



"SHOWCASE" EXAMINATION SYLLABUS

Overview:

St. Cecilia's **SHOWCASE EXAMINATIONS** are designed to provide a graded assessment for musicians who present an examination performance demonstrating their technical and musical abilities using **two** musical instruments during the one examination.

SHOWCASE Examinations therefore provide the musician with an opportunity to "showcase" their multiple instrumental/vocal skills.

Criteria:

Students entering for the SHOWCASE examinations should choose items from the St. Cecilia syllabuses. Items may be chosen from alternative syllabuses but care must be taken to ensure pieces are of an equivalent St. Cecilia standard.

Candidates will perform using any two musical instruments (including voice) during the examination. The **primary** instrument will usually be of a higher-grade level than the **secondary** instrument. Timings, as listed below, are vitally important and must be strictly adhered to.

Four items are required, **two items for each instrument**. The choice of pieces should be made with examination timings in mind. Item choice should reflect the versatility of the performer and should be interesting and entertaining. Studies and exercises are not acceptable. Instruments other than Pianoforte and Guitar, must be accompanied for **all** item choices.

Marks will be awarded for appropriate choice of items, performance presentation (including dress standards), technical adaptability, accurate timing, musicianship and performance flair and style.

Candidates will be awarded with a detailed report form which will address all aspects of their performance using the above criteria. Showcase Examination Certificates will be issued to students who have achieved a minimum result of 65%. Certificates will be endorsed with Higher Distinction, Distinction, Merit and Pass according to the result achieved. Both instruments will be listed on the certificate.

Examination fees and timings follow the **Primary** instrument grade.

Examination Requirements:

Students will need to fulfill the following examination requirements.

Grade Levels:

Grade 1:	Primary instrument Grade 1; Secondary instrument Beginner Grade or higher
Grade 2:	Primary instrument Grade 2; Secondary instrument Junior Grade or higher
Grade 3:	Primary instrument Grade 3; Secondary instrument Preliminary Grade or higher
Grade 4:	Primary instrument Grade 4; Secondary instrument Grade 1 or higher
Grade 5:	Primary instrument Grade 5; Secondary instrument Grade 2 or higher
Grade 6:	Primary instrument Grade 6; Secondary instrument Grade 3 or higher
Grade 7:	Primary instrument Grade 7; Secondary instrument Grade 4 or higher
Grade 8:	Primary instrument Grade 8; Secondary instrument Grade 5 or higher

Grade Timings:

Timings are for actual performing time with a maximum 30 seconds allowed between items. All instruments, music stands and other equipment must be set up in advance i.e. before the commencement of the examination.

	Minimum performance time:	Maximum Performance Time:
Grade 1:	6 minutes	10 minutes
Grade 2:	7 minutes	10 minutes
Grade 3:	8 minutes	10 minutes
Grade 4:	9 minutes	12 minutes
Grade 5:	10 minutes	15 minutes
Grade 6:	12 minutes	18 minutes
Grade 7:	14 minutes	20 minutes
Grade 8:	16 minutes	22 minutes

Dress and Stage Etiquette:

In keeping with the spirit of showcasing performance excellence, adherence to dress standards and stage etiquette is vital. Students will achieve excellent results in this section if it is obvious to the audience and examiner that a conscientious and above-average effort has been made. A casual, unrehearsed or apologetic approach would not be acceptable.

Written Programme **OR** Oral Presentation:

Candidates have the option of completing a written programme which should be handed to the examiner at the commencement of the examination OR providing an oral presentation prior to the performance. Both options should be prepared in advance and must reflect mature and well-researched information. Marks will be awarded for both content and presentation.

Either

Option 1: (Written Programme)

At all grade levels the written programme should be imaginatively-constructed and contain relevant and detailed information about each of the pieces performed e.g. the significance of the title, the key and form of the piece, the composer's life and output. Some biographical details about the performer are appropriate.

Or

Option 2: (Oral Presentation)

The candidate will deliver a confident, mature and well-structured oral presentation based on relevant information about each of the performed pieces e.g. the significance of the title, the formal structure, the composer's life and output. Some biographical details about the performer are also appropriate. There should be evidence of a carefully-rehearsed, skilled and articulate presentation. Minimum / Maximum time limit of 2-4 minutes for Grades 1-4; 3-6 minutes for Grades 5-8.