

Performance Exam Candidate

So you are preparing to do an **ABRSM** performance grade!

Here is the full guidance provided by the ABRSM <https://gb.abrsm.org/media/65194/guidance-for-remotely-assessed-performance-grade-exams-final.pdf>

But we have put together a few key things we want to highlight from our own experience with the comments and marks we have seen so far. *This is not an official guide from the ABRSM, and reflects only Cadenza's views from our experience.*

- **The exam is a Performance exam.** Examiners are marking harshly on performance aspects and there are also 30 marks associated solely to performance. **Treat the exam like a recital.** Hold your last note of each piece for the appropriate length of time, finish neatly, pause in place then let the piece rest in silence before moving on. If you have an instrument such as a trumpet or flute, let the instrument rest down when the piece is finished. If you are on the piano, rest your hands on your lap. **Leave spaces between the pieces for them to breathe. Do not rush. We cannot stress this enough. Do not rush between pieces.** Let your pieces breathe before turning the page to the next one.
- **Fill in your 'Programme form' prior to your exam.** There are two options, portrait or landscape. You may choose either depending on which way you might film. It isn't too important which. When filling in your form, think about the order you wish to play your pieces to build a balanced programme. <https://gb.abrsm.org/media/66414/editable-pdf-exam-programme-form-january-2022.pdf>
- You will need your **Candidate ID** before recording if you have taken any ABRSM exam in any instrument since February 2020. This is so we can link your exams together under your account. You will need it on the programme form. Speak to us if you aren't sure.
- You must **hold your programme form up**, near the camera, for 5 seconds at the beginning of filming so the examiner can see it. You then **introduce yourself and the pieces you will play**. For example. 'My name is Katherine Potten and I will be performing grade 1 Piano today. My first piece will be Allegro by Attwood....' Etc. You do not then need to re-introduce pieces as you go through the performance.
- Your **4th/own choice piece**. If this piece is not in the current syllabus/book you must **show the first page of music** to the camera. You can do this after introducing the pieces. Hold it for 5 seconds.
- **Grade 6 and above** also require a passport or Candidate Identity form to be held up at the beginning, this is to verify you have passed Grade 5 theory. Please see us if you're not sure.
- **Set your camera settings to lower resolution** before filming. This is particularly important for grade 4 and above that are longer. The website will not accept large files. See the full guide for more details or ask us for help. It will be easy once you know how.

- **Camera View. You must be able to see the candidate, instrument, music stand and accompanist** (if you have one). The candidate must be the main focus and should be heard/balanced above the accompaniment. We have iPhone/iPad stands to help with this at Cadenza.
- **Express yourself as much as possible throughout your pieces.** There are no scales, arpeggios, no sight reading and no aural test. Your examiner knows this. So they would like to see how musical you are through your performance, tone and use of techniques such as dynamics, articulation, rubato and more. Speak to your teacher if you aren't sure.

Here is a video provided by ABRSM so you can see the requirements <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrwUNJYXzHo>

Don't worry about the booking and uploading, we can help you with this at another time. This is just about the recording aspects.

We hope this helps you record a successful exam performance - good luck!

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