



NATIONAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND ARTS  
LONDON



syllabus

**VIOLA**



## **EXAMINATIONS IN VIOLA PLAYING**

### **RULES OF ENTRY**

#### **Tuning**

In Grades B to 4 the teacher or accompanist may tune the candidate's instrument before the examination begins. In all other Grades the candidate will be expected to do so.

#### **Music Stands**

Candidates are expected to provide their own music stands.

#### **Points of Performance**

Intonation, production and quality of tone, bowing and finger action, and posture will be taken into account in the awarding of marks. Vibrato skill will be taken into account from Grade 5.

#### **Accompanists**

Candidates must provide their own accompanists who may remain in the Examination Room only when actually accompanying. A teacher may act as an accompanist.

#### **Sight Reading**

Sight Reading will be progressively more difficult through the Grades. Music for Sight Reading will be selected by the Examiner.

#### **Marks**

The maximum marks awardable from Grades A to 8 are 100. From Grade A to 7 distinctions are granted as follows: 90 per cent Pass with First Class Honours; 85 per cent Pass with Honours; 75 per cent Pass with Distinction; 65 per cent Pass. Candidates must obtain 100 marks to pass in Grade 8 where the maximum is 150; merits in Grade 8 are 140 First Class Honours, 130 marks Pass with Honours, 120 Pass with Distinction. In the theory paper which is part of Grade 8 the pass mark is 75 out of a possible 100

## **GRADE EXAMINATIONS IN VIOLA PLAYING**

### **PREPARATORY DIVISION**

#### **Grade B - Lower Primary**

Scales and Arpeggios 30 marks

C major and G major, one octave, with separate bows, even notes.

Arpeggios of C and G major, one octave with separate bows, even notes.

#### Solo

One from the following: 40 marks

Beethoven

Ode to Joy – Easy Solos for Beginning Viola (Mel Bay)

Colledge

Knickerbocker Glory or Westminster Abbey –  
Waggon Wheels for Viola (Boosey)

Fletcher

Cradle Song – New Tunes for Strings (Boosey & Hawkes)

Huws Jones

Lazy Blue – Really Easy Viola Book (Faber)

Purcell

March to a Bass – Playing the Viola (Novello)

Schubert

Landler – Playing the Viola (Novello)

Traditional

Shepherd's Hey – Abracadabra Viola (A & C Black)

Traditional

Au Clair de la Lune – Abracadabra Viola (A & C Black)

#### Sight Reading

15 marks

Of easy difficulty

#### Viva Voce Theory:

15 marks

Very simple questions relating to the staff; treble and bass clefs; names and values of notes, quaver to semibreve; words and signs appearing on the music performed.

## **GRADE EXAMINATIONS IN VIOLA PLAYING**

### **LOWER DIVISION**

#### **Grade 1 - Primary**

Scales and Arpeggios

10 Marks

Major scales of C and E flat in the first position in two octaves. In 4/4 time, minims on the key notes and crotchets for all other notes, with the crotchets played two to a bow.

Arpeggios in the same keys, two octaves, with detached bowing.

Solos 60 Marks  
Three from the following:

Anon	Ariette, No 4 from Old Music for Viola	Boosey & Hawkes
Brahms	The Blacksmith, Op 19 No 4, No 7 from A First Year Classical Album for Viola Players	OUP
Margery Dawe	France - Folk Song, No 2 from Travel Tunes	Boosey & Hawkes
Elgar	Nos 5 & 6 from Six Easy Pieces	Bosworth
Mozart	Minuet in C	Schott
Schumann	Melody, Op 68 No 1, No 5 from A First Year Classical Album for Viola Players	OUP

Sight Reading 10 Marks  
Of easy difficulty

Viva Voce Theory 10 Marks  
See pianoforte syllabus

Ear Tests 10 Marks  
See pianoforte syllabus

## **Grade 2 - Elementary**

Scales and Arpeggios 10 Marks  
Major scales of D and E flat in the first position and the major scale of F in the second position, in two octaves, detached or slurred bowing. In 4/4 time, crotchets on the key notes and quavers for all other notes.

Arpeggios in the major keys of D and E flat, in two octaves, with detached bowing.

Solos 60 Marks  
Three from the following:

Beethoven	Song of Spring, Op 52 No 4, No 1C from Popular Pieces	OUP
Carse	A Breezy Story	Galliard
Corelli	Sarabande, Op 5 No 7, from The Young Violist, Vol 1	Bosworth
Handel	March from The Water Music, No 4 from Tunes and Dances	OUP
Jacob	When Autumn Comes from New Pieces for Viola, Bk 1	Assoc Board
Mozart	Two German Dances	Chester
<u>Sight Reading</u>		10 Marks
Of easy difficulty		
<u>Viva Voce Theory</u>		10 Marks
See pianoforte syllabus		
<u>Ear Tests</u>		10 Marks
See pianoforte syllabus		

### **Grade 3 - Junior**

<u>Scales and Arpeggios</u>		10 Marks
Major scales of D and E in the first position, and the major scale of F in the second position, in two octaves, detached or slurred bowing. In 4/4 time, crotchets on the key notes and quavers for all other notes.		
Melodic or harmonic minor scales of C and D, in two octaves, detached or slurred bowing.		
Arpeggios in the above major and minor keys, in two octaves, detached or slurred bowing.		

<u>Solos</u>		60 Marks
Three from the following:		
Bach	Allegretto, No 7/3 from The Chesterian Viola Series, Bk 1	
Chester		
Brahms	Waltz, Op 39 No 15, from A Second Year Classical Album for Viola Players	OUP
Dodgson	Humoreske, from Four Dances	Chappell

Jones	Merry-Go-Round, from New Pieces for Viola, Bk 1	Assoc Board
Mozart	Air from Bastien and Bastienne, No 2 from Tunes and Dances	OUP
Purcell (Arr Radmall)	Scotch Tune and Dance	Chester
<u>Sight Reading</u>	Music of fairly easy difficulty	10 Marks
<u>Viva Voce Theory</u>	See pianoforte syllabus	10 Marks
<u>Ear Tests</u>	See pianoforte syllabus.	10 Marks

### **Grade 4 - Pre-Intermediate**

#### Scales and Arpeggios

Major scales of D flat, E and G, and the melodic or harmonic minor scales of D, E and F, in two octaves, detached or slurred bowing. In 4/4 time, crotchets on the key notes and quavers for all other notes.

Arpeggios in the above major and minor keys, in two octaves, detached or slurred bowing, three notes to a bow.

<u>Solos</u>	Three from the following:	60 Marks
Burgmuller	Ballade, Op 100 No 15, from The Young Violist, Vol 1	Bosworth
Carse	Study No 7 from Viola School, Bk IV	Augener
Handel	Bouree, Op 1 No 5, from The Young Violist, Vol 2	Bosworth
Jones	Song of Delight, from New Pieces for Viola, Bk 2	Assoc Board
Mozart	Adagio, from A Second Book of Classical Pieces	OUP
Scarlatti	Sonata in D minor, Kp34 LS7, No 2 from Baroque Pieces for Viola	OUP
<u>Sight Reading</u>	Music of Grade 2 difficulty	10 Marks

Viva Voce Theory 10 Marks  
See pianoforte syllabus

Ear Tests 10 Marks  
See pianoforte syllabus

## **STUDENTS' DIVISION**

### **Grade 5 - Intermediate**

Scales and Arpeggios 10 marks  
Major scale of C in three octaves; D flat, G and A in two octaves; with detached or slurred bowing. Melodic or harmonic minor scale of C in three octaves, and E and F sharp in two octaves, with detached or slurred bowing. In 4/4 time, quavers on the key notes and semiquavers for all other notes.

Arpeggios in C major in three octaves; D flat. G and A major in two octaves; and E, F sharp and A minor, in two octaves; with detached or slurred bowing, three notes to a bow.

Solos 60 marks  
Three from the following:

Boyce  
Tempo di Gavotta OUP

Carse  
Study No 2 from Viola School Augener

Grieg  
Watchman's Song from Keytunes for Viola I Boosey & Hawkes

Rimsky-Korsakov  
Chanson Indoue, No 2 from L'Alto Classique, Vol C UMP

Stephoe  
Burlesque, No 2 from 3 Pieces for Viola Stainer

Tchaikovsky  
Valse Sentimentale, Op 51 No 6 Bosworth

Sight Reading 10 marks  
Music of Grade 2/3 difficulty

Viva Voce Theory 10 marks  
See pianoforte syllabus

Ear Tests 10 Marks  
See pianoforte syllabus

## **Grade 6 - Senior**

### **Scales and Arpeggios**

10 Marks

Major scales of C and D flat, in three octaves; and A flat and B in two octaves. Melodic and harmonic minor scales of C sharp in three octaves, and G and A in two octaves; detached or slurred bowing. In 4/4 time, quavers on the key notes and semiquavers for all other notes.

Chromatic scale starting on C and E flat, in two octaves, with detached bowing.

Arpeggios in the above major keys, and the minor keys of C, in three octaves; and D flat, G and A flat in two octaves; detached or slurred bowing, three notes to a bow.

### **Solos**

60 Marks

Three from the following:

Beethoven

Country Dances No 4 and 5

OUP

Carse

Study No 15 from Viola School, Bk V

Augener

Ferguson

Burlesque, No 4 from 4 Short Pieces

Boosey & Hawkes

Handel

Sonata in G minor, Op 1 No 6: 2nd Movement, Allegro

Stainer

Mendelssohn

Song Without Words, Op 38 No 2, from Chester Music for Viola

Chester

Vivaldi

Siciliano from Gloria, RV589, No 5 from Baroque Pieces for Viola

OUP

### **Sight Reading**

10 Marks

Music of Grade 3 difficulty

### **Viva Voce Theory**

10 Marks

See pianoforte syllabus

### **Ear Tests**

10 Marks

See pianoforte syllabus

## **Grade 7 - Advanced Senior**

### **Scales and Arpeggios**

10 marks

Major, melodic and harmonic minor scales of D, E flat and E in three octaves; and B flat in two octaves; detached or slurred bowing, one octave to a bow. In 4/4 time, quavers on the key notes and semiquavers for all other notes.



Chromatic scale starting on C sharp, E and F, two octaves, detached bowing.

Arpeggios in the above major and minor keys, detached or slurred, three notes to a bow. Also dominant 7ths starting on C, D and G, two octaves; detached or slurred, four notes to a bow.

Solos 60 Marks  
Three from the following:

Carse	Study No 16 from Viola School, Bk V	Augener
Hindemith	Sonata for Solo Viola, Op 25 No 1: 3rd Movement	Schott
Liszt	Romance Oubliee	Boosey & Hawkes
Purcell	Chacone in G minor, Z730, No 1 from Baroque Pieces for Viola	OUP
Telemann	Concerto in G: 1st and 2nd Movements	Barenreiter
Vaughan Williams	Suite for Viola, Group 1: 1st Movement	OUP

Sight Reading 10 Marks  
Music of Grade 4 difficulty

Viva Voce Theory 10 Marks  
See pianoforte syllabus

Ear Tests 10 Marks  
See pianoforte syllabus

### **Grade 8 - Student's Graduate**

**There is a written theory requirement as part of this Grade** 100 Marks

Scales and Arpeggios 20 Marks

Major, melodic and harmonic minor scales of C sharp, E flat, E and F; three octaves; detached or slurred bowing, one octave to a bow. E flat major and E melodic minor in 3rds; A major and A harmonic minor in 6ths - one octave. C major and C melodic minor in 8ths - two octaves. Chromatic scale starting on C in three octaves, starting on D and F in two octaves; detached or slurred, one octave to a bow.

Arpeggios - major and minor common chords of C sharp, E flat, E and F in three octaves. Dominant and diminished 7ths starting on C and D,

three octaves; and E flat and G in two octaves. All detached or slurred bowing, one bow ascending and one bow descending.

<u>Solos</u>		90 Marks
	Three from the following:	
Bach	Cello Suite No 3 in C (BWV1009): 7th Movement, Gigue from Bach 6 Suites for Viola	Chester
Britten	Elegy for Unaccompanied Viola	Faber
Jacob	Air and Dance	OUP
Kreutzer	No 26 from 42 Studies	Schirmer
Pitfield	Sonatine	Cramer
Telemann	Fantasia No 7 in A flat: 1st and 2nd Movements from Fantasias for Solo Viola, Bk 2	Barenreiter
<u>Sight Reading</u>		15 Marks
	Music of Grade 5 difficulty	
<u>Viva Voce Theory</u>		10 Marks
	See pianoforte syllabus	
<u>Ear Tests</u>		15 marks
	See pianoforte syllabus	

## **DIPLOMA EXAMINATIONS IN VIOLA PLAYING**

### **Associate Diploma (ANCM)**

**This is available as Teacher or Performer. The Teacher Diploma includes a written theory paper and has a pass mark, in the practical examination, of 100 out of a possible 150. The theory pass mark is 75 out of 100. The pass mark for Performer, using the same solos list, is 115 out of a possible 150 marks.**

Scales and Arpeggios 20 Marks  
Major, harmonic and melodic minor scales up to and including F, in three octaves, one or three octaves to a bow as requested by the Examiner, also with separate bows; the remaining scales F sharp to B in two octaves, two octaves to a bow or separate bows.

Chromatic scales starting on C, D, E flat and E in three octaves, one octave to

a bow; and F to B in two octaves, two octaves to a bow. Major and minor arpeggios, dominant and diminished 7ths from C to F in three octaves, three octaves to a bow; and from F sharp to B in two octaves, two octaves to a bow.

E flat and F major, E and F harmonic and melodic minor scales in thirds.

A flat and B flat major, A and B harmonic and melodic minor scales in sixths; and C and D major and harmonic and melodic minor scales in octaves.

All double-stop scales to be played in two octaves, the majors either slurred or detached, two bows to an octave, doubling the length of the tonic notes; the minors (both forms) with separate bows only.

Solos 90 Marks  
Three from the following:

Bloch	Meditation, from Meditation and Processional	Schirmer
Bruch	Romance, Op 85	Schott
Faure	Elegie, Op 24	UMP
Hindemith	Trauermusik	Schott
Kreutzer	No 6 in F or 8 in A, from 42 Studies	Schirmer
Telemann	Concerto in G	Barenreiter

Sight Reading 25 Marks  
Music of Grade 6 difficulty

Viva Voce Theory and Aural Tests 25 Marks  
All rudiments; intervals and inversions; attendant keys; cadences; general embellishments; sonata form; identification of triads; simple chord progression.

### **Licentiate Diploma (LNCM)**

**Candidates must have previously passed the Associate or examination or similar standard.**

Written Theory 100 marks  
Candidates will be required to work a paper on harmony up to and including the

dominant and chromatic 7ths; add three parts to a given melody or bass; modulations;etc.

**Candidates having previously passed the Associate (Teacher) theory paper will be exempt from Licentiate theory.**

Solos 120 Marks

Three from the following:

Bach	Any one Suite from 6 Solo Cello Suites arr for Viola	Any edition
Bartok	1st Movement from Concerto	Boosey & Hawkes
Brahms	No 1 in F minor or 2 in E flat, from 2 Sonatas Op 120	Lengnick
Hindemith	Sonata, Op 11 No 4	Schott
Schubert	1st and 2nd Movements from Arpeggione Sonata, D821 in A minor	Kalmus
Walton	1st Movement from Viola Concerto	OUP

Sight Reading and Transposition 30 Marks

Music of Grade 6 difficulty and transposition of an eight-bar melody up or down a tone or semitone.

### **Fellowship Diploma (FNCM)**

**Candidates must have previously passed the Licentiate or examination of similar standard.**

Candidates are required to perform a programme of 35-40 minutes duration. The items selected should show a contrast of style and period, and one item must be performed from memory. Credit will be given for the quality of choice of each piece and for the construction and compilation of the programme as a whole.

The proposed Fellowship programme must be submitted to the College for approval four weeks before entry.

The Examiner's Report will take the form of a critique. No marks as such will be awarded, and the result will be notified as successful or unsuccessful. In accordance with N C M regulations the Examiner's decision will be final.

## **MEDAL EXAMINATIONS**

Examinations for Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals are held in most subjects. Details of requirements are as follows:

### **Junior Bronze**

Two solos from the Grade 3 List  
One solo own choice of similar standard

### **Intermediate Bronze**

Two solos from the Grade 5 List  
One solo own choice of similar standard

### **Intermediate Silver**

Two solos from the Grade 6 List  
One solo own choice of similar standard

### **Intermediate Gold**

Two solos from the Grade 7 List  
One solo own choice of similar standard

### **Senior Bronze**

Two solos from the Grade 8 List  
One solo own choice of similar standard

### **Senior Silver**

Two solos from the Associate List  
One solo own choice of similar standard

### **Senior Gold**

Two solos from the Licentiate List  
One solo own choice of similar standard  
One of the above should be played from memory.  
The candidate should be prepared to discuss with the Examiner the works performed.

### **Cumulative Silver Award**

A Cumulative Silver Medal is awarded to all candidates who pass each Grade examination from 4 to 8 inclusive with an aggregate of 385 marks. Claimants must give particulars of dates of the five examinations and also pay a Registration Fee.

## **Marks**

Marks are awarded as follows:

Listed Solos	60
Own Choice Solo	20
General Impression	20

The pass mark is 80. No award of Honours or Distinction is made in the Medal Division but a high standard of performance is expected.



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