

Reasonable adjustments in music exams

Did you know that it is possible for candidates who are dyslexic, who have DCD/dyspraxia or other Specific Learning Difficulties/neuro-diverse conditions to have certain adjustments made in the music exams run by ABRSM, Trinity College, London College of Music (including Registry of Guitar Tutors), Rockschool (RSL), Music Teachers' Board and other exam boards?

BDA Music has worked closely with some of these boards to produce this 'best practice' document with guidelines on what may be done for such candidates.

It is always necessary to have some sort of proof that the candidate is (for example) dyslexic and BDA Music or the exam boards can help you sort out what you need here. Do contact bdamusicdyslexia@gmail.com

Key points to note

- Proof and documentation can take some time to obtain and **must be given at the time of entry on the actual exam form.**

Make sure that you look very carefully at the form to see exactly what you must include and where. Contact the exam board or bdamusic@gmail.com if you are unsure.

- Supporting documentation should not be required after the first submission.
- If you have queries about the whole process, do contact the music exam board (the Access Coordinator, or similar title).
- In relation to the photocopying of music (enlargement or on to

tinted paper, for example), the Music Publishers' Association Code of Fair Practice states that this is legal, in order to create ease of reading for dyslexic individuals (for example).

See [https://www.mpaonline.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/The Code of Fair Practice Revised Apr 2016.pdf](https://www.mpaonline.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/The_Code_of_Fair_Practice_Revised_Apr_2016.pdf) (p.11, section 11). The original copy of pieces must be taken to the exam and copies marked 'Copy made with permission'.

The examination and possible adjustments.

However, you must check with each exam board. Don't assume that these are always available.

But NOTE: Not all possible adjustments are listed on the exam boards' websites. You may be able to discuss options.

Options available as reasonable adjustments could include

Practical exams

- Examiners, invigilators and stewards should be briefed about the requirements of disabled candidates, including those with neurodiversity/SpLDs.
- Taking the components of the exam in the candidate's preferred order.
- Extra time for preparation of sight-reading and aural.
- Performance from modified copies or electronic device allowed. (See note above re legality of copying music.)
- Sight-reading, aural, theory and other written tests/information (including diplomas) available in various modified formats. including
 - Tinted paper including rough working and note taking.

- Enlargement.
- Modified stave notation.
- Instructions (scales; aural; vivas etc.) may be written down and/or repeated by candidate and should be limited in number. The candidate should take his/her own rough paper for this and a pen. The examiner should be prepared to repeat instructions.
- Use of scale book/words for singers as a prompt with loss of marks only if this impedes the performance.
- Splitting of aural memory tests into shorter sections.
- Replays of scales allowed without penalty (1st occasion).
- Additional attempts at aural without penalty.
- Right-hand/left-hand instructions (piano) may include pointing.
- Examiners should be prepared to point to the place in sight reading if a candidate gets lost.
- Changes in the score in aural tests can be marked by raising the hand.
- Acceptance of alternative terms for cadences and scale descriptions.
- Report form may be available in a typed-up version if the original was hand written.
- The presence of a supporting person/assistant in the exam room. (This person should not normally be the candidate's teacher and should take no part in the proceedings, acting merely as a support.)
- Comments on the report form relating to reasonable adjustment should be avoided by the examiner.

Written exams

- Extra time (usually 25%).

- Use of an exam standard reading ruler or pen.
- Use of computer (and music software) in written exams.
- Use of a reader in written exams.
- Use of an amanuensis (scribe) for written exams.
- Separate room for written exams.
- No marks to be lost for errors of spelling/punctuation/grammar.
- Ignore the need to copy out given material in written exams.

These possible options are at the discretion of each exam board and are decided on a case by case basis.

For further information or queries, please contact the exam board in question and

bdamusicdyslexia@gmail.com

This information is correct at **July 2020**. Please contact the exam boards for verification. The British Dyslexia Association cannot take responsibility for this material; it is offered as advice.

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