



conservatory
C A N A D A™

Pre-Grade One Piano Examination

Length of Examination: 15 minutes

Examination Fee: \$75 (includes mini-lesson)

The Pre-Grade One Piano Exam is designed for young students who have some experience in lessons, yet have not quite reached the Grade One level and want exposure to the examination process in an interactive, enjoyable and safe environment. Students perform three pieces and are tested on Technique, Sight Reading and Ear Training in only a few short minutes, with the balance of the time spent having a mini-lesson with the Examiner. The total experience lasts 15 minutes at a cost of \$75. Although a mark and written assessment are given for reference, the emphasis is on celebrating the student's progress and work completed. This is reinforced through the interaction with the Examiner during the mini-lesson portion of the exam. The marking scale employed is more similar to what is used at music festivals. Up to two parents plus the teacher may be present in the exam room for the entire session, one of which may be designated to assist gently in the event that the student needs some support.

REQUIREMENTS & MARKING

Requirements		Total Marks
Repertoire 3 pieces	Longer Piece	10
	Longer Piece	10
	Shorter Piece	10
Technique	Scales/Triads	10
Sight Reading	Rhythm (3) Note Identification (2)	5
Aural Tests	Clap Back (2) Triads (3)	5
Total Possible Marks		50*

*Mark will be multiplied by two to receive a score out of 100.

REPERTOIRE

Students are required to play three pieces of their choice at a level deemed by the teacher to be slightly easier than Grade One; memorization is optional. In order to provide a worthwhile evaluation experience, careful consideration should be given that the music chosen contains sufficient musical integrity to allow for comments to be shared by the examiner. Music from the “performance” or “solos” books from widely used beginner methods are appropriate, using those from Levels 2 or 3 (not Primer or Level 1). A sample list of books follows as a guide, however music may be chosen from other sources, including Lesson books, *without* prior approval from Conservatory Canada. At least two of the pieces should be of a longer length - two standard pages or at least 16 measures.

Sample book list:

- Conservatory Canada Pre-Grade 1 Repertoire book
- Music for Young Children, Sunbeams 3
- Piano Adventures by Faber and Faber (Performance books, Level 2A or 2B)
- Hal Leonard Piano (Solos books, Level 2 or 3)
- Alfred’s Basic Piano Library or Premier Piano Course (Performance books, Level 2A or 2B)
- Bastien Piano Basics (Performance books, Level 2 or 3)
- The Music Tree (Level 2 or 3)
- Suzuki Piano (Volume 1)
- Pianokids (Level 2B or 3)

TECHNIQUE

- All technical tests should be played from memory using logical fingering and steady pulse.
- Metronome speeds provided should be considered minimum speeds.
- Scales should be played ascending and descending without repeating the upper tonic note.
- Triads should be played ascending and descending, in root position and inversions. Triads may be prepared and played either solid, broken or any combination thereof, *at the student’s choice* (the examiner will not specify).

Scales

	Keys	Hands	Range	♩=	Performance
Major	C, G	Separate	1 octave	60	Legato in eighth notes
Harmonic Minor	A	Separate	1 octave	60	Legato in eighth notes
Contrary Motion	C	Together	1 octave	60	Legato in eighth notes

Triads

	Keys	Hands	Range	♩=	Performance
Solid or Broken	C, G major A minor	Separate	1 octave	-	Any steady tempo

SIGHT READING

Candidates will be given a brief period to scan the score for the following two tests:

Rhythm

Tap, clap or play on one note (at the candidate's choice) a rhythm, 4 bars in length.

- Time signature will be 4/4..
- Note values may include whole, half and quarter.
- There will be no rests..

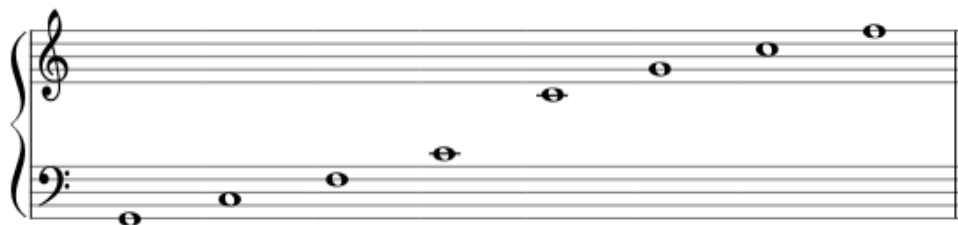
Example:



Note Identification

Find specific notes from the grand staff on the keyboard.

- The examiner will point to the given note on a page for the student to identify and play on the keyboard.
- The notes will be chosen from the following:



AURAL TESTS

Candidates will be required to complete the following two tests:

Clap Back

Clap back the rhythmic pattern of a 2-bar melody in 4/4 time after it has been played twice by the examiner.

- Note values may include half, quarter and eighth.

Example:



Triad Identification

Identify major and minor triads played once by the examiner. The triads will be in root position, and will be played in broken form, ascending and descending.

Example:



MINI-LESSON

The mini-lesson component of the exam will commence immediately after the tests have finished and will last up to the 15 minute mark of the exam. Parents and the teacher are encouraged to be present. The examiner will work with the student to address anything of interest to the student, teacher or parents; or simply offer their own suggestions for further study. The examiner is free to work with the repertoire played on the exam if the student wishes.