS TWO IN ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD PLAYING

As outlined under Syllabus One above, except that, instead of scales and arpeggios, an own choice solo of a similar standard to the pieces listed in Section 2 is to be offered in addition.

LICENTIATE TEACHING DIPLOMA (LVCM(TD)) SYLLABUS THREE IN ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD PLAYING

Candidates must submit with their entry a Dissertation or DVD as in the AVCM(TD) Syllabus, except the Dissertation must be 1500-2000 words in length (excluding topics set for AVCM (TD)), and the DVD should be about 30 minutes in length, showing about 20 minutes work on a piece of at least Grade 6 level, and about ten minutes on two other aspects of Teaching of this instrument.

PERFORMANCE SECTION (40 Marks)

To play TWO pieces by DIFFERENT composers, from the LVCM Syllabus I list (one of which may be an own choice)

TEACHING SECTION (50 Marks)

The candidate is to present TWO contrasted pieces by DIFFERENT composers from the VCM Grade Examination lists for this instrument, as follows

ONE piece from the Grade 6-7 lists;

ONE piece from Grade 8.

The candidate must be able to demonstrate/discuss the teaching of these pieces to examination readiness, to explain the difficulties likely to be encountered by the pupil, and to suggest ways of overcoming these problems.

The examiner may request extracts or complete performances of the chosen pieces, and the candidates playing of them WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT when arriving at the mark for this section.

The candidate must be able to demonstrate/discuss the teaching of Scalework as set for up to Grade 8.

SIGHT READING (10 Marks)

FELLOWSHIP DIPLOMA (FVCM) SYLLABUS ONE IN ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD PLAYING

Candidates must be Licentiates of the College in Keyboard Playing unless it has been agreed in advance that direct entry is appropriate by virtue of previous qualifications. There is no Theory requirement for this examination.

Candidates must present a balanced programme of their own choice of five solos. The standard of difficulty should be suited to this level of examination.

Candidates should be able to introduce their programme as though to a live audience.

There are no other tests for this examination and the marks are as follows:

Solo recital (90 marks)

Discussion of the work performed (10 marks)

FELLOWSHIP TEACHING DIPLOMA (FVCM(TD)) SYLLABUS TWO IN ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD PLAYING

This is a Teacher's Diploma. Candidates must be Licentiates of the College in Keyboard Playing unless it has been agreed in advance that direct entry is appropriate by virtue of previous qualifications. I

Candidates must submit with their entry a Dissertation or DVD as in the LVCM (TD) Syllabus, except that the dissertation must be 3500-5000 words in length (excluding topics set for AVCM (TD) or material already submitted for LVCM (TD), and the DVD should be about 40 minutes in length, showing about 25 minutes work on a piece of at least DipVCM/AVCM level, and about 15 minutes on two other aspects of the teaching of this instrument.

PERFORMANCE SECTION (40 Marks)

To play TWO contrasting pieces, of a standard commensurate with the Fellowship examination lasting approximately 20 minutes

TEACHING SECTION (50 Marks)

The candidate is to present TWO contrasted pieces by DIFFERENT composers from the VCM Grade Examinations for this instrument, as follows:

ONE piece from the Grade 8 Syllabus

ONE piece from the AVCM , or LVCM Syllabuses.

The candidate must be able to demonstrate/discuss the teaching of these pieces to examination readiness, to explain the difficulties likely to be encountered by the pupil, and to suggest ways of overcoming these problems.

The examiner may request extracts or complete performances of the chosen pieces, and the candidate's playing of them WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT when arriving at the mark for this section.

SIGHT READING (10 Marks)

LONDON MUSIC PRESS

the College's own in-house publisher.

LMP exists to provide an inexpensive method for candidates to obtain set pieces for examinations at economical prices. All LMP publications are guaranteed to remain available in print for the duration of the syllabus

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THE TUTOR BOOKS



IN KEYBOARD PLAYING

BY CLAIRE PASHLEY

Victoria College of Music Tutor Books offer an exciting advance in the teaching of Electronic Keyboard playing. They integrate musical awareness, creativity and technical development with the VCM syllabus.

Travelling through lesson plans, teachers and pupils work together on an attractive selection of new tunes and arrangements that help improve playing competence and confidence. Written Theory exercises are also included designed specifically for keyboard players.

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Activities are specifically designed to make learning fun with motivational tick charts included at the end of each lesson. A page is also included for teacher and pupils to write in their own comments.

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