

Aspect of music syllabus	ABRSM	Rockschool (RSL)	London College of Music	Trinity College of Music
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A survey of music syllabuses including alternatives which may be suitable for students who are dyslexic or neuro-diverse in other ways

Only the four music examination boards which are recognised by Ofqual are included in this survey:

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music; Rockscool; London College of Music; Trinity College of Music

Autumn 2017

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Music theory exams Grades 1 - 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rhythm writing or melody writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All grades require reading and writing (words and music) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Stave Music': multisensory approach 	
Music theory requirement Grade 5 or above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can do Grade 5 Musicianship instead Can do jazz solo performance instead Theory includes rhythm writing and melody writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All grades require reading and writing (words and music) 		

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Options other than single instrument/voice exam		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical Theatre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music theatre • Irish and Scottish traditional music • Chinese • Ensemble • Composition • School music performance • ALCM Piano duet and Piano Accompaniment • LLCM Piano Duet and Piano Accompaniment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piano accompanying ATCL Pro-Music Diplomas. [These are being withdrawn and will no longer be available after 31 December 2017.]
No scales/technical exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARSM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure play exams • Recital exams • Performance awards • DipLCM Concert • ALCM Recital • FLCM • Rock Guitar grades 	

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No sight reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep Test • Performance Assessment • ARSM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Certificate • Grade exams: grades 1-5 improvisation and interpretation instead • Grade exams: grades 6-8 quick study instead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-grade 1 exams • Leisure play exams • Recital exams: either viva voce or extra performance piece instead • Piano Duet • Bass Guitar • Electric Guitar • Ukulele • Irish Traditional Music • Scottish Traditional Music • Rock guitar: improvisation instead • DipLCM Concert • ALCM Recital option 1: written essay required • ALCM Recital option 2 • ALCM Standard option 2: either viva voce or aural instead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade exams (initial to Grade 5 only): aural, improvisation or musical knowledge instead. (NB aural includes having to look at a score) • Rock and pop exams all grades: improvising instead.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLCM Recital: programme notes required • LLCM Standard: provide programme notes and viva voce instead • FLCM • Acoustic Guitar - all diplomas: programme notes required 	
No aural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep Test • Performance Assessment • ARSM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure play exams • Recital exams • Piano Duet grades 1 -5 • DipLCM Concert • ALCM Recital options • ALCM Standard option 2: either sight reading or viva voce instead • LLCM • FLCM • Acoustic Guitar: all diplomas: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 6 – 8: improvisation instead

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			programme notes required	
No viva voce/discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ARSM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance Certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recital exams: either sight-reading or extra performance piece required Piano Duet grades 1-5 ALCM Standard option 2: either sight reading or aural instead LLCM Recital LLCM Standard: sight reading and programme notes instead FLCM: programme notes required Acoustic Guitar: all diplomas: programme notes required 	

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No formal mark scheme; no pass/fail (comments only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep Test • Performance Assessment 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Grade 1 	
Choice of own piece(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Assessment • ARSM: up to a third of the programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Grade exams: 2 out of 3 pieces may be own choice • Performance Certificate: 3 of 5 pieces may be own choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure play exams: 1 of 4 pieces own choice • Piano Duet grades 1 – 5: 1 of 3 pieces may be own choice • Piano Duet grade 7: 1 of 3 pieces must be own choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recital Diploma (need to submit programme for approval in advance)
Choice of own composition for performance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Grade exams: 2 out of 3 pieces may be own compositions • Performance Certificate: 3 of 5 pieces may be own compositions 		LTCL Pro-Music Diplomas. [These are being withdrawn and will no longer be available after 31 December 2017.]
No public performance			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance awards: assessment by D.V.D. (not live) 	
Assessment by DVD/ video			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance awards: assessment by D.V.D. (not live) 	ATCL and LTCL Pro-Music Diplomas. [These are being withdrawn and will no longer be

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