

## Special Arrangement for 2024 HKDSE (revised in March 2023)

### MUSIC

#### INTRODUCTION

The public assessment of this subject is based on the Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4–6) Music jointly prepared by the Curriculum Development Council and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. Candidates have to refer to the Guide for the knowledge, understanding and skills they are required to demonstrate in the assessment.

#### ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this assessment are to evaluate candidates' abilities to:

1. demonstrate listening skills in music to identify and respond critically to diverse music genres and styles, and analyse their artistic qualities in relation to the historical and cultural contexts;
2. perform different types of music accurately and fluently using appropriate styles and expression, and explain the interpretations of the music being performed; and
3. create and arrange music using appropriate compositional devices, and explain the use of music elements in compositional devices of their compositions.

#### MODE OF ASSESSMENT

The following table outlines the various components of the public assessment of Music:

Part	Mode	Duration	Weighting
<b>Compulsory Part</b>			
Paper 1: Listening	Public written examination Part A: Music in the Western classical tradition Part B: Chinese instrumental music, Cantonese operatic music, Local and Western popular music	Part A: about 75 mins Part B: about 75 mins	40%
Paper 2: Performing I	External assessment (practical examination)	About 30 mins	20%
Paper 3: Creating I	External assessment (Portfolio)	N. A.	20%
<b>Elective Part</b> (choosing one paper)			
Paper 4A: Special Project	External assessment (Project report)	N. A.	20%
Paper 4B: Performing II	External assessment (Practical examination) <i>OR</i> other recognised qualifications	About 30 mins	20%
Paper 4C: Creating II	External assessment (Portfolio) <i>OR</i> other recognised qualifications	N. A.	20%

## **PUBLIC EXAMINATION**

### **Paper 1: Listening (40%)**

Candidates have to sit for a public written examination. The examination covers the following:

- (i) Music in the Western classical tradition (20%)
- (ii) Chinese instrumental music (8%)
- (iii) Cantonese operatic music (6%)
- (iv) Local and Western popular music (6%)

Candidates listen to a number of music excerpts and answer related questions. Each excerpt will be played an appropriate number of times, and in some cases scores are provided. The questions in this Paper will be of various kinds, such as multiple-choice questions, matching, as well as long and short questions.

### **Paper 2: Performing I (20%)**

Candidates may use any instrument(s) and/or voice. The basic requirements of this Paper are comparable to the Grade 4 practical examination of the ABRSM or the Grade 5 practical examination of the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto-Canada for Western instruments, and the Grade 4 practical examination of the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, for Chinese instruments. Candidates have to:

- (i) perform two or more pieces in an instrumental or vocal ensemble in contrasting styles in one performance (15%), the duration of which should range from 6 to 12 minutes, and take part in an oral presentation lasting for 3 to 5 minutes to explain their understanding and interpretation of the music performed (3%);
- (ii) sing at sight a tonal melody of 8 to 12 bars (2%).

If candidates choose Paper 4B (Performing II) as an elective in the same examination sitting, the pieces performed in this Paper should not be the same as those in Paper 4B (Performing II). Individual schools are required to video-record candidates' performances of the above items and submit the recordings to the HKEAA for external assessment. Private candidates need to sit the practical examination on-site.

### **Paper 3: Creating I (20%)**

Candidates are required to submit a portfolio for external assessment. The following items should be included in the portfolio:

- (i) two or more compositions (16%), the total duration of which should be approximately ~~6 to 15 minutes~~ → 4 to 12 minutes, with at least one composition scored for an ensemble;
- (ii) a reflective report (4%) of about 500 words.

The recordings and scores of the compositions have to be submitted also. If candidates choose Paper 4C (Creating II) as an elective in the same examination sitting, the compositions submitted for Paper 3 should not be the same as those for Paper 4C. Candidates' portfolios should be accompanied by a supporting statement signed by themselves and the music teacher or school principal, stating that this is the candidate's own work. Any material which is quoted must be acknowledged.

#### **Paper 4A: Special Project (20%)**

Candidates have to submit a written report of 3,000 to 5,000 words to discuss the musical and cultural context of a particular topic for external assessment. The written report should consist of an introduction, discussion and analysis, conclusion and a list of references (a listening repertoire and a bibliography must be included). Scores, illustrations, and audio or video recordings can also be included as additional materials. In general, topics which focus on discussion of musicians' biographical details will not be considered. Again, candidates' written reports should be accompanied by a supporting statement signed by themselves and the music teacher or school principal, stating that the written report is the candidates' own work. Any material which is quoted must be acknowledged.

#### **Paper 4B: Performing II (20%)**

Candidates may use any instrument(s) and/or voice for this externally-assessed practical examination. The basic requirements of this paper are comparable to the Grade 6 practical examination of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) and Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB); Grade 7 practical examination of the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto-Canada for Western instruments; and the Grade 6 practical examination of the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, for Chinese instruments. Candidates have to sing or play two or more pieces individually in contrasting styles in a recital (18%), the duration of which should range from 10 to 20 minutes, and take part in a viva voce lasting for 3 to 5 minutes to explain their understanding and interpretation of the music performed (2%).

The pieces performed should not be the same as those in Paper 2 (Performing I). Candidates may submit proof of a recognised qualification for exemption from this Paper. Please refer to the annex for the conversion of grades based on various recognised qualifications. If candidates submit proof of a recognised qualification for exemption from this examination, the pieces performed in Paper 2 (Performing I) should be different from the pieces in the recognised practical examination.

#### **Paper 4C: Creating II (20%)**

Candidates are required to submit a portfolio for external assessment. The following items should be included in the portfolio:

- (i) two music arrangements of specific tasks, the total duration of which should range from 8 to 18 minutes (16%): (1) to arrange an instrumental piece for a different instrumentation, and (2) to add accompaniment and extension to an existing song or melody. Candidates should make the arrangement on an original piece, and that the score of the original piece has to be submitted together with the arrangement; and
- (ii) a reflective report (4%) of about 600 words.

The recordings and scores of the compositions have to be submitted also. The compositions submitted for this Paper should not be the same as those for Paper 3 (Creating I). Candidates may submit proof of a recognised qualification for exemption from this Paper. Please refer to the annex for information of the exemption of this paper. If candidates submit proof of a recognised qualification for exemption from this examination, the compositions submitted in Paper 3 should be different from those in the recognised examination. Candidates' portfolios should be accompanied by a supporting statement signed by themselves and the music teacher or school principal, stating that this is the candidates' own work. Any material which is quoted must be acknowledged.

**Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination Music  
Marks Conversion Table for the Exemption of Paper 4B (Performing II)**

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Paper 4B Performing II (20%)

Candidates with a recognised qualification, or equivalent, may apply for exemption from this practical examination at the time they register for entry to the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE). Evidence of these qualifications should be submitted to the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at the time of registration. Candidates may update the evidence of their qualifications no later than the stipulated deadline of the amendment period. Marks will be awarded to such candidates according to the conversion method as listed in the following table. Other awarding bodies which have been granted exemption in the past public examinations by the HKEAA are also listed following the table. Candidates should note that the list of awarding bodies is not exhaustive and will be updated when required.

Candidates should also note that in submitting proof of a recognised qualification for exemption in Paper 4B (Performing II), the pieces performed in Paper 2 (Performing I) should be different from the pieces in the recognised practical examination submitted for exemption. Candidates should complete and submit a declaration at the time they apply for exemption.

## Paper 4B Marks Conversion

<b>Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music / Trinity Guildhall Music Examinations</b>	<b>Australian Music Examinations Board</b>	<b>Royal conservatory of Music Toronto-Canada</b>	<b>Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing (Chinese music)</b>	<b>Marks to be awarded</b>
Grade 6 (Pass)	Grade 6 (Satisfactory)	Grade 7 (Pass & Honors)	Grade 6 (Pass, Merit & Distinction)	10
Grade 6 (Merit)	Grade 6 (Credit)	Grade 7 (First Class Honors)	Grade 7 (Pass & Merit)	11
Grade 6 (Distinction)	Grade 6 (Honours / High Distinction)	Grade 7 (First Class Honors with Distinction)	Grade 7 (Distinction)	12
Grade 7 (Pass)	Grade 7 (Satisfactory)	Grade 8 (Pass & Honors)	Grade 8 (Pass)	13
Grade 7 (Merit)	Grade 7 (Credit)	Grade 8 (First Class Honors)	Grade 8 (Merit)	14
Grade 7 (Distinction)	Grade 7 (Honours / High Distinction)	Grade 8 (First Class Honors with Distinction)	Grade 8 (Distinction)	15
Grade 8 (Pass)	Grade 8 (Satisfactory)	Grade 9 (Pass & Honors)	Grade 9 (Pass)	16
Grade 8 (Merit)	Grade 8 (Credit)	Grade 9 (First Class Honors)	Grade 9 (Merit)	17
Grade 8 (Distinction)	Grade 8 (Honours / High Distinction)	Grade 9 (First Class Honors with Distinction)	Grade 9 (Distinction)	19
DipABRSM / ATCL or above	Associate Diploma or above	Grade 10 (Pass, Honors, First Class Honors or First Class Honors with Distinction) or above	Performance Diploma	20

The mark conversion for cases other than those listed in the above table will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The awarding bodies which have been granted exemption in the past public examinations by the HKEAA are London College of Music (LCM), University of West London (*formerly known as LCM, Thames Valley University*), Grading Committee of China Conservatory (中國音樂學院考級委員會) and China Nationalities Orchestra Society (中國民族管弦樂學會).

**Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination Music**  
**Application for Exemption of Paper 4C (Creating II)**

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Paper 4C Creating II (20%)

There is no mark conversion table for exemption in this paper. Candidates with a recognised qualification may apply for exemption from this examination at the time they register for entry to the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE). Evidence of these qualifications should be submitted to the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at the time of registration. Candidates may update the evidence of their qualifications no later than the stipulated deadline of the amendment period. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Candidates should note that in submitting proof of a recognised qualification for exemption in Paper 4C (Creating II), the pieces composed in Paper 3 (Creating I) should be different from the pieces in the recognised practical examination submitted for exemption. Candidates should complete and submit a declaration at the time they apply for exemption.