



TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON

YOUNG COMPOSERS' COMPETITION

Piano Syllabus 2021-2023

Compositional Brief

- ▶ Pieces must be written for solo piano. Duets will not be accepted.
- ▶ Pieces may be in any style.
- ▶ Pieces must comply with the listed durations, keys and time signatures.
- ▶ Details given under the heading of 'General characteristics' are designed for the guidance of composers and are not comprehensive.
- ▶ All parameters are cumulative.

INITIAL

Duration	approx. 30 seconds
Keys	C, G, F majors; A minor
Time signatures	$\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{4}{4}$ (without anacrusis)
Note values	Semibreves, minims, crotchets, quavers
Rests	Minims, crotchets, whole bar
Articulation	<i>legato</i> , <i>staccato</i> , accents
Dynamics	<i>pp</i> , <i>p</i> , <i>mf</i> , <i>f</i> , <i>ff</i> , crescendo, diminuendo
Tempo marks and other signs	Andante , allegro , moderato , rallentando , ritenuto , repeat marks
General characteristics	Basic 5-finger hand positions mainly on white keys, hands together, simple melody (mainly step-wise) with accompaniment, ties, similar motion parts, use of 2-note harmonic intervals and easy 3-part chords, very elementary writing showing independence of hands, interchange of material between hands, elements of one hand copying the other, striking/sudden dynamic contrast

GRADE 1

Duration	approx. 45 seconds
Keys	D, B \flat majors; D, E, G minors; pentatonic on black notes
Time signatures	$\frac{2}{2}$, $\frac{4}{8}$, $\frac{3}{8}$
Note values	Dotted crotchets, dotted quavers, semiquavers
Rests	Quavers, dotted quavers
Dynamics	<i>mp</i>
General characteristics	Grace notes, harmonic intervals of a 6th, use of accidentals, simple contrapuntal movement and some syncopation, independence of hands, simple use of 3-part chords, shifts of hand position, basic finger patterns, thumb passing

GRADE 2

Duration	approx. 1 minute
Keys	A, E \flat majors
Time signatures	$\frac{6}{8}$
Note values/formations	Triplets
Rests	Semiquavers
Articulation	<i>tenuto</i> , phrase marks
Dynamics	<i>decrescendo</i>
Tempo, expression marks and other words/signs	Adagio , allegretto , vivace , cantabile , espressivo , grazioso , molto , octave signs, first and second time bars, metronome marks, pause marks
General characteristics	Motivic patterns in both hands, simple syncopation, more contrapuntal writing, more frequent use of leaps and shifts in hand positions

GRADE 3

Duration	approx. 50-75 seconds
Keys	E major; C minor
Time signatures	$\frac{9}{8}$
Articulation	Marcato, semi-staccato
Dynamics	<i>fff</i>
Tempo, expression marks and other words/signs	Al, alla, a tempo, con, da Capo, al Fine, dolce, e, ed, leggero, ma, marziale, meno, mosso, moto, non, più, poco, tranquillo, troppo, vivo
General characteristics	More demanding syncopation and rhythmic motifs, more frequent use of chords and melodic leaps, 3-part voicing, changes of register within each hand, crossing of hands, upper and lower mordents and trills, some use of sustaining pedal, more motivic conversation and development between the hands

GRADE 4

Duration	approx. 1 minute 45 seconds
Keys	A \flat , D \flat majors; B, F minors
Articulation	<i>sforzando, fortepiano</i>
Dynamics	<i>ppp</i>
Tempo, expression marks and other words/signs	Accelerando, animato, assai, con moto, ben, brio, giocoso, largo, l'istesso, maestoso, pesante, primo, sempre, senza, simile, subito, troppo, ma non troppo
General characteristics	Moderately complex ornamentation and rhythmic patterns, elements of polyphonic writing, generous use of piano registers, continuous but regular use of sustaining pedal, independence of hands, longer melodic phrases and musical structures, use of more experimental harmonic progressions, spread chords, use of different tempi to characterise a contrast in sections

GRADE 5

Duration	approx. 2 minutes
Keys	B major; F \sharp , C \sharp minors; contrasting section in a different key
Time signatures	$\frac{12}{8}$ and irregular metres $\frac{5}{8}$, $\frac{7}{8}$, $\frac{5}{4}$
Note values	All note values
Rests	All rests
Articulation	<i>sotto voce</i>
Dynamics	Full range
Tempo, expression marks and other words/signs	Agitato, arpeggiando, con forza, energico, grave, larghetto, appassionata, fuoco, morendo, quasi, risoluto, rubato, scherzando, secondo, stringendo
General characteristics	More complex variations of melody and rhythm, thicker harmonic and melodic textures, moderately long scalic passages, full use of all registers, equal technical difficulty in both hands, more sophisticated use of the sustaining pedal, some use of the <i>una corda</i> , generous use of expression markings, <i>ad libitum</i> sections

GRADE 6

Duration	approx. 2 minutes 30 seconds
Time signatures	Any
Articulation	Full range
Dynamics; gradation of tone	Full range
Tempo changes/variants	Full range
General characteristics	Fuller and more complex use of all preceding characteristics

GRADE 7

Duration	approx. 3 to 4 minutes
General characteristics	Further development of nuance and texture; melody/ accompaniment in one hand requiring more sophisticated independence of fingers; harmonic language more complex; polyrhythms; contrapuntal textures (to include, perhaps, contrasting articulations); imitative counterpoint; development of larger scale structures; increased expressive parameters; exploitation of registers; wide leaps/use of the full range of the keyboard; sophisticated employment of rubato/tempi manipulation

GRADE 8

Duration	approx. 3 to 4 minutes
General characteristics	As above but more fully embracing a wide and diverse range of pianistic techniques and interpretational considerations. Figurations may include more advanced use of double note passages (eg 3rds, 8ves in one hand)

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