

GRADE 1

THREE PIECES: one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, **A, B and C:**

	COMPOSER	PIECE / WORK / ARRANGER	PUBLICATION (PUBLISHER)
A	1 Bernard Andrès	No.1 (from <i>Asters</i>)	Bernard Andrès: <i>Asters</i> (Hamelte)
	2 Anon. Bohemian	The Jolly Peasant, arr. Paret	First Harp Book (G. Schirmer)
	3 Betty Paret	Rondo	First Harp Book (G. Schirmer)
	4 Anon. Italian	O Sanctissima, arr. Milligan	Fun from the First! Vol. 2 (Lyon & Healy)
	5 Grandjany	Little Waltz	Grandjany & Weidensaul: <i>First-Grade Pieces for Harp</i> (Carl Fischer)
	6 Weidensaul	Midnight Stars	Grandjany & Weidensaul: <i>First-Grade Pieces for Harp</i> (Carl Fischer)
	7 Weidensaul	Barn Dance Memory	Grandjany & Weidensaul: <i>First-Grade Pieces for Harp</i> (Carl Fischer)
	8 Soler	Allegretto, arr. Schlomovitz	Beginner's Harp Book, 1 (Salvi)
B	1 Anon. Chinese	The Purple Bamboo, arr. Milligan <i>♯ in glissandi may be played as ♯♯</i>	Fun from the First! Vol. 2 (Lyon & Healy)
	2 Fiona Clifton-Welker	Charlotte in Spring (from <i>Harping On</i> , Book 1)	Fiona Clifton-Welker: <i>Harping On</i> , Book 1 (Clifton-Welker)
	3 Bonnie Goodrich	Azaleas in Houston (from <i>A Bouquet for Young Harpists</i>)	Bonnie Goodrich: <i>A Bouquet for Young Harpists</i> (Hal Leonard)
	4 Bonnie Goodrich	Japanese Lanterns (from <i>A Bouquet for Young Harpists</i>)	Bonnie Goodrich: <i>A Bouquet for Young Harpists</i> (Hal Leonard)
	5 arr. Meinir Heulyñ	Three Blind Mice	12 Easy Nursery Tunes for Young Harpists (Alaw)
	6 Claire Jones & Chris Marshall	Stars (from <i>Six Pieces for Harp</i>)	Claire Jones & Chris Marshall: <i>Six Pieces for Harp</i> (Marshall Jones Music)
	7 Anne Macdearmid	Lullaby	Comunn na Clarsaich: Folio 18 (Clarsach Society)
	8 Anne Macdearmid	The Merry-go-Round	Comunn na Clarsaich: Folio 18 (Clarsach Society)
	9 David Watkins	Berceuse (No.2 from <i>Six Pieces</i>)	David Watkins: <i>Six Pieces</i> (Boosey & Hawkes)
C	1 Dominig Bouchaud	Coquillages (Shells)	Harpe d'or (Billaudot)
	2 Dominig Bouchaud	A pas de fourmis (Ant's Steps)	Harpe d'or (Billaudot)
	3 Dominig Bouchaud	La balle (The Ball)	Harpe d'or (Billaudot)
	4 van Campen	Etude No.2 (from <i>Tutor for the Celtic Harp</i> , Vol. 1)	van Campen: <i>Tutor for the Celtic Harp</i> , Vol. 1 (Harmonia)
	5 van Campen	Etude No.5 (from <i>Tutor for the Celtic Harp</i> , Vol. 1)	van Campen: <i>Tutor for the Celtic Harp</i> , Vol. 1 (Harmonia)
	6 Skaila Kanga	Sound the Trumpets (No. 8 from <i>Minstrel's Gallery</i>)	Skaila Kanga: <i>Minstrel's Gallery</i> (Maruka Music)
	7 Skaila Kanga	The Glittering Ballroom (No.10 from <i>Minstrel's Gallery</i>)	Skaila Kanga: <i>Minstrel's Gallery</i> (Maruka Music)
	8 Pozzoli	1st Grade: No.2 (from <i>65 piccoli studi facili e progressivi</i>)	P.91 from M. Grossi: <i>Metodo per arpa</i> (Ricordi)
	9 Pozzoli	1st Grade: No.3 (from <i>65 piccoli studi facili e progressivi</i>)	P.91 from M. Grossi: <i>Metodo per arpa</i> (Ricordi)
	10 Pozzoli	1st Grade: No.10 (from <i>65 piccoli studi facili e progressivi</i>)	P.97 from M. Grossi: <i>Metodo per arpa</i> (Ricordi)
	11 Tournier	Les tierces	Les plaisirs de la harpe, Vol. 1 (Lemoine)

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS: from memory; for further details see pages 3–4

	RANGE	REQUIREMENTS
SCALES		
C, G, D, F, B \flat majors	1 oct.	hands separately
ARPEGGIOS		
C, G, D, F, B \flat majors	1 oct.	root position; hands separately

SIGHT-READING: a short piece of previously unseen music; for further details see page 4

AURAL TESTS: administered by the examiner from the piano; for further details see pages 42 & 43

HARP GRADES: requirements and information

These syllabuses are valid from 2019 until further notice.

This section provides a summary of the most important points that teachers and candidates need to know when taking ABRSM graded harp exams. Further details, as well as administrative information relating to the exams, are given in ABRSM's Exam Regulations (available at www.abrsm.org/examregulations) which should be read before an exam booking is made.

Changes in 2019

- ABRSM now offers two distinct qualifications for harp – Harp (Pedal) and Harp (Non-pedal).
- The specific instrument must be indicated when booking an exam. This instrument will then appear on mark forms and certificates.
- For clarity and ease of use, the syllabus requirements have been separated for each instrument and presented in a new format.
- Pieces have not changed from the preceding syllabus except for the replacement of a small number of pieces, affecting Grade 1 (both harps), Grade 2 (both harps) and Grade 8 (non-pedal harp). Further details are available at www.abrsm.org/syllabuscorrections. Candidates who have been preparing any of the replaced pieces can play them in their exam until 31 December 2019 worldwide.
- All other requirements – Scales and arpeggios, Sight-reading and Aural tests – are the same as in the preceding syllabus.
- Some key exam information has been updated and clarified, particularly in relation to page-turns.
- Information about ABRSM's post-Grade 8 qualifications for harp is also included.
- This syllabus document is available online only and not in a printed booklet.

Entering for an exam

Eligibility: There are eight grades of exam for each instrument and candidates may be entered for any grade irrespective of age and without previously having taken any other grade on the same instrument. Candidates for a Grade 6, 7 or 8 exam must already have passed ABRSM Grade 5 (or above) in Music Theory, Practical Musicianship or a solo Jazz instrument; for full details, including a list of accepted alternatives, see www.abrsm.org/prerequisite.

Access: ABRSM endeavours to make its exams as accessible as possible to all candidates, regardless of sensory impairments, learning difficulties or particular physical needs. There is a range of alternative tests and formats as well as sets of guidelines for candidates with particular access needs (see www.abrsm.org/specificneeds). Where a candidate's needs are not covered by the guidelines, each case is considered on an individual basis. Further information is available from the Access Co-ordinator (accesscoordinator@abrsm.ac.uk).

Exam booking: Details of exam dates, locations, fees and how to book an exam are available online at www.abrsm.org/exambooking.

Instruments

Pedal harp: The requirements from Grade 4 are generally for instruments with a minimum of 46 strings.

Non-pedal harp: The requirements from Grade 3 are for instruments with E \flat tuning and with a minimum of 34 strings (pitch of bottom string: C two octaves below middle C, or lower). At Grades 1 and 2, three tuning groups (C tuning, E \flat tuning and F tuning) are provided for.

Elements of the exam

All ABRSM graded harp exams comprise the following elements: three Pieces; Scales and arpeggios; Sight-reading; and Aural tests. In all grades, marks are allocated as follows:

Pieces: 1	30
2	30
3	30
Scales and arpeggios	21
Sight-reading	21
Aural tests	18
Total	150

Marking scheme: 100 marks are required for a Pass, 120 for a Merit and 130 for a Distinction. A Pass in each individual section is not required to pass overall. See pp. 52–53 for the marking criteria used by examiners.

Pieces

Programme planning: Candidates must choose one piece from each of the three lists (A, B and C) in each grade. In the exam, they should inform the examiner which pieces they are performing, and they are welcome to use the form on p. 54 for this purpose.

Every effort has been made to ensure the syllabus lists feature a broad range of repertoire, with items to suit and appeal to candidates of differing ages, backgrounds and interests. Not every piece will be suitable for every candidate due to technical reasons or wider context (historical, cultural, subject matter of the larger work from which it is drawn, lyrics if an arrangement of a song etc.). It is advised that pieces selected are considered carefully for their appropriateness to each individual, which may require consultation between teachers and parents/guardians. Given the ever-changing nature of the digital world, teachers and parents/guardians should also exercise caution when allowing younger candidates to research items online: www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety.

Exam music & editions: Wherever the syllabus includes an arrangement or transcription, the edition listed in the syllabus must be used in the exam; in all such cases the abbreviation ‘arr.’ or ‘trans.’ appears in the syllabus entry. For all other pieces, the editions quoted in the syllabus are given for guidance only and candidates may use any edition of their choice (in- or out-of-print or downloadable). Information on obtaining exam music is given on p. 5.

Interpreting the score: Printed editorial suggestions such as fingering, metronome marks, realization of ornaments etc. need not be strictly observed. Whether the piece contains musical indications or not, candidates are always encouraged to interpret the score in a stylistically appropriate manner. Ultimately, examiners’ marking will be determined by consideration of pitch, time, tone, shape and performance, and how control of these contributes to the overall musical outcome.

Repeats: All da capo and dal segno indications should be observed but all other repeats (including first-time bars) should be omitted unless they are very brief (i.e. of a few bars) or unless the syllabus specifies otherwise.

Performing from memory: Candidates are free to perform any of their pieces from memory; in such cases they must ensure that a copy of the music is available for the examiner to refer to if necessary. No additional marks are awarded for playing from memory.

Page-turns: Examiners will be understanding if a page-turn causes a lack of continuity during a piece, and this will not affect the marking. A variety of solutions for awkward page-turns exist, including the use of an additional copy of the music or a photocopy of a section of the piece (but see 'Photocopies' below). In cases where candidates at Grades 6–8 believe there is no solution to a particularly awkward page-turn, they may bring a page-turner to the exam (prior permission is not required; the turner may be a candidate's teacher). Examiners are unable to help with page-turning.

Photocopies: Performing from unauthorized photocopies (or other kinds of copies) of copyright editions is not allowed. ABRSM may withhold the exam result where it has evidence of an illegal copy (or copies) being used. In the UK, copies may be used in certain limited circumstances – for full details, see the MPA's *Code of Fair Practice* at www.mpaonline.org.uk. In all other cases, application should be made to the copyright holder before any copy is made, and evidence of permission received should be brought to the exam.

Scales and arpeggios

At Grades 1 and 2, there are three tuning groups for non-pedal harp, and examiners will ask candidates which group they have chosen.

Examiners will usually ask for at least one of each type of scale/arpeggio etc. required at each grade. They will also ask to hear a balance of the positions and hand requirements across the requests as a whole. When asking for requirements, examiners will specify:

- the key (including minor form – harmonic *or* melodic – when the syllabus stipulates both) or the starting note
- the hand(s) (e.g. left hand, right hand, hands together, divided between the hands, narrow position)
- the position (root or inversion) for arpeggios and dominant sevenths (Grades 4–8)
- the interval between the hands (hands-together scales, Grades 6–8)

All scales and arpeggios should:

- be played from memory
- be played in even notes (except for dominant and diminished sevenths, where specific patterns are indicated)
- ascend and descend according to the specified range (and pattern)

Candidates are welcome to use any fingering that produces a successful musical outcome.

Candidates are free to start at any octave, provided the required ranges are covered. For all 'hands together' requirements, the hands should be one octave apart, unless otherwise indicated.










Harp grades: requirements and information

Scales a sixth apart should begin with the tonic as the upper note, while scales a third or a tenth apart should begin with the tonic as the lower note.

Examples of patterns specified in this syllabus are given for pedal harp on pp. 6-7 and for non-pedal harp on pp. 8-9.

Books of the scale requirements (for Grades 1-5 and 6-8) are published for pedal and non-pedal harp by Alaw (www.alawmusic.com).

The following speeds are given as a general guide:

	pattern	Grade / Speed							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Scales		♩ = 63	♩ = 69	♩ = 76	♩ = 42	♩ = 50	♩ = 60	♩ = 66	♩ = 72
Melodic minor scales (non-pedal harp)					♩ = 52	♩ = 60	♩ = 69	♩ = 76	♩ = 84
Contrary-motion scales								♩ = 60	♩ = 66
Arpeggios		♩ = 100	♩ = 112	♩ = 42	♩ = 56	♩ = 63	♩ = 72	♩ = 76	♩ = 80
Arpeggios (divided between hands)			♩ = 126	♩ = 50	♩ = 63	♩ = 70	♩ = 80	♩ = 84	♩ = 88
Arpeggios (narrow position)									♩ = 72
Dom. & Dim. 7ths*						♩ = 46	♩ = 54	♩ = 60	♩ = 66
Dom. & Dim. 7ths* (divided between hands)						♩ = 50	♩ = 60	♩ = 66	♩ = 72
Dom. 7ths (narrow position)								♩ = 66	♩ = 72

* Dim. 7ths at Grade 8 only

Sight-reading

Candidates will be asked to play a short unaccompanied piece of music which they have not previously seen. They will be given half a minute in which to look through and, if they wish, try out all or any part of the test before they are required to play it for assessment. For practice purposes, a book of sample sight-reading tests is published for harp (pedal and non-pedal) by ABRSM.

Aural tests

The requirements are the same for all subjects. Full details of the Aural tests are given on pp. 42-47.

In the exam

Examiners: Generally, there will be one examiner in the exam room; however, for training and quality assurance purposes, a second examiner may sometimes be present. Examiners may ask to look at the music before or after the performance of a piece (a separate copy is not required: the candidate's copy will suffice). Examiners may stop the performance of a piece when they have heard enough to form a judgment. They will not issue or discuss a candidate's result; instead, the mark form (and certificate for successful candidates) will be issued by ABRSM after the exam.

Tuning: Candidates must bring their own instrument to the exam and ensure that it is tuned beforehand. They will be given sufficient time to make the necessary pedal/lever changes for scale requirements and pieces. Examiners are unable to help with tuning.

Music stands: All ABRSM public venues provide a music stand, but candidates are welcome to bring their own if they prefer. The examiner will be happy to help adjust the height or position of the stand.

Order of the exam: The individual sections of the exam may be undertaken in any order, at the candidate's choice.

Assessment

The tables on pp. 52–53 show the marking criteria used by examiners. In each element of the exam, ABRSM operates the principle of marking from the required pass mark positively or negatively, rather than awarding marks by deduction from the maximum or addition from zero. In awarding marks, examiners balance the extent to which the qualities and skills listed on pp. 52–53 (broadly categorized by pitch, time, tone, shape and performance) are demonstrated and contribute towards the overall musical outcome.

Obtaining exam music

Exam music is available from music retailers, specialist harp retailers and online, including at the ABRSM music shop: www.abrsm.org/shop. Every effort has been made to ensure that all the publications listed will remain available for the duration of the syllabus. Candidates are advised to obtain their music well in advance of the exam in case of any delays with items not kept in stock by retailers. Apart from queries relating to exams, all enquiries about the music (e.g. editorial, availability) should be addressed to the relevant publisher: contact details are listed at www.abrsm.org/publishers.

AURAL TESTS: included in the Practical exams for all subjects

Listening lies at the heart of all good music-making. Developing aural awareness is fundamental to musical training because having a ‘musical ear’ impacts on all aspects of musicianship. Singing, both silently in the head and out loud, is one of the best ways to develop the ‘musical ear’. It connects the internal imagining of sound, the ‘inner ear’, with the external creation of it, without the necessity of mechanically having to ‘find the note’ on an instrument (important though that connection is). By integrating aural activities in imaginative ways in the lesson, preparation for the aural tests within an exam will be a natural extension of what is already an essential part of the learning experience.

In the exam

Aural tests are an integral part of all Practical graded exams.

The tests are administered by the examiner from the piano. For any test that requires a sung response, pitch rather than vocal quality is being assessed. The examiner will be happy to adapt to the vocal range of the candidate, whose responses may be sung to any vowel (or consonant followed by a vowel), hummed or whistled (and at a different octave, if appropriate).

Assessment

Some tests allow for a second attempt or for an additional playing by the examiner, if necessary. The examiner will also be ready to prompt, where helpful, although this may affect the assessment.

Marks are not awarded for each individual test or deducted for mistakes; instead they reflect the candidate’s overall response in this section. The marking criteria for the aural tests are given on p. 53.

Specimen tests

Examples of the tests are given in *Specimen Aural Tests* and *Aural Training in Practice* (from 2011), available for purchase from music retailers and from www.abrsm.org/shop.

Deaf or hearing-impaired candidates

Deaf or hearing-impaired candidates may choose alternative tests in place of the standard tests, if requested at the time of entry. Further information, including the syllabus for the alternative tests, is available at www.abrsm.org/specificneeds.

Aural Tests GRADE 1

- A To clap the pulse of a piece played by the examiner, and to identify whether it is in two time or three time.** The examiner will start playing the passage, and the candidate should join in as soon as possible, clapping in time and giving a louder clap on the strong beats. The examiner will then ask whether the music is in two time or three time. The candidate is *not* required to state the time signature.
- B To sing as 'echoes' three phrases played by the examiner.** The phrases will be two bars long, in a major key, and within the range of tonic–mediant. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the starting note (the tonic) and then count in two bars. After the examiner has played each phrase, the candidate should sing back the echo without a pause, keeping in time.
- C To identify where a change in pitch occurs during a phrase played by the examiner.** The phrase will be two bars long, in a major key, and the change will affect only one of the notes. First the examiner will play the key-chord and the tonic and then count in two bars. The examiner will play the phrase twice, making the change in the second playing, after which the candidate should state whether the change was near the beginning or near the end. If necessary, the examiner will play both versions of the phrase again (although this may affect the assessment).
- D To answer questions about two features of a piece played by the examiner.** Before playing, the examiner will tell the candidate which two features the questions will be about. The first will be: dynamics (loud/quiet, or sudden/gradual changes); the second will be articulation (smooth/detached).