

GENERAL REGULATIONS

This syllabus is for use from January 2007 and will remain in force until further notice. The exams are available in the UK and Ireland, and at International centres where suitable notice has been given of a sufficient number of candidates, and subject to the availability of a jazz examiner.

This syllabus should be read in conjunction with the current booklet of *Exam Information & Regulations* (UK & Ireland or International edition) and the guide for candidates, teachers and parents, *These Music Exams*, both available free of charge and also downloadable from www.abrsm.org.

PLACE AND DATE OF EXAMS

The options available for entering jazz candidates depend upon the number of candidates being entered, whether they are jazz solo subjects or jazz ensembles, and whether they are to be heard at an ABRSM exam centre or as part of a Visit by an examiner to premises provided by the Applicant.

UK AND IRELAND

ABRSM Centres (jazz solo subjects only)

This is the principal entry option for jazz solo subject exams. Exams are held at ABRSM Centres (see pp. 14 & 20–30 of the current *Exam Information & Regulations* booklet [UK & Ireland edition]) on specified dates within each of the three exam Periods every year. These dates are published on p. 4 of the *Information & Regulations* booklet and on the current entry form. It should be noted, however, that the availability of specific Centres is dependent upon the number and distribution of jazz exam entries. If the preferred Centre is not available, an appointment will be given at the nearest available Centre. Jazz ensemble exams are not held at ABRSM Centres, nor are jazz solo exams using small-band accompaniment (see *Visits* below).

Visits (jazz solo subjects; jazz ensembles)

Arrangements can be made for an examiner to visit premises provided by the Applicant in order to assess jazz solo subjects (minimum entry numbers apply) and/or jazz ensembles. Full details of current entry options and minimum entry requirements are given on the relevant entry forms as well as on p. 15 of the *Information & Regulations* booklet. Information about facilities and arrangements to be provided by schools or teachers hosting a Visit is given in the *Information & Regulations* booklet (Reg. 7).

Jazz ensemble exams can be taken either as part of a Visit or in isolation during the specified dates for jazz exams. A suitable venue must be provided by the teacher, Applicant or ensemble members, and transport for the examiner, if required, must be provided without cost to ABRSM. Jazz ensemble exams taken during the specified dates for jazz exams will be timetabled to suit the examiner's other commitments.

Entry and fees

Entry forms are available from Honorary Local Representatives, from music shops or direct from ABRSM (also downloadable from www.abrsm.org). Online entry is also available in the UK. Entry conditions other than those stated above, fees, results, and all other information about exam arrangements correspond exactly with those for all other

exam subjects and may be found in the *Exam Information & Regulations* booklet for the current year.

INTERNATIONAL

Entry options

Jazz exams may be held at exam centres arranged by ABRSM's International Representatives or at schools or studios where there is no centre conveniently near, provided that there is a sufficient number of candidates to justify a visit from the examiner and a jazz examiner is available for the exam session. Jazz exams are held at the same time as Practical exams (see the Dates and Fees leaflet for each country). For further details, please contact the local Representative.

JAZZ PIANO REGULATIONS

(Subject Code: 45)

(a) **Schedule of maximum marks** for all grades:

Tunes: 1 (<i>Blues</i>)	30
2 (<i>Standards</i>)	30
3 (<i>Contemporary Jazz</i>)	30
Scales and Arpeggios/Broken Chords	21
Quick Study	21
Aural Tests	18
Total	150

(b) **Order of the exam** Candidates must offer all six elements as listed in the table above, but they may choose to do the exam in any order (for example, starting with the scales section). After being given a few seconds to make themselves comfortable (e.g. by adjusting the stool height or playing a few notes), candidates will be asked which section of the exam they prefer to start with.

(c) **Tunes** Candidates should present a contrasted and balanced programme of three tunes (one from each list: Blues, Standards, and Contemporary Jazz). The tunes must be performed in the arrangements as given in *Jazz Piano Pieces*, published by ABRSM (one book for each grade). Each tune includes a fully notated **head** (the main melody), an indication of the **feel** (straight 8s or swing), a **tempo** indication (representing the minimum exam speed), and at least one section for improvisation (**solo**). All tunes are to be played unaccompanied. For details of how to play tunes (including embellishments) in an exam, see the Introduction to *Jazz Piano Pieces*.

(d) **Scales and Arpeggios/Broken Chords** Scale requirements (including recommended minimum speeds) are given in *Jazz Piano Scales, Grades 1–5*, published by ABRSM. Candidates should be prepared to play all items from memory in either straight 8s or swing, as directed by the examiner. Any practical fingering which produces a good result will be accepted. Pedalling must not be used. The range of scales, arpeggios and broken chords reflects the more common roots, keys and modes found in jazz. As far as possible, scales have been integrated with the keys/modes of the tunes, so that improvising arises naturally from scale practice. Examples of the less usual scale and arpeggio patterns to be found in this syllabus are given on pp. 52–3.

(e) **Quick Study** (see pp. 40–2) and **Aural Tests** (see pp. 42–4).

(f) **Assessment** When marking, the examiner will pay attention not only to technical and rhythmic fluency but to other elements inherent in a good performance, for example: tonal variety and control, shaping and balance of phrasing, use of dynamics and accent, and inventive and stylish improvisation. For full details of the assessment objectives and criteria, see pp. 47–51.

(g) **Use of pedals** Pedalling is welcome at all stages, but not expected until Grade 5.

(h) **Pianos at ABRSM Centres** ABRSM Centres provide a satisfactory piano (which may be upright or grand). Practice before the exam cannot be arranged, but examiners will recognize that the instrument may be one to which the candidates are unaccustomed.

(i) **Pianos at Visits/Electronic instruments** When exams are held at Visits (i.e. premises provided by a school or teacher and visited by the examiner), a satisfactory piano must be provided. An electronic piano may be used, provided it has a clearly recognizable piano tone, a touch-sensitive keyboard with full-size weighted keys, and an action, compass and facilities that match those of an ordinary piano, including a sustaining pedal.