



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examinations in Music, 2022
Practical Examinations

**Notes for the Information of Teachers, Candidates and School Authorities
(Revised January 2022)**

A. Adjustments to performing requirements:

NB. The adjustments set out below will remain in place regardless of the lifting of any COVID-19 restrictions.

In recognition of the lack of live rehearsal time that was available to students in preparation for the practical examination, the following adjustments to the performing requirements will be made:

Candidates presenting Group Performing will not be required to perform with a live group. **If they wish** they may

- perform with a recording of their group
 - perform their own part with an accompaniment/backing track
- NB** Candidates may still present as a member of a live group, if they wish, subject to the conditions for group performance listed below being met (Section B.3, page 5).

Specific adjustments for each performing option:

1. HE1 (Higher Level Elective One Activity) – 50% Performing:
 - a. Candidates will perform a six-minute selection from their prepared programme.
 - The selection is entirely at the candidate's discretion. It can be any combination of full or partial songs/pieces. Candidates are not required to perform all six songs/pieces.
 - Candidates may perform a number of full songs/pieces, or a short section from each song/piece.
 - The examiner will not have any input into what is presented by any candidate and will not refer in any way to any songs/pieces/sections that the candidate has omitted from their programme.
 - b. Unprepared test
2. HE1T (Higher Level Elective One Activity Technology) – 50% Performing
 - a. **Technology:**
 - One score of three parts – score to be set up in advance
 - Input part of each track as directed by the examiner
 - Make three edits
 - Save and close file.

NB Candidates will not be asked to show how to print/record and will not be asked to retrieve the file.
 - b. **Performing to own previously compiled backing track**
 - Play a 20-second section of the backing track. The section to be played is entirely at the candidate's discretion.
 - Perform a one-minute segment of the song/piece with the backing track. The segment to be performed is entirely at the candidate's discretion.
 - c. Unprepared test

3. HE2 (Higher Level Elective Two Activities) – 50% Performing.

a. **Activity 1:**

- Candidates will perform a four-minute selection from their prepared programme for this activity. Candidates are not required to perform all four songs/pieces.
- The selection is entirely at the candidate's discretion. It can be any combination of full or partial songs/pieces.
- Candidates may perform a number of full songs/pieces, or a short section from each song/piece.
- The examiner will not have any input into what is presented by any candidate and will not refer in any way to any songs/pieces/sections that the candidate has omitted from their programme.

b. **Activity 2:**

- Candidates will perform a four-minute selection from their prepared programme for this activity. Candidates are not required to perform all four songs/pieces.
- The selection is entirely at the candidate's discretion. It can be any combination of full or partial songs/pieces.
- Candidates may perform a number of full songs/pieces, or a short section from each song/piece.
- The examiner will not have any input into what is presented by any candidate and will not refer in any way to any songs/pieces/sections that the candidate has omitted from their programme.

c. Unprepared test

4. HE2T (Higher Level Elective Two Activities Technology) – 50% Performing

a. **Activity 1:** Performing

- Candidates will perform a four-minute selection from their prepared programme for this activity. Candidates are not required to perform all four songs/pieces.
- The selection is entirely at the candidate's discretion. It can be any combination of full or partial songs/pieces.
- Candidates may perform a number of full songs/pieces, or a short section from each song/piece.
- The examiner will not have any input into what is presented by any candidate and will not refer in any way to any songs/pieces/sections that the candidate has omitted from their programme.

b. **Activity 2** - Technology

- One score of two parts – score to be set up in advance
NB. Candidates who had intended to input a four-part score for this activity may continue to use that score, but they will only be required to input two parts. These should be the melody line and one other track of the candidate's choice.
- Input part of each track as directed by the examiner
- Make two edits
- Save and close file.
NB Candidates will not be asked to show how to print/record and will not be asked to retrieve the file.

c. Unprepared test

5. H1 (Higher Level One Activity) – 25% Performing
 - a. Candidates will perform a three-minute selection from their prepared programme.
 - The selection is entirely at the candidate's discretion. It can be any combination of full or partial songs/pieces. Candidates are not required to perform all three songs/pieces.
 - Candidates may perform a number of full songs/pieces, or a short section from each song/piece.
 - The examiner will not have any input into what is presented by any candidate and will not refer in any way to any songs/pieces/sections that the candidate has omitted from their programme.
 - b. Unprepared test

6. H1T (Higher Level One Activity Technology) – 25% Performing
 - a. **Technology:**
 - One score of one part – score to be set up in advance.
NB. Candidates may continue to use the two-part score they had intended to input, but they will only be required to input one part. This should be the melody line.
 - Input part of each track as directed by the examiner
 - Make three edits
 - Save and close file.
NB Candidates will not be asked to show how to print/record and will not be asked to retrieve the file.
 - b. **Performing to own previously compiled backing track**
 - Play a 20 second section of the backing track. The section to be played is entirely at the candidate's discretion.
 - Perform a one-minute segment of the song/piece with the backing track. The segment to be performed is entirely at the candidate's discretion.
 - c. Unprepared test

7. H2 (Higher Level Two Activities – 25% Performing.
 - a. **Activity 1:**
 - Candidates will perform a two-minute selection from their prepared programme for this activity.
 - The selection is entirely at the candidate's discretion. It can be any combination of full or partial songs/pieces.
 - Candidates may perform one full song/piece, or a short section from each song/piece.
 - The examiner will not have any input into what is presented by any candidate and will not refer in any way to any songs/pieces/sections that the candidate has omitted from their programme.
 - b. **Activity 2:**
 - Candidates will perform a two-minute selection from their prepared programme for this activity.
 - The selection is entirely at the candidate's discretion. It can be any combination of full or partial songs/pieces.
 - Candidates may perform one full song/piece, or a short section from each song/piece.
 - The examiner will not have any input into what is presented by any candidate and will not refer in any way to any songs/pieces/sections that the candidate has omitted from their programme.
 - c. Unprepared test

8. H2T (Higher Level Two Activities Technology) – 25% Performing

a. **Activity 1:**

- Candidates will perform a two-minute selection from their prepared programme for this activity.
- The selection is entirely at the candidate's discretion. It can be any combination of full or partial songs/pieces.
- Candidates may perform one full song/piece, or a short section from each song/piece.
- The examiner will not have any input into what is presented by any candidate and will not refer in any way to any songs/pieces/sections that the candidate has omitted from their programme.

b. **Activity 2 - Technology**

- One score of one part – score to be set up in advance
NB. Candidates may continue to use the two-part score they had intended to input, but they will only be required to input one part. This should be the melody line.
- Input part of the track as directed by the examiner
- Make two edits
- Save and close file.
NB Candidates will not be asked to show how to print/record and will not be asked to retrieve the file.

c. Unprepared test

9. OL (Ordinary level)

a. Candidates will perform a two-minute selection from their prepared programme for this activity.

- The selection is entirely at the candidate's discretion. It can be any combination of full or partial songs/pieces.
- Candidates may perform one full song/piece, or a short section from each song/piece.
- The examiner will not have any input into what is presented by any candidate and will not refer in any way to any songs/pieces/sections that the candidate has omitted from their programme.

b. Unprepared test

10. OLT (Ordinary level - Technology)

a. One score of one part – score to be set up in advance

NB. Candidates may continue to use the two-part score they had intended to input, but they will only be required to input one part. This should be the melody line.

- Input part of the track as directed by the examiner
- Make two edits
- Save and close file.

NB Candidates will not be asked to show how to print/record and will not be asked to retrieve the file.

b. Unprepared test

B. Measures to ensure the safe conduct of the practical examinations:

NB. These measures may be adjusted in accordance with public health advice at the time of the examinations.

1. Candidates must be masked at all times, apart from singers and wind players (while performing).
2. Singers and players of wind instruments must perform sideways-on (i.e. at right angles) to the examiner. Players of wind instruments may use moisture guards if they wish.
3. Group performers must stand/sit a minimum of two metres from each other and all other personnel. They may not face each other or the examiner directly. They may stand/sit side-by side, back-to-back or in other formations that ensure no face-to-face performance.
4. Accompanists or persons operating sound equipment must be masked at all times and must be seated a minimum of two metres from all other personnel.
5. Candidates who choose sight-reading for their unprepared test may not touch the test booklet. The examiner will open the booklet at the appropriate page and will indicate the test to be attempted.
6. All equipment (piano keyboard, stereo equipment, computer keyboard, mouse etc.) must be wiped down after each practical examination.
7. The examination centre must be aired appropriately after each practical examination.

- NB:**
- (i) Candidates will not be required to meet with the examiner in a group.
 - (ii) The examiner (and advising examiner) will be masked at all times.

C. The examination centre:

1. The examination centre must be set up in a large well-ventilated area. Where possible, a concert hall / P.E. hall / social resource area should be used.
2. A minimum of two areas/rooms should be set up as examination centres to allow for continuity when the primary area/room is being aired.
3. Examination centre requirements:
 - a. A desk inside the entrance to the centre for the signing of the roll. Each candidate must bring their own pen for signing the roll.
 - b. Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes
 - c. A desk for the examiner placed a minimum of five metres from the performing area. It is strongly advised that a perspex screen should also be provided for the examiner.
 - d. A second desk, for the use of an advising examiner, placed two metres from the examiner's desk.
 - e. A music stand for the unprepared tests.
4. Dedicated toilet facilities for the examiner's use.

D. Preparation and rehearsing in advance of the test:

All preparation and rehearsing in advance of the state examinations must be conducted in line with public health advice to ensure the health and safety of all concerned. Candidates should be briefed on the safe preparation for their tests and provided with clear and appropriate advice in relation to rehearsing and practicing for the assessments.