



## Vienna Music Examination Board

# Graded Music Examination

Elementary Grade, Grade 1 to 8, Performance Grade TMPZ / CPPZ / SSPZ

**Piano / Violin / Viola / Cello / Double Bass / Harp / Classical Guitar / Acoustic Guitar / Electric Guitar / Recorder / Flute / Oboe / Clarinet / Bassoon / Saxophone / Horn / E-flat Tenor Horn / Trumpet / Cornet in Bb / Soprano Cornet in Eb / Flugelhorn / Trombone / Tuba / E-flat Bass / B-flat Bass**

Exam Syllabus and Exam Registration Form are available at the Board's official website: [www.vmeb.org](http://www.vmeb.org)



## VMEB Music Exam

Vienna Music Examination Board (Official name in German: “Wiener Musik-Prüfungskommission”) is a reputable and leading accreditation body and authority on professional graded practical music examination. Its board member consists of reputable universities, institutions, conservatory, professional performing bodies, and reputable music associations such as composer associations.

The Board’s music exam is a “performance-focused” music examination. All exams contain no scales, aural, sight reading or other supporting tests. Marks and comments for the examination are heavily based on candidates’ overall performance skill.

There are a total of twelve levels, including one Elementary Grade, eight Secondary Levels (Grade 1 to Grade 8), and three Performance Levels (TMPZ, CPPZ and SSPZ). There are no prerequisites for all the exams. Candidates may enter any grade without having previously taken any other exams.

The music that candidates play in the examination may be drawn from the VMEB Music Exam Syllabus or from syllabus of other music examination boards. No programme approval is needed. However, the programme chosen from other exam boards’ syllabus must demonstrate a comparable level of technical and musical demand to the correspondence grade in the syllabus of Vienna Music Examination Board.

For exams taken in Vienna, it will be supervised and examined by the Board’s Certified Examiners directly. For exams taken at exam centres in overseas, examination will be supervised by the Board’s Exam Supervisor. The whole examination will be recorded by video and the exam centre will then submit a DVD consists of a well-polished performance video of repertoires of correspondence grade together with other required documents to the Board for examiners’ evaluation. Marks and comments on the overall performance will be given by the Board’s examiner, not by the Exam Supervisor during the examination.

## Exam Levels

| Grade Level                 | Equivalent Standards   |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Elementary (Elementarstufe) | Candidates should demonstrate instrument practical skill with at least 1 year of learning  |
| Grade 1 (Stufe 1)           | Candidates should demonstrate instrument practical skill with at least 2 years of learning |
| Grade 2 (Stufe 2)           | Candidates should demonstrate instrument practical skill with at least 5 years of learning |
| Grade 3 (Stufe 3)           |  |
| Grade 4 (Stufe 4)           |  |
| Grade 5 (Stufe 5)           | Candidates should demonstrate instrument practical skill with at least 9 years of learning |
| Grade 6 (Stufe 6)           |  |
| Grade 7 (Stufe 7)           |  |
| Grade 8 (Stufe 8)           |  |
| Performance – TMPZ          | Equivalent to a first year student in a full-time music bachelor degree course             |
| Performance – CPPZ          | Equivalent to a final year student in a full-time music bachelor degree course             |
| Performance – SSPZ          | Equivalent to a final year student in a full-time music master degree course               |

## Exam Syllabus

Candidates may perform a programme consisting pieces from syllabus of Vienna Music Examination Board or from syllabus of other music examination boards. No programme approval is needed. However, the programme chosen from other Boards’ syllabus must demonstrate a comparable level of technical and musical demand to the correspondence grade in the syllabus of Vienna Music Examination Board. Candidates must provide a detailed list of works to be played in the examination to the Exam Supervisor before the exam starts. The following format should be used (indicate applicable items only):

- Composer • Arranger • Name of works • Tonality • Opus Number • Movement
- Tempo • Syllabus source (Board initials) • Grade of Syllabus • Validation Period

Elementarstufe (Elementary): Candidates play two own choice pieces of about 12 to 24 bars. The chosen work should be with a distinctive melody, not a scale practice or a finger exercises with repeated pattern and no melody. A simple etude with obvious musical direction would also be accepted.

Stufe 1-8 (Grade 1-8): Stufe (Grade) are numbered from 1 to 8 in increasing order of difficulty. Candidates play three own choice pieces in at least two contrasting musical style, character or tempo.

Oberstufe (Performance Level): The repertoire must consist of a minimum of two works, including works from at least two different musical periods. Programme should be able to display a range of moods, styles and tempo, and must demonstrate a comparable level of technical and musical demand to the correspondence grade. Candidates may play the complete concerto, sonata, sonatina, suite and other works conceived by the composer as complete unities, or to include selected movements from a complete works provided that a balanced programme is maintained.

## Exam Instruments

### Keyboard Instrument

*Piano*

### Stringed Instruments

*Violin*

*Viola*

*Cello*

*Double Bass*

*Harp*

*Classical Guitar*

### Wind Instruments

*Recorder*

*Flute*

*Oboe*

*Clarinet*

*Bassoon*

*Saxophone*

### Brass Instruments

*Horn*

*E-flat Tenor Horn*

*Trumpet*

*Cornet in Bb*

*Soprano Cornet in Eb*

*Flugelhorn*

*Trombone*

*Tuba*

*E-flat Bass*

*B-flat Bass*

## Exam Regulations/Rules

### Exam Duration

There is no time limit in Elementarstufe (Elementary Grade) exam and Stufe 1-8 (Grade 1-8) exam. The total duration of repertoire for Oberstufe (Performance Level) examinations are shown below.

| Oberstufe (Performance Level)                | Total Duration of Repertoire |
|--|------------------------------|
| TMPZ - Tutti Musiker Performance-Zertifikat  | at least 35 minutes          |
| CPPZ - Concerto Primo Performance-Zertifikat | at least 40 minutes          |
| SSPZ - Super Solist Performance-Zertifikat   | at least 45 minutes          |

The total duration of repertoire refers to the total duration of all the pieces performed, and does not include:

- announcement made by Exam Supervisor/examiner before and at the end of the exam
- tuning
- exposition repeats (e.g. full exposition of a sonata form movement) and introductions of accompanist alone of more than 1 minutes
- breaks or pauses between pieces

### Edition of Pieces

Candidates may use any alternative published edition of the pieces provided that they are not simplified version.

### Repeats

Candidates should observe da capo and dal segno indications. Other repeats could be played at the candidate's choice. Longer repeats (e.g. full exposition of a sonata form movement) should not be played.

### Accompanists

Except Elementarstufe (Elementary Grade) exam, candidates taking exams of orchestral instruments are required to play with accompanist, unless the chosen piece was originally composed for unaccompanied performance.

Candidates taking piano and classical guitar exams are not required to play with accompanist unless candidates choose to play concerto where orchestral reduction must be played by a second piano.

Prerecorded accompaniments are strictly prohibited. All pieces requiring accompaniment must be performed with acoustic piano.

### Shorten Introduction (piano acc.)

Piano accompaniment should not be shortened in Stufe 1-8 (Grade 1-8) exams. For Oberstufe (Performance Level) exams, pianist may carefully shorten them in a musically appropriate way (Pianist should maintain musical aesthetic qualities, avoid changing to totally unrelated chord, and keep the integrity of rhythmical sense) if the piece consisted accompaniment introduction or outro considered to be too long. Playing the entire orchestral ritornello for a concerto first movement by the accompanist would be unnecessary.

### Pauses Between Pieces

Candidates may tune their instruments, clean their instruments, clear their throat, regulate their mood, or even drink a sip of water after playing each piece during the exam.

### Performing from Memory

Though it is not mandatory, candidates should perform from memory if they wish to achieve better results, especially in Performance Level exams. A memorized score frees the candidate from the mental distraction of reading, and allows all the cognitive, physical, and emotional processes to merge and focus solely on the art of making music, which may contribute to a better performance that has control, discipline, and a broad and sweeping sense of freedom. **Remember that VMEB Music Exam is a "performance-focused" music examination.**

### Age Limits

There are no age limits. Candidates may enter for any grade irrespective of age. The age of a candidate shall not be taken into account by examiners.

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for all the exams. Candidates may enter any grade without having previously taken any other exams.

### Instruments

It is the responsibility of candidates to ensure that instrument is available for examination and they are properly tuned. (Exam centres may not have the type of instrument available for your exam). Please make suitable arrangements with exam centre in advance if your instrument takes time to set up.

## Registration for Exam

### Step 1: Choose and Contact your Exam Centre

Choose the region/country that you wish to take the exam and contact exam centre in that region/country to confirm availability.

### Step 2: Exam Registration Form

Download the Exam Registration Form applicable for the region/country that you wish to take exam from the Board's official website ([www.vmeb.org](http://www.vmeb.org)). Exam region/country cannot be changed after registration.

### Step 3: Submission of Exam Registration Form

Fill in the Exam Registration Form and submit together with the required document and exam registration fee.

### Step 4: Exam Notification Letter

Exam Notification Letter will be issued to candidate within 30 days after receiving the required exam registration document and exam registration fee.

### Step 5: Exam Date

Candidates must take the exam on or before the exam due date shown in the Exam Notification Letter. Exam due date is normally 6 months from the issuance date of the Exam Notification Letter. Candidates are advised to contact their chosen exam centre for an exam appointment immediately after receiving the Exam Notification Letter.

*Note: The Exam Registration Fee stated in the Exam Registration Form includes the cost of exam registration, examination assessment fee by the Board's examiners, and cost of issuance of certificate (if candidate has successfully passed the examination). There will be other charges imposed by different exam centres such as exam room rental charges. Candidates are advised to confirm with their chosen exam centres before registering for the exam.*

## On the Day of Exam

On the day of the exam, candidates must bring their Exam Notification Letter and identity document bearing with candidates' photo to the examination venue for verification of identity.

Candidates must also bring their own instrument (unless pre-arrangement has been made with exam centre).

Before the exam starts, candidates must provide a list of works to Exam Supervisor to fill in the Exam Statement.

If exam is taken at Vienna, it will be supervised and examined by examiner directly.

If exam is taken at exam centres in overseas (i.e., not in Vienna), the whole examination will be recorded by video. The Exam Supervisor in charge will read a beginning announcement before the start of the examination and an ending announcement before turning off the recording device. Exam Supervisor will not give marks and comments on the examination. The exam video will be forwarded by the respective exam centre to the Board for examiners' evaluation and assessment.

## Marking Scheme

Examiners will evaluate candidates' performance based on the following criteria:-

### Equivalent Standards

*Elementary*: Candidates should demonstrate instrument practical skill with at least 1 year of learning.

*Grade 1*: Candidates should demonstrate instrument practical skill with at least 2 years of learning.

*Grade 2 to 4*: Candidates should demonstrate instrument practical skill with at least 5 years of learning. Difficulties increase according to grade level.

*Grade 5 to 8*: Candidates should demonstrate instrument practical skill with at least 9 years of learning. Difficulties increase according to grade level.

*Performance (TMPZ)*: Equivalent to a first year student in a full-time music bachelor degree course.

*Performance (CPPZ)*: Equivalent to a final year student in a full-time music bachelor degree course.

*Performance (SSPZ)*: Equivalent to a final year student in a full-time music master degree course.

### Tone

Note accuracy, intonation, tone quality, tone control, blend, vibrato.

### Rhythm

Rhythmic accuracy, steadiness of tempo.

### Interpretation

Choice of tempo, change of tempo, dynamic contrast, expression, phrase shaping, creation of motion in melodic line, mood contrast, vitality, artistry, appropriate style and consistency.

### Technique

Fluency, appropriate and consistent articulation, bowing control, breathing, finger dexterity, physical balance, ease of movement, use of pedals.

### Ensemble

Dynamic balance, ensembleship (rhythmically with piano), tuning.

### Other Factors

Stage presence, appearance, posture, general musicianship, technical balance of the programme, compliance to Exam Regulations/Rules.

## Exam Results

A Statement of Results will be issued by the Board within 60 days after examination. Depending on examiners' preference, the Statement of Results may be written in German or English.

Certificates will only be issued to candidates who have passed the examination (i.e., "Sufficient" (genügend) or better results).

| VMEB Scholastic Grades      | Variation   | % Equivalent |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Very Good (sehr gut)        | 1+ / 1 / 1- | 91 – 100%    |
| Good (gut)                  | 2+ / 2 / 2- | 81 – 90%     |
| Satisfactory (befriedigend) | 3+ / 3 / 3- | 66 – 80%     |
| Sufficient (genügend)       | 4+ / 4 / 4- | 50 – 65%     |
| Insufficient (ungenügend)   | 5           | 0 – 49%      |



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