



Victoria College Examinations
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BASS GUITAR

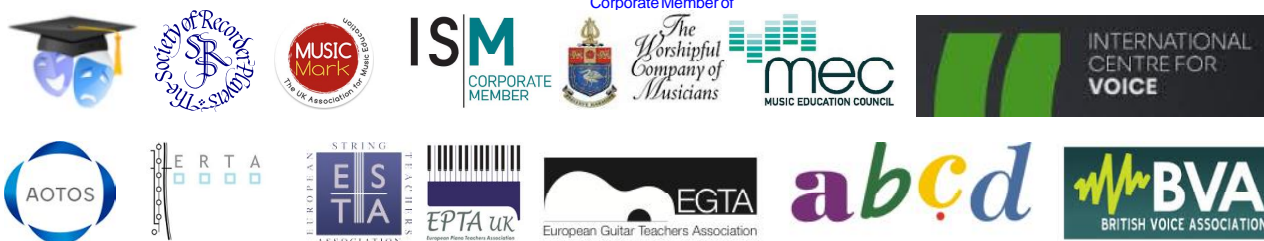


Victoria College of Music and Drama, London

Founded 1890

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Bass Guitar Syllabus



Victoria College Examinations is an institutional member of the College of Teachers (www.collegeofteachers.ac.uk) and abides by its code of practice.

ABOUT THE VCM

Victoria College of Music and Drama, London Ltd. is an independent body providing examinations in Music, Speech, and Drama subjects. It has held examination sessions throughout the British Isles and certain overseas countries since it was founded in 1890. It no longer operates a full-time teaching institution. The VCM is a corporate member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, the Worshipful Company of Musicians, the Music Education Council, the Association of Teachers of Singing, the European Piano Teachers Association, the European Recorder Teachers Association, the Society of Recorder Players, the European String Teachers Association the Society of Teachers of Speech & Drama, the National Association of Music Educators, the Association of British Choral Directors, the Schools Music Association of Great Britain and is an institutional member of the College of Teachers and abides by its code of practice.

Further details about Victoria College can be found on our website:

[www. Vcmexams.com](http://www.Vcmexams.com)

PASS MARKS

Introductory Grades	65%
Grades 1 to 8	65%
with Merit	80%; with Distinction 90%
Merit is shown as %Honours+in Ireland	
Pre-diploma certificate	75% (85% with Honours)
Medal examinations	75%
Diplomas	75% (85% with Honours)

WHAT THE EXAMINERS ARE LOOKING FOR

Examiners are looking for a combination of skill, knowledge and understanding. Questions are asked in a manner which assesses the candidate's depth of understanding, not merely the ability to repeat definitions. Ingenuity, variety, musicianship, and a sense of style are rewarded, as well as technical skill and musical accuracy.

OWN COMPOSITIONS

Candidates for Grades 1 to 8 may perform their own compositions in lieu of Musicianship Tests. Further guidance is set out in *Crazy Composing* available from www.vcmpublications.co.uk.

REGULATIONS

All entries are accepted on the conditions laid down in *General Regulations and Information*, a copy of which is available free of charge. It is also on our website: www.vcmexams.com

ENTRY FORMS

All *grades* and *medal* examinations can be entered on white entry forms with no more than ten candidates on a page. Please use the following code in the column headed %subject+and the appropriate letter(s) or numbers in the %grade no.+column.

Classical Guitar: GT
Bass Guitar: BG
Plectrum Guitar: PG

QUESTIONS

Questions are based principally on the music performed; but in addition examiners are at liberty to ask questions on notes, rests, musical terms and signs, key and time-signatures, according to the Grade. Also specifically on minor keys; perfect, major, and minor intervals (Grade 3 upwards).

SIGHT READING

Sight Reading tests are included from Preparatory level upwards. The relative standard will be that of approximately two grades below the grade being taken. Examiners will be at liberty to discuss the Sight Reading Test with candidates as part of the Questions.

PIECES

Candidates are required to prepare the whole of the pieces they have selected from the lists, but the examiner may stop the candidate at any given point or ask for certain sections to be performed, or to omit repeats where appropriate.

SCALEWORK

The examiner will request a representative sample of those specified for a particular examination. Candidates will not be expected to perform Scalework specified for earlier grades.

PHOTOCOPIES

All VCM and LMP publications are copyright. Photocopying of LMP publications is not permissible and **candidates using unauthorised photocopies at examinations will be disqualified**. It is acceptable, however, to use a photocopy for the second copy when the syllabus requires one to be handed to the examiner, provided the original is also brought to the examination. It is also acceptable to use photocopies of parts of long pieces to avoid awkward page turns, again provided the original is also brought to the examination.

EXEMPTION FROM QUESTIONS AT PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS

Candidates who have passed certain VCM Theoretical Examinations are entitled to claim full marks for questions at Practical Examinations as follows:

Grade 1 Theory exempts up to and including Preliminary Practical

Grade 1A Theory exempts up to and including Preparatory

Grade 2 Theory exempts up to and including Grade 3 Practical

Grade 3 Theory exempts up to and including Grade 5 Practical

Grade 4 Theory exempts up to and including Grade 7 Practical

In all such cases the theory result or certificate must be produced for the Examiner at the beginning of the practical examination.

MEMORY

Performing from memory is not compulsory at any level. However, it is encouraged and will be rewarded.

At all grades as an alternative piece may be chosen from

“The Guitarist’ Irish Collection”

A collection of 14 well loved Irish melodies (and a Johnny Cash Song that is often wrongly said to be traditional!) is a graded set of pieces for all guitarists from absolute beginners, who have just bought their first instruments, to accomplished players with several years experience.

Each piece has been carefully arranged so that it can be played in either Plectrum or Finger Style. I hope that this will encourage the exploration of the different techniques involved. Chords are also incorporated into the solo performances to help some Classical players overcome a tendency to avoid the enjoyable freedom that rhythm playing can afford.

Each piece is written in both Notation and Tablature and here again I hope that students will pick up knowledge and skills from whichever system they know least about! Also ensemble arrangements are easily produced from the scores which include chord symbols.

The book is available from Victoria College of Music at £9.95
The pieces are set in both the Classical and Plectrum Syllabus.

Contents

When Irish Eyes are Smiling (Grade A),
Never Wed an Old Man (Grade A)
Cockles and Mussels (Grade C)
The Wild Rover (Grade C)
Weile Weile (Grade 1)
I Know Where I'm going (Grade 1)
The Rose of Tralee (Grade 2)
Whiskey in the Jar (Grade 2)
Forty Shades of Green (Grade 3)
I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen (Grade 3)
Two Jigs . The Irish Washerwoman . Monaghan (Grade 4)
Spinning Wheel (Grade 5)
The Black Velvet Band (Grade 6)
The Mountains of Mourne (Grade 7)
Fantasia on The Londonderry Air (Danny Boy) (Grade 8)

Colin R. Tribe

Other books published by Colin Tribe and available from Fatfish Music include:

Guitar Essentials Books 1, 2 and 3

Bass Essentials

The Bollywood Collection 1 & 2

Sound Ideas

KeyTabs for Christmas

Hindi Devotional Song Book

Mandolin Magic

Fatfish Music

1 Trent Villas, Farndon Road, NEWARK, Notts NG24 4SL United Kingdom

Tel: 01636 700411 Email: contribute@btinternet.com

All Guitars

Diploma in Guitar Playing DipVCM

Entry should be made on pink diploma entry form. This diploma is available to candidates of any age. Successful candidates receive a diploma but are not entitled to wear academical robes.

PAPERWORK

Candidates for DipVCM must pass Victoria College of Music Grade V Theory of Music. Candidates who can produce evidence of having passed GCSE in Music or equivalent may apply for exemption from the Theory requirement.

Part One Performance (80 marks)

Candidates may use any type of guitar or a combination of instruments if they wish.

To Play **Two Solos** solo drawn from Associate lists

To Play **One** Solo drawn from the Grade 8 Lists

To Play One **Own Choice** piece which may be an own composition of appropriate standard.

Part Two Sight Reading (10 marks)

Candidates are required to perform and answer questions on an unseen test after a few moments perusal.

Questions (10 marks)

Medal Awards in Guitar Playing

Medal awards offer candidates offer an opportunity to take examinations based mainly only performance. No scalework, Musicanship Tests or Composition components are required.

There is a higher Pass Mark of 75%

Candidates for Medal examinations may, if they wish, perform using more than one instrument. In such cases the certificate will show Guitar Playing as the subject of examination.

Successful candidates will each receive a diploma together with a medal order form. All medals have

a ribbon and pin attachment and are of good quality metals. Each medal is supplied in a box and can be engraved with the candidate's name, subject of examination and the year. The prices of the medals are shown on the order form. Medal awards do not entitle holders to designatory letters after their names

Junior Bronze Medal

SOLO PIECES As for Grade 3 plus a suitable %own choice+solo	60 marks 200 marks
QUESTIONS	10 marks
SIGHT READING	10 marks

Junior Silver Medal

SOLO PIECES As for Grade 4 plus a suitable %own choice+solo	60 marks 20 marks
QUESTIONS	10 marks
SIGHT READING	10 marks

Bronze Medal

SOLO PIECES As for Grade 6 plus a suitable %own choice+solo	60 marks 20 marks
QUESTIONS	10 marks
SIGHT READING	10 marks

Silver Medal

SOLO PIECES As for Grade 7 plus a suitable %own choice+solo	60 marks 20 marks
QUESTIONS	10 marks
SIGHT READING	10 marks

Gold Medal

Entry for the Gold Medal is restricted to those who have already passed the Silver Medal in a Guitar Playing examination.

SOLO RECITAL	90 marks
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Candidates must present a balanced programme of their own choice of four solos that do not appear elsewhere in the syllabus, at least one of them from memory. The programme must show a range of styles. The standard of difficulty should be suitable to this level of examination. Candidates should introduce their programme as to a live audience.

DISCUSSION OF THE WORK PERFORMED	10 marks
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Introductory Examinations

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		BG	A

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		BG	C

A -First Steps in Bass Guitar Playing

Exercises (20 Marks)

Candidates must perform the Chord Sequence set out in the Exam Sheet for the grade.

Scalework (10 marks)

Candidates must prepare the Scales and arpeggios of C major, A minor, G major & E minor to a fifth.

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play both of the following Pieces from the Exam Sheet for the grade; or one of the pieces plus an own choice+suitable for the grade:

Tribe: The Basic Blues in C

Tribe: Play Around

Questions (10 marks)

C- Preparatory Bass Guitar Playing

Exercises (20 Marks)

Candidates must perform the Chord Sequence set out in the Exam Sheet for the grade.

Scalework (10 marks)

Candidates must prepare the Scales and arpeggios of C, E & F majors, A, C and G harmonic minor, to an octave.

Solo Pieces (50 marks)

To play both of the following Pieces from the Exam Sheet for the grade; or one of the pieces plus an own choice+suitable for the grade:

Tribe: Easy Rider

Tribe: The Deed is Done

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

There are no Guitar examinations available at B- Preliminary or D- Advanced Preparatory level.

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		BG	1

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE
		BG	2

Grade 1 in Bass Guitar Playing

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play the Chord Sequence from the Exam Sheet for the Grade

Plus any two of the following Pieces from the Exam Sheet for the grade; or one of the pieces plus an own choice+suitable for the grade:

- Tribe: Rockabilly Bluesy
- Tribe: A Sixth Sense
- Tribe: A Three Chord Trick

Scalework (10 marks)

Candidates must prepare the Scales and arpeggios of G, D, A & B flat majors, E, B, F# and D harmonic minor, to an octave.

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

Either Musicianship Tests (10 Marks)

Test 1: To clap a rhythm in 2/4 time. 2 bars in length, played twice by the examiner.

Test 2: To identify any note in the arpeggio C/E/G/C', Middle C being given

Test 3: To echo a five-note phrase played twice by the examiner.

or Composition (10 Marks)

Perform an own composition of about 8 bars in the key of C major. It should be balanced as an opening 4-bar phrase which forms a question+and a 4-bar phrase that forms an answer+

Bass Guitar playing examinations are not available above Grade 2.

Grade 2 in Bass Guitar Playing

Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play the Chord Sequence from the Exam Sheet for the Grade

Plus any two of the following Pieces from the Exam Sheet for the grade; or one of the pieces plus an own choice+suitable for the grade:

- Tribe: Easy Rider
- Tribe: Well It Be Flat

Scalework (10 marks)

Candidates must prepare the Scales and arpeggios of E, E flat, A flat majors, C, C# and F harmonic minor; the Dominant 7th Arpeggios of Key C - Chord G7, Key G - Chord D7, Key D - Chord A7, Key A - Chord E7; the Major 7th Arpeggios of Key E - Chord B7, C major7, G major7, D major7, A major7, E major7; Minor 7th Arpeggios of A minor 7th, E minor 7th, B minor 7th, F# minor 7th, C# minor 7th to an octave.

Questions (10 marks)

Sight Reading (10 marks)

Either Musicianship Tests (10 Marks)

Test 4: To clap a rhythm in 2/4 time. 2 bars in length, played twice by the examiner.

Test 5: To identify any note C to G, played from C

Test 6: To hum, play or play a group of 5 or 6 notes played twice by the examiner, and to complete the phrase by adding **one** note

or Composition (10 Marks)

Perform an own composition of about 16 bars in the key of C, G or F major. It should be balanced as an opening 4-bar phrase which forms a question+, a 4-bar phrase that forms an answer+, a repeat of the opening 4-bar phrase, and a second answering+phrase