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**IMEB**

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD

MUSIC THEORY SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION

This IMEB Music Theory Syllabus aims to educate students across the disciplines of written music, instrumentation, structure/form, history and general knowledge. The scope is broad in content and it is to be hoped will provide a platform for acquiring further knowledge.

**NB** International candidates should substitute ‘**Australiana**’ with ‘**International**’

Each examination paper is valued at 100 %.

Marks are allocated to each section or question to total 100 marks.

PRELIMINARY GRADE (One Hour) Pass: 60 marks

*NB: To satisfactorily complete this Preliminary Grade Theory Examination paper, the candidate should have a thorough knowledge of the following FOUR areas:*

1. NOTATION
2. The Treble or G Clef
3. The notes in the Treble Staff/Stave – from Middle C up to Top F
4. The Bass or F Clef
5. The notes in the Bass Staff/Stave – from Middle C down to Low F
6. The Staff/Stave
7. Sharps, Flats, Natural signs and their use
8. Adding stems correctly to notes within the given range 35 marks
9. TIME SIGNATURES
10. 2/4
11. 4/4
12. C Common Time 15 marks
13. SIGNS
14. Bar lines
15. Double bar lines 10 marks
16. RHYTHM
17. Semibreve or Whole Note
18. Minim or Half Note
19. Crotchet or Quarter Note
20. Adding bar lines and time signatures to a given rhythm (FOUR bars)
21. Completing bars by adding a note or notes as required (FOUR bars maximum)

(crotchets and minims) 30 marks

1. INSTRUMENTATION

To identify the following instruments (pictures will be used)

*violin flute trumpet timpani pianoforte* 10 marks

GRADE ONE (One hour) Pass: 65 marks

1. MUSICAL TERMS

Knowledge of the following Musical Terms, abbreviations and their English meanings

Adagio slowly

Lento slowly

Allegro fast and lively

Andante at an easy walking pace

Moderato at a moderate speed

Rallentando (Rall) gradually slower

Ritenuto (Rit) held back/immediately slower

Crescendo (Cresc) gradually becoming louder

Decrescendo (Decresc) gradually becoming softer

Diminuendo (Dim) gradually becoming softer

Forte (f) loud

Mezzo Forte (mf) moderately loud

Piano (p) soft

Mezzo Piano (mp) moderately soft

Dolce sweetly and gently 15 marks

1. NOTATION

The Staff or Stave : Treble or G Clef and Bass or F Clef.

Letter names including ONE leger line above and below each staff or stave.

The Sharp, Flat and Natural signs.

The name and length of the semibreve, minim, crotchet and quaver. 30 marks

1. RESTS

Semibreve, minim, crotchet and quaver rests.

Adding ONE rest to complete a bar or bars of simple time. 5 marks

1. SCALES

The writing and recognition of Major Scales and their key signatures up to ONE sharp

and ONE flat. Ascending and descending. One octave only. 25 marks

1. TIME SIGNATURES

Simple Duple 2/2 2/4 C Simple Triple 3/2 ¾

AND Simple Quadruple 4/2 4/4 C (Common Time) 10 marks

1. SIGNS

To write AND/OR recognise signs for : Bracket, bar line, double bar lines, slurs 8 marks

1. AUSTRALIANA

Name any TWO famous Australian music performing artists 2 marks

1. INSTRUMENTATION

To identify the following instruments (pictures will be used) and the sounds produced

*violoncello double bass oboe trombone tuba* 5 marks

GRADE TWO ( 1½ hours) Pass: 65 marks

1. MUSICAL TERMS

Knowledge of the following Musical Terms, abbreviations and their English meanings

A Tempo return to former speed

Allegretto moderately fast

Andantino faster than andante

Animato animated and lively

Largo very slow and broad

Legato smoothly

Staccato detached

Meno Mosso less movement

Presto very fast

Vivace lively, spirited

Vivo lively, spirited

Fortissimo (ff) very loud

Pianissimo (pp) very soft

Cantabile in a singing tone

Marcato marked

Poco little

Scherzando in a light playful manner

Sempre always

Senza without

Dal Segno (D.S.) from the sign 10 marks

1. NOTATION

The Grand Staff or Stave. Letter names including TWO leger lines above and below staff.

Semiquaver and demisemiquaver notes and rests.

The meaning of the dot after a note or rest 20 marks

1. SCALES

The writing and recognition of Major Scales and their key signatures up to TWO sharps and TWO flats. The writing and recognition of Harmonic Minor Scale of A. Writing of scale degree numbers under the notes of a tune in the keys specified for this grade. All scales ascending and descending. Two octaves with tones and semitones marked. 25 marks

1. TIME SIGNATURES

Simple Triple time 3/8

Compound Duple time 6/8 5 marks

1. RHYTHM

Regular grouping of notes to show rhythmic divisions.

Adding rests to complete a bar or bars of simple time. 10 marks

1. SIGNS

To write AND/OR recognise Signs for

Loudness

Softness

Repeat marks

Triplet

Ties

Pause

Accent marks 5 marks

1. CHORDS

Writing a tonic triad in root position in the keys set for this grade. Treble staff only.

Key signatures will be given. 10 marks

1. STRUCTURE/ FORM

Binary and Ternary 6 marks

1. AUSTRALIANA

Name any TWO famous Australian Opera Singers 4 marks

1. INSTRUMENTATION

To identify the following untuned percussion instruments (pictures will be used) and the sounds produced by each

*maraccas triangle castanets tambourine bongo* 5 marks

**GRADE THREE (I½ hours) PASS : 65 marks**

1. MUSICAL TERMS

Knowledge of the following Musical Terms, abbreviations and their English meanings

Accelerando (Accel) gradually faster

Agitato with a sense of agitation

Prestissimo as fast as possible

Allargando becoming broader

Larghetto slow and broad

Morendo dying away

Forte Piano loud, then immediately soft

Staccatissimo very short and detached

Grazioso gracefully

Leggiero lightly

Tranquillo calm and tranquil

Calando reducing volume and speed

Espressivo with expression

Con moto with a sense of motion

Da capo from the beginning 8 marks

1. SCALES

The writing and recognition of Major scales and their key signatures up to THREE sharps and THREE flats. The writing and recognition of the Harmonic Minor scales of A and E. All scales ascending and descending. Two octaves, with tones and semitones marked. 25 marks

1. RHYTHM

Regular grouping of notes to show beat divisions.

Adding rests to complete bars of simple time. 5 marks

1. SIGNS

To recognise AND write signs for :

Bracket

Bar lines

Double bar lines

Slurs

Loudness

Softness

Graduation marks

Repeat marks

Triplet

Ties

Pause

Accent marks 6 marks

1. TRANSCRIPTION

To transcribe a four bar melody from Treble to Bass an octave lower AND a four bar melody from Bass to Treble an octave higher. 15 marks

1. CHORDS

The tonic triad in root position in the keys specified for this grade.

Key signatures, Treble and bass staves may be used. 8 marks

1. WORD ACCENTING

To divide TWO lines of verse into measured beats by means of an upright line placed before the strong beat. 4 marks

1. STRUCTURE/FORM

Rondo

Theme and Variations

Sonatina

Study 8 marks

1. HISTORY

Clementi

Kuhlau

Czerny

AND other composers associated with above music structures/forms relevant to,

or associated with, music compositions studied for this grade 10 marks

1. AUSTRALIANA

Show knowledge about Kerin Bailey AND Miriam Hyde 6 marks

1. INSTRUMENTATION

To show basic knowledge and familiarity of the sounds produced by following instruments:

*clavichord, harpsichord, organ varieties, electronic and digital keyboards* 5 marks

GRADE FOUR (Two hours) PASS: 65 marks

1. MUSICAL TERMS

English meanings of the listed musical terms and abbreviations where applicable

Allegro non troppo fast, but not too fast

Attacca go on at once

Largamente broadly

L’istesso tempo at the same speed

Volante flying

Cantando in a singing style

Smorzando fading away

Sforzando suddenly loud

Grave solemn and steady

Meno mosso less speed

Piu mosso more speed

Tempo commodo at an easy, comfortable speed

Tempo giusto at a precise speed

Siciliano a simple pastoral atmosphere

Da capo al fine repeat from the top to fine sign 7 marks

1. SCALES

The writing and recognition of Major scales and their key signatures up to FOUR sharps and FOUR flats. Harmonic Minor scales up to FOUR sharps and FOUR flats.

Knowledge of technical scale degree names. 25 marks

1. CHORDS

The tonic triad in ROOT position and 1st INVERSION in the keys stated for the grade. 10 marks

1. TIME SIGNATURES

All simple and compound time signatures. 5 marks

1. RHYTHM

Adding bar lines to a given FOUR bar melody. Adding rests to incomplete bars. 5 marks

1. MELODY WRITING

To write a melody of FOUR bars in a major key to ONE sharp or ONE flat to a given rhythm pattern. 5 marks

1. STRUCTURE /FORM

Prelude and Fugue

The Baroque Suite

Allemande - Courante - Sarabande - Minuet – Gigue 10 marks

1. HISTORY

The Baroque period, style and meaning of ‘*barocco*’

J S Bach

Handel

Purcell

Vivaldi

The Rococo period, style and meaning of *‘rococo’*

C P E Bach

Telemann

Couperin

Scarlatti

AND other Baroque and Rococo composers associated with above music structures/forms relevant to, or associated with, music compositions studied for this grade 12 marks

1. OPERA and ORATORIO

A general knowledge of the beginnings of these grand scale Vocal compositions and an exampleof significant associated works and composers 5 marks

1. AUSTRALIANA

Show knowledge about any TWO the following Australian composers:

Sonny Chua - Edith Harrhy - Dulcie Holland - Alfred Hill - May Brahe 6 marks

1. INSTRUMENTATION
2. Basic knowledge of the structure of orchestral String instruments: to include

bridge, neck, fingerboard, tuning pegs, scroll, tail piece,

body, f hole, top nut, number of strings and names

1. To show knowledge and describe the sound produced by other string instruments to include : *acoustic guitar, electric guitar, mandolin, banjo, ukelele.* 10 marks

**GRADE FIVE (Two and a half hours) PASS : 65 marks**

1. MUSICAL TERMS

English meanings of the listed musical terms and their abbreviations where applicable

Anacrusis an upbeat or pick-up note/s

Maestoso in confident, majestic style

Modere carefully observed timing

Da capo al segno repeat from the top to specified sign

L’istesso tempo at the same speed

Rubato expressive, flexible timing

Perdendosi gradually fading away

Semplice without ornamentation, simply

Pesante with heavy emphasis

Poco a poco little by little

Con brio with spirit

Con fuoco with fire

Cadenza an ornamental passage

Sopra one hand over the other at the keyboard

Sotto voce in an undertone, subdued 7 marks

1. SCALES

The writing and recognition of all Major scales with their key signatures. Writing Harmonic and Melodic Minor scales for A Minor, D Minor, E Minor, G Minor and B Minor. 20 marks

1. MELODY WRITING

To write a melody of FOUR bars in a Major or Minor key up to TWO sharps or TWO flats.

The opening notes of the melody will be given. 10 marks

1. HARMONY

To show a knowledge of ROOT position and 1st INVERSION of Major and Minor chords. 5 marks

1. TRANSCRIPTION

The transcription of an EIGHT bar melody from Treble to Bass 5 marks

1. STRUCTURE/FORM

The Sonata Form:

Introduction - Exposition - Development - Recapitulation - Coda (and Transitional passages) 6 marks

1. SET WORK

One movement of any Classical Period Sonata to be studied for comprehensive analysis 10 marks

1. HISTORY

The Classical Period : Haydn - Mozart - Beethoven 10 marks

1. OPERA and ORATORIO

A general knowledge of the development of these large scale Vocal productions and supported by examples of significant associated works and composers 10 marks

1. AUSTRALIANA

Show researched knowledge of any TWO Australian composers whose works have been studied and performed up to and including Grade 5, showing brief analysis of the TWO works selected/studied

10 marks

1. INSTRUMENTATION

To show basic knowledge of reed instruments, tone, range and sounds produced by Woodwind instruments: *flute, clarinet, oboe, cor anglais, recorder, saxophone, bassoon.* 7 marks

**GRADE SIX (3 hours) PASS : 65 marks**

1. SCALES

The writing and recognition of all Major and Harmonic and Melodic Minor scales 20 marks

1. HARMONY

To harmonise a simple EIGHT bar melody in FOUR part vocal style

The vocabulary to include ROOT position, 1st INVERSION, Major and Minor triads 20 marks

1. MELODY WRITING

To write an EIGHT bar melody in any Major or Minor key. Opening notes will be given

OR

To write a melody to a given FOUR line verse 10 marks

1. MODULATIONS

Recognition in melodies of modulation to the dominant, sub-dominant or to the relative

Major or Minor 5 marks

1. STRUCTURE/FORM

The development of the Classical Orchestral Symphony 5 marks

1. SET WORK

One movement from any Orchestral Symphony from the Classical or Romantic period to be studied for comprehensive analysis 10 marks

1. HISTORY

Romantic Period : to include Schubert, Weber, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Tchaikovski 10 marks

1. ART SONG

Show an understanding of the development of this music genre in Romanticism and familiarity with an example of significant associated works and composers 5 marks

1. INFLUENCES

Name ANY single performer or composer or group or music ensemble of 20th Century and describe the significance of their contribution to, and influence on, music in western society. 5 marks

1. AUSTRALIANA

Write what you understand about the function of ‘Ars Viva’ in Australia 5 marks

1. INSTRUMENTATION

To display basic knowledge of tone, range and sounds produced by

Tuned Percussion: *glockenspiel - xylophone - marimba - metallophone - tubular bells* 5 marks

**GRADE SEVEN (3 hours) PASS : 65 marks**

1. SCALES, INTERVALS and RUDIMENTS

Questions similar to preceding grades but more challenging and advanced 20 marks

1. HARMONY

To harmonise and EIGHT bar melody in FOUR part harmony. The vocabulary must include Major and Minor triads and their inversions, cadential and passing 6/4s, resolution and use of the dominant 7th in root position and modulation to relate keys 20 marks

1. MELODY WRITING

To write an EIGHT bar melody in Major or Minor key with or without a given opening.

Modulation to a related key is an expectation

OR

To write a melody to a given FOUR line verse. Modulation to a related key is expected. 10 marks

1. ORCHESTRA

To show a general knowledge of the formation of symphony orchestra and the location of each orchestral section in relation to conductor 5 marks

1. STRUCTURE/FORM

The development of the Concerto and the rise of the Virtuoso. General overview supported by reference to an example of significant associated works and composers 10 marks

1. SET WORK

One movement from any Concerto to be studied for comprehensive analysis 10 marks

1. HISTORY
2. Romantic composers to include: Chopin , Liszt, Brahms, Paganini, Saint-Saens, Grieg
3. Impressionist composers to include: Debussy, Delius, Ravel 10 marks
4. PIANOFORTE/KEYBOARD

General knowledge of the development of the Pianoforte from Bartolomeo Cristofori’s invention of the first model of this instrument , through the variations to contemporary electronic models

5 marks

1. AUSTRALIANA

Write succinct information about TWO of the following Australian composers:

Elena Kats-Chernin - Glen Carter-Varney - David Urquart-Jones - Bradley Eustace 5 marks

1. INSTRUMENTATION

To identify and show basic knowledge of the uses, tone, range and sounds produced by

*cornet, bugle, Sousaphone, Wagner tuba, euphonium, French horn* 5 marks

**GRADE EIGHT (3 hours) PASS : 65 marks**

1. SCALES

The writing and recognition of Lydian, Phrygian and Locrian modes and the tones and semi-tones within each mode 10 marks

1. TRANSPOSITION

To transpose a melody of EIGHT bars into any selected key 10 marks

1. DEFINITIONS

Succinct definitions to explain the following, supported by name of example if applicable:

Concert Overture

Programme Music

Concerto Grosso

Canon

Basso Continuo

Rhapsody

Barcarolle

Acciaccatura

Appogiatura

Alberti Bass

Nocturne

Elegie

Etude

Fantasie

Gavotte

Saltarello

Tarantella

Pavane

Mazurka

Cakewalk 10 marks

1. 20th CENTURY DEVELOPMENTS

Show basic knowledge of the following 20th Century music developments, supported by example, influences, composers, dates etc: Aleatory music

Musique concrete

Loop music

Jazz influences

Atonality

Serialism

Minimalism

Microtonal music

Neoclassicism

Computerised music 20 marks

1. INSTRUMENTATION

Name countries/regions closely associated with the following instruments:

*Didgeridoo*

*Bagpipes*

*Piano accordion*

*Uillean pipe*

*Alpen horn*

*Gamelan*

*Sitar*

*Koto* 5 marks

1. FREE COUNTERPOINT

To add a flowing and rhythmic melodic part above or below a given part in the style of the opening provided 10 marks

1. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS/INFLUENCES

Show basic knowledge of Nationalism in music supported by examples, eg:

1. Russian: Mussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninov, Prokofiev, Stravinsky
2. French: Satie, Poulenc, Messiaen
3. Italy: Rossini, Respighi
4. Hungary: Bartok, Kodaly
5. America: Ives, Copeland, Cage, Gershwin
6. Great Britain: Elgar, Delius, Britten
7. Germany: Stockhausen, Hindemith, Bruch
8. Spain: de Falla, Albeniz
9. Austria: Mahler
10. Scandinavia: Sibelius, Grieg
11. Australia: Grainger, Sculthorpe, Vine 20 marks
12. MUSIC DRAMA DEVELOPMENTS

Show basic knowledge of the development of Vocal/Choral music and drama works for stage, eg:

Music-Drama: Wagner

Operetta: Gilbert and Sullivan

Viennese Operetta: Lehar

Musical Comedy: Rodgers and Hammerstein

Broadway Musical: Bernstein

Modern Musical Theatre : Lloyd-Webber 10 marks

1. AUSTRALIANA

Write researched information on ANY famous Australian ‘Classical’ music performer 5 marks

**ASSOCIATE MUSIC : IMEB (3 hours)**

This paper consists of 5 sections each valued at 20 marks

1. Either a short essay (approx. 250 words) or 4 short answers to questions offered.

This section focuses on the variety of Structure/Forms of music composition between 1600 and 2000 (eg: Suite, Fugue, Sonata, Aria etc ). Seven options will be offered from which 4 examples should be selected.

1. Focussing on Music Rudiments, this section consists of 7 questions from which the candidate will select 5 to discuss/explain. Each question is valued at 4 marks.

The content covered may include: terms, signs, ornaments, transposition, intervals,

time signatures, keys and scales, grouping, completing bars with note and/or rests etc and any other area or component from the grade theory syllabus.

1. This section focuses on a 4-part Harmony in 4-part vocal style of between 8-12 bars.

All Major and Minor chords, Dominant 7ths, Diminished chords including Diminished 7ths, and Modulation to related keys.

1. This section is to be answered in 2 parts:
   1. 2-part Harmony using imitation and using the harmonic resources in Question 3
   2. Melody writing to either a given opening or to a stanza of verse
2. A short essay (approx. 250 words) on the overall development of Music Styles and P eriods listed below, or 4 short answers to specific questions based on

Baroque - Classical - Romantic - 20th Century

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**LICENTIATE MUSIC : IMEB (3 hours)**

Questions for the Licentiate in Music Theory will follow the format and style of the Associate examination paper (above), but more depth and comprehensive, detailed knowledge and content in answers is an expectation.

**INTERNATIONAL MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD (AUSTRALIA)**

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