

**N.Z. MODERN SCHOOL OF MUSIC**  
**MODERN PIANO EXAMINATION SYLLABUS**  
**GRADE THREE**

**TECHNICAL WORK:** 20 marks

**Comprehensive Book of Scales and Arpeggios**

To be played from memory.

**Scales:** mm ♩ 96

**Major Scales of A and Eb**

**Harmonic Minor Scales of F# and C**

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

**Major Scale of Eb**

Two octaves, **contrary motion**, hands together.

**Chromatic Scale commencing on F#**

Two octaves, ascending and descending, hands together.

**Triad:** mm ♩ 84

**Primary Triad Scale of Bb**

Right hand, 8va higher.

One octave, ascending only.

Chords in bass position, one octave higher than in the scale book.

**Arpeggios:** mm ♩ 84

**A and Eb Major**

**C Minor**

Two octaves, ascending and descending, hands together.

**G7**

Two octaves, ascending and descending, separate hands.

**Memory Piece:**

**Desert Road Blues**

**Must** be played as written.

**AURAL:** 15 marks (Examiner to play twice)

- To clap or tap a four bar melody. In either 3/4 or 4/4 time.  
Time values include semiquaver and those of longer duration.
- To recognize whether a chord played in root position is major, minor or dominant seventh.  
In the keys of C, G, D, F and Bb.
- To identify a note being one of the degrees of the major scale.  
The tonic will be played and the tonic note given before each degree.  
Identify by Tonic Sol-fa, letter name or interval number.  
In the keys of C, G and F.

**VIVA VOCE:** 10 marks

- General questions will be asked about **all** pieces performed and the technical work for this grade.
- To identify the tonic and dominant chords of all pieces performed.

**SIGHT READING:** 15 marks

- To play a twelve bar passage. In either 3/4 or 4/4 time.
- Bass style - standard waltz No.3 OR stride OR arpeggio.
- In any key up to two sharps or two flats.

**PIECES:** 30 marks for each piece.**Popular Songs Book 2, Graded Tunes Book 3**

Three pieces **must** be performed, **one** piece from each section.

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

Bass pattern(s) and arrangement **must** be marked on the music **by the candidate**.

Chords for this grade **may** be simplified.

Right hand **must** be played using single notes OR octaves OR harmony OR a combination of these.

Counter bass and addition of slash chords is optional.

**Section I:****Graded Tunes Book 3****Annie's Song**(repeat on page 4 **must** be played)**Tammy****There Goes My Everything****Far Away Places**

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

**Criteria for this section:**

- **May** use full chords in the right hand.
- **Must** include: Harmony      ^^      X.H.      8va higher      a sixth ending run
- Octaves or tenth rolls **may** be used on the first beat of the bar.
- Bass style - standard waltz bass No. 3 OR arpeggio bass OR a combination of both.
- Annie's Song - bass progressions **must** be used.

No repeats except D.C. or D.S. or as indicated for a specific piece.

**Section II:****Graded Tunes Book 3**

**Beautiful Sunday**  
**Don't Be Cruel**  
**See You Later Alligator**

- Choose **one** piece from the publication listed above.
- **May** change cut time to common time.

**Criteria for this section:**

- **Must** include criteria from the previous grades.
- **Must** add an introduction and ending.
- **Must** include 8va higher.
- **Must** include harmony.
- **May** include syncopation.
- Bass style - either a walking bass or Boogie Woogie.

No repeats except D.C. or D.S. or as indicated for a specific piece.

**Section III:**

**Here Comes the Sun**  
**Clocks**  
**Summer of 69**  
**Any piece**

**Popular Songs Book 2**  
**Popular Songs Book 2**  
**Popular Songs Book 2**  
**Graded Tunes Book 3**

- Choose **one** piece not previously performed from the publications listed.

**Criteria for this section:**

- Bass style(s) to be chosen by the candidate.
- Chords **may** be altered.
- **May** add a bar to facilitate any modern fill.
- Some degree of arrangement **must** be included.
- A copy of the arrangement **must** be given to the examiner on examination day

No repeats except D.C. or D.S. or as indicated for a specific piece.

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

**STRICTLY NO PHOTOCOPYING**

# Desert Road Blues

The blues scale is made up of degrees 1, 3b, 4, 4#, 5, 7b, 8 of the major scale.  
The blues scale can be used to create intros, endings, melody lines and is great to improvise on.

Lively

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* and contains sustained chords. The bass staff contains a walking bass line. A large diagonal watermark reading 'TEACHER COPY' is overlaid on the page.

5

Musical notation for measures 5-7. The treble staff continues with sustained chords, and the bass staff continues with a walking bass line. The watermark 'TEACHER COPY' is still visible.

8

Musical notation for measures 8-10. The treble staff features a melodic line starting in measure 8 with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The bass staff continues with a walking bass line. The watermark 'TEACHER COPY' is still visible.

11

Musical notation for measures 11-13. The treble staff has a melodic line with a slur over the final two measures. The bass staff continues with a walking bass line. The watermark 'TEACHER COPY' is still visible.