



Pearson

AS and A level Music: An explanation of the assessment grids and new administrative features for Performance

Examiners will use the three new assessment grids when assessing work submitted for Unit 1 at AS and A Level: three grids replacing the six or seven on the current Edexcel 2008 specification. These grids are published in the specifications.

The grids used to assess Performance at AS and A Level are identical, the difference in demand created by:

- length (AS is 6 minutes, A level 8 minutes)
- standard of difficulty (Standard level at AS is Grade 6, at A Level is Grade 7)

Each grid is marked out of 16, to create a raw mark out of 48. If the piece is less difficult and has achieved full marks, it will remain at 48. For standard and more difficult pieces the raw mark would be scaled up, as indicated in the specification, to provide the final mark.

Grid one: Technical Control - Technique

This grid is similar to Criterion 4 on the current Edexcel 2008 specification and focuses solely on the candidate's technical control of their instrument. It overtly assess the extent to which the piece(s) performed is/are within the ability of the performer. Features to consider will differ depending on the nature of the instrument. Examples of the technical elements considered are given in the introduction to this grid in the specification.

Grid two: Technical control (Accuracy) and Expressive control (Fluency)

This grid is similar to Criterion 2 and part of Criterion 3 on the current Edexcel 2008 specification and focuses on accuracy (of pitch and rhythm) and fluency (hesitations, omissions, breakdowns, etc.)

Grid three: Expressive control, style and context

This grid is similar to Criterion 5 and part of Criterion 3 on the current Edexcel 2008 specification and focuses on the expressive elements of the performance.

There is no longer any holistic assessment of Performance.

Each of the three grids has six levels and the descriptors for these use language that shows clear progression so that examiners can find the level most appropriate for each performance submitted.

All performances at AS and A Level are still expected to be recorded live and unedited but the new specification contains some administrative differences that centres need to be aware of:

- Performance at AS and A Level now needs to be public (i.e. in front of an audience of at least two people) and the teacher must be present
- Performances can only be recorded after 1st March in the year of certification and must reach the examiner by 15th May
- The performance must be introduced with an announcement by the candidate themselves stating their name, candidate number, instrument and their role in the music performed
- Performances that are under-length will receive no marks (As at present the stated performance length must be the length of the music performed, not including pauses between piece, tuning, announcements, etc.)
- Performances are assessed as a whole, not piece by piece

Full details of the requirements for Performance at AS and A Level can be found in the relevant Specification.