

N.Z. MODERN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MODERN PIANO EXAMINATION SYLLABUS
DIPLOMA

NOTE: A minimum pass of 170 marks in the NZMSM Grade Seven Theory of Music Examination is an additional requirement for this examination.
A copy of the candidate's result sheet must be sent in with the examination entry form.

TECHNICAL WORK: 20 marks

Comprehensive Book of Scales and Arpeggios
Magic for Modern Book

To be played from memory.

Scales: mm ♩ 144

Any major scale

Four octaves, **similar motion**, ascending and descending, hands together.
Legato and staccato.
forte and *piano*.

Pentatonic Major and Minor scales of Bb and E

Two octaves, similar motion, ascending and descending, hands together.

Inversions: mm ♩ 96

Diminished seventh of F, F# and G

Two octaves, ascending only, hands together.

Studies: (No pedal)

1. mm ♩ 96 **Magic for Modern, No.60.** The Ninth Chord Whole Tone Scales, both examples.
2. mm o 120 **Movement in Perfect Fifths**, see overleaf.

AURAL: 10 marks

- To hum or sing the 1, 3, 5 degrees of an augmented or diminished chord.
The tonic will be played and the tonic note given.
The candidate will then give the letter names of the other two notes.
- To recognise whether a phrase is in a major or minor key.
The candidate will then identify whether the ending cadence is plagal (IV-I), imperfect (I-V), perfect (V-I) or interrupted (V-VI).
- To observe a four bar phrase and then play it from memory.
In 3/4, 4/4 or 6/8 time.
The bass style may be standard waltz or arpeggio or stride. Candidate's choice.

VIVA VOCE: 10 marks

- General questions will be asked on **all** pieces performed and the technical work for this grade.
This will include the background details of the pieces, composers, period and styles.
- To explain and demonstrate the construction of all scales and chords up to and including thirteenth and altered chords.

MELODY OUTLINE: 25 marks

The candidate **must** be able to demonstrate an advanced level of creative ability and musicality. The melody outline should be developed within the criteria given to make a complete piece.

Criteria for this section:

- The four bar introduction **must** include a melody line and chords.
- The candidate **must** choose their own time signature/s.
- **May** include bass variations.
- **Must** include chord progressions, substitutions and/or alterations.
- Expression and dynamics **must** be included and marked on the music.
- The work **must** be given a title.
- The final work **must** be either computer written or hand written **by the candidate**.
- **A copy of the melody outline must be sent to the Area Manager 21 days prior to the commencement date of the examinations, as specified on the NZMSM calendar.**

Part One:

- Bars 1 to 8 a melody line must be added.
- Bars 9 to 16 a melody line and chords must be added.

Part Two: Bars 17 to 36

- **Must** modulate into a different key.
- A melody line and chords **must** be added.

PIECES: 60 marks

Choose pieces from each of sections I, II and III.

All pieces must have an introduction and ending where none is given.

Themes **may** be interwoven and the whole arrangement **must** stand as a musically cohesive entity.

Any alterations, substitutions and additions **must** be marked on the music.

A variety of modern basses from any source is expected.

Expression and dynamics **must** be included and marked on the music.

An advanced level of improvisation, musicality and creativity is expected.

The maximum duration for each section is five minutes.

A copy of all the arrangements must be sent to the Area Manager 21 days prior to the commencement date of the examinations, as specified on the NZMSM calendar.

Section 1: 20 marks**Buskers Medley, Book 2**

- No 1 - Ain't She Sweet, Key of Eb
- No 13 - The Ballad of Bonnie and Clyde, Key of G
- No 14 - Big Spender, Key of F
- No 24 - Dancing Queen, Key of F
- No 55 - Lazy River, Key of F
- No 64 - Mood Indigo, Key of Ab
- No 65 - Money Money, Key of Gm
- No 70 - Nights in White Satin, Key of Em
- No 93 - Tuxedo Junction, Key of Bb

- Choose **two** pieces from the publication listed.

Criteria for this section:

- The pieces **must** be in **two** different keys.
- Modulation **must** be used between the two keys.
- Harmony and syncopation are expected.
- A variety of bass styles **must** be used.
- The titles of the two pieces **must** be listed on the Checklist sheet.

Section II: 20 marks**Four Boogies Book, Alan Burch**

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Criteria for this section:

- Improvisation **must** be added.
- A variety of boogie bass styles **must** be used.

Section III: 20 marks**Beatles Medley**

- Choose **three** pieces from any NZMSM publication.

Criteria for this section:

- The pieces **must** be played in **three** different keys.
- Modulating chords **must** be used between each key.
- Chord substitutions **must** be used.
- A variety of bass styles **must** be used.

NOTATED PIECE: 25 marks

Pop Keyboard Library, Teacher's Choice, Level 5, Dan Coates (Quote code: AFM0209)
Mainstream and Standard Jazz, Volume 1 or 2, Eric J. Watson
Popular Piano Solos, Books 1, 2, 8, 15, 18, published by Wise

- Choose **one** piece from the publications listed above.

Criteria for this section:

- **Must** be of at least **three** pages duration.
- The maximum time allowance is five minutes.
- **A copy of the piece must be sent to the Area Manager 21 days prior to the commencement date of the examinations, as specified on the NZMSM calendar.**

All markings must be removed from pieces except tidy fingering, expression marks and notation of arrangement.

STRICTLY NO PHOTOCOPYING