

# Introduction to the Prep Test



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- Ideal preparation for graded exams
- Easy-to-use books for each subject
- Own choice for one of the pieces
- No pass or fail
- Immediate feedback
- Helpful written report

Children and beginners get very excited about taking their first music exam. The **Prep Test** – presented in a relaxed and encouraging way, without a pass or fail to worry about – is an ideal introduction to the whole experience. The Test gives them a goal to work towards as well as the thrill of receiving a certificate – something they can be really proud of.

The Prep Test is designed both to provide an assessment for pupils after approximately six to nine months' tuition and to encourage the building of good musical and technical foundations before pupils enter for graded exams. The Test includes all the sorts of skills beginners will be developing at this stage, such as a sense of pitch and rhythm, controlled and even playing, accuracy and quality of tone, and the basics of musical perception.

## Subjects

The Prep Test is available for:

- Piano • Violin • Viola • Cello • Double Bass • Guitar • Descant Recorder
- Flute • Oboe • Clarinet • Bassoon • Saxophone • Horn • Trumpet • Cornet
- Flugelhorn • E♭ Horn • Trombone • Baritone • Euphonium • Singing

## Requirements

The Test takes about 10 minutes and consists of:

- Tunes/exercises
- Set piece/song
- Own choice piece/song (about 16 to 24 bars)
- Listening games/simple aural tests\*

\*For candidates who are deaf or hearing-impaired, further information is available from the Access Co-ordinator (T +44 (0)20 7467 8247)

## Accompaniment

The examiner will be happy to play any piano accompaniments, in which case candidates must bring the music with them. Alternatively, candidates may bring their own accompanist if they prefer.

While most of the set pieces are unaccompanied, the own choice piece (woodwind, brass & bowed strings) must be played with piano accompaniment. The set song and own choice song both require piano accompaniment.

## Certificates

At the end of the Prep Test the examiner will present the candidate with a certificate. There is no pass or fail and no marks are awarded, just positive and helpful comments written on the certificate by the examiner and covering some of the following:

- Note accuracy • Rhythm • Tone • Posture • Aural response
- General impression

## Publications

A **Prep Test book** is published by ABRSM for each subject listed opposite, and contains all the requirements (apart from the own choice piece).

*Set piece alternatives:* As an alternative to the set pieces in the Prep Test books, **Piano, Violin, Cello, Flute, Clarinet** and **Trumpet** candidates may choose any item from ABRSM's *Party Time!* for their instrument. Additionally, **Piano** candidates may choose their set piece from *Party Time! on Holiday* or *Roundabout*, also published by ABRSM.

All of the above ABRSM publications are available from good music retailers. In case of difficulty, visit [www.abrsm.org](http://www.abrsm.org).

## Entry details

### *In the UK & Republic of Ireland*

Details of exam dates, closing dates, venues, fees and how to enter are given in the current *Examination Information & Regulations* booklet and current entry form, available:

- online at [www.abrsm.org](http://www.abrsm.org)
- from Honorary Local Representatives
- from our office in London (T +44 (0)20 7636 5400; E [ukadmin@abrsm.ac.uk](mailto:ukadmin@abrsm.ac.uk))

### *In all other countries*

Details of exam dates, closing dates, venues, fees and how to enter are given in the current *Examination Information & Regulations* booklet (International edition), the entry form and the appropriate *Dates and Fees* leaflet, available:

- online at [www.abrsm.org](http://www.abrsm.org)
- from Local Representatives or Contacts
- from our office in London  
(T +44 (0)20 7467 8240; E [international@abrsm.ac.uk](mailto:international@abrsm.ac.uk))



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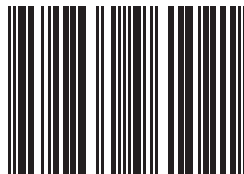
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