

Video Repertoire Examinations (VRE) and For Leisure (Repertoire) Examinations (VFLRE) – Frequently Asked Questions

What if the recording submitted is not of examinable quality?

During 2020, in light of these extraordinary conditions, candidates will be afforded a degree of leniency with regard to sound quality for examinations and for accompaniments. In this case, no candidate will be disadvantaged by this in their assessment.

It is however, the candidate's responsibility to check that the recording is successful prior to submission. If the recording is not of acceptable/ examinable quality, the examiner will be unable to assess the examination performance. If the candidate does not pass the video examination and they wish to re-submit another recording, the cost will be the same as the original enrolment as it will be considered a new enrolment.

What if the instrument (piano) being used isn't tuned properly?

AMEB Qld also understands that access to a quality, tuned piano, may be limited. In this case, no candidate will be disadvantaged by this in their assessment. However, if the condition of the piano is likely to impair a higher-level candidate's ability to express their own musicality to an extent where they are dissatisfied with the recording, then it may be worthwhile considering recording from an alternative instrument or deferring to a later, face-to-face examination session.

Again, it is the candidate's responsibility to check that the recording is successful prior to submission.

My child only has a keyboard at home, can they use this to record their examination?

Candidates are encouraged to use acoustic pianos for all examinations. However, as stated above, candidates will be afforded a degree of leniency with regard to the type of keyboard they use for piano examinations and for accompaniments. The AMEB does not provide digital pianos for in-situ examinations, but studio teachers who offer their studios for examinations may make use of their own digital piano for Level 1 (Preliminary to Grade 4) examinations. As such, the use of a digital piano for Preliminary to Grade 4 will be accepted however must meet the following specifications:

- Keyboard size – 88 notes
- Action – weighted and touch sensitive
- Pedals – fixed, and functioning as for acoustic pianos.

The Piano Old Syllabus (pre-2019) is due to be withdrawn at the end of 2020; what will happen if my candidate (who is preparing using this syllabus) is unable to sit an in-person examination in 2020?

The AMEB Federal Board has approved the extension of the Piano Old Syllabus. Withdrawal of the Old Syllabus will be deferred until 31 December 2021.

What is the duration of Video Repertoire examinations?

The examination recording must run to the same timing as an in-situ Repertoire examination. Examination timings can be found in the *2020 AMEB Manual of Syllabuses*.

Are the video examinations live?

No, the examination is to be recorded on a device and then uploaded to *YouTube*.

Does the examination have to be recorded in one sitting?

Yes. The video examination must be recorded in one session, uninterrupted, as it would in an in-situ examination.

What is the duration of For Leisure (Repertoire) Video Examinations?

The timeframe for Video For Leisure (Repertoire) Examinations 2020 are:

Preliminary	8 min
Grade 1	10 min
Grade 2	12 min
Grade 3	13 min
Grade 4	13 min
Grade 5	15 min
Grade 6	20 min
Grade 7	25 min
Grade 8	30 min

What is the requirement around Own Choice pieces?

Own Choice pieces can include any work listed on the full syllabus studied (including grade books and manual list) for that grade. They can also include any work not listed on the syllabus, but it must be of similar length and educational value to the other pieces featured on the syllabus lists. No more than one Own Choice work may be the candidates own arrangement or composition. It is the responsibility of the candidate and their teacher to ensure that the Own Choice works chosen are appropriate for the grade.

Are there any Section I, Section III or Extra List requirements?

There are no Technical Work (Section I), Aural test, Sight reading, and General Knowledge (Section III) or Extra list requirements for Repertoire and For Leisure (Repertoire) 2020 only examinations.

My candidate is doing a comprehensive/classical piano examination do they need an extra list piece?

Comprehensive/ classical candidates enrolled in either Old or New Syllabus will transfer to a Repertoire examination. The requirements for Repertoire piano examinations can be found on page 89 of the 2020 *Manual of Syllabus*.

Are Comprehensive Video Examinations being offered in Qld?

AMEB Qld is only offering Video Repertoire and For Leisure (Repertoire) Examinations at this stage, with the aim to expand this to Comprehensive examinations, if required, in the future. Enrollers will be contacted as this development is progressed.

Can a candidate sit a P Plate examination as a video examination?

Yes, in Queensland, Repertoire Video Examinations include P Plate examinations as well as Preliminary to Grade 8.

How long will For Leisure (Repertoire) Video Examinations be available?

Piano, Saxophone and Singing For Leisure (Repertoire) Examinations have been temporarily introduced for 2020 only. This includes for Level 1 and Level 2, up to Grade 8, as a response to physical distancing and home confinement guidelines.

Does my candidate have to transfer to a video examination?

No, candidates have the option to either transfer to a VRE or VFLRE, or wait to transfer to the next available in-situ examination session.

Are the reports going to change to reflect the new video examinations?

The reports will be adapted to reflect the examination i.e. No Section I and Section III.

What are the guidelines around accompaniments?

Almost all AMEB syllabuses have Recorded Accompaniments from Preliminary to Grade 3. Where these accompaniments are available for the examination, they must be used.

Due to the extreme circumstances and directives about distancing, the AMEB Federal Board has allowed the use of recordings up to Grade 8 in all syllabuses where they are required. A candidate interested in this option is recommended to engage an accompanist to produce an accompaniment which will be allowed for a candidate's use in their video examination. This option has restrictions under copyright that must be adhered to as part of the process. For **full restrictions**, refer to page 9-10 of the [Guide to recording and uploading video examinations instructions](#).

I have a cello student playing “title of piece”. The “piano accompaniment” part on the Suzuki CD for this piece includes a cello playing softly in the background. It also includes all the repeats.

A recorded cello (or additional instruments) playing along in the background is NOT desirable. The recorded accompaniment must feature ONLY accompaniment – the solo part can't be present.

I found a version on YouTube that has no cello, only piano, but it also includes all the repeats which would not usually be played in an examination, and would probably make this program too long. I can't find any other version for sale on line that doesn't include all the repeats! What should I do about this?

Most non-AMEB recorded accompaniments will feature repeats. Under the circumstances, AMEB is flexible about repeats in video exams. However, the Repertoire examination time limits are pretty generous at Grade 5, so if it's a Video Repertoire Examination, they might be fine. If this is the reason a programme goes slightly over the recommended length, AMEB will accommodate that where possible.

Some students are playing from the Blackwell books (e.g. Fiddle Time Sprinters), is it acceptable to use the Blackwell accompaniment from the CD that comes with the book when it does have piano, but also some percussion instruments included?

As long as the solo part isn't present on the recording, AMEB will accept this – there is no problem with there being a bit of extra percussion in the mix, as long as the candidate can be clearly heard and assessed.

There are a few pieces that I can't find any recorded piano accompaniments for. Is it acceptable for candidates to play unaccompanied in this instance? Or is there somewhere we can commission the purchase of new accompaniment tracks? The accompanist we usually use for exams in our town says they are unable to record accompaniments for us.

AMEB has not made allowances for candidates to perform without accompaniment where the piece requires one. The accompanist could live anywhere in the world as long as the candidate and accompanist can communicate about tempo, pauses, cadenzas etc.

Is there a 'how to' guide or instructions available?

Detailed instructions on how to record and upload Video Repertoire and For Leisure (Repertoire) Examinations can be found [here](#).

What syllabus requirement do I refer to for the For Leisure (Repertoire) Video Examinations?

The 'For Leisure' Repertoire Examination requirements may be downloaded from the links below. Teachers and candidates should refer to the graded repertoire lists published in the 2020 *Manual of Syllabuses*.

- [2020 Piano For Leisure Repertoire exam requirements](#)
- [2020 Saxophone For Leisure Repertoire exam requirements](#)
- [2020 Singing For Leisure Repertoire exam requirements](#)

What if the candidate's teacher cannot teach online and the candidate only has three songs prepared? Can the candidate just record three?

AMEB does not make special consideration for any examinations to protect the integrity of the examination program and the AMEB Federal Board has determined the most appropriate method to conduct online examinations is to add an additional repertoire piece. The examinations on offer do require an additional piece to be played. If a candidate chooses to participate in the online examination and only played three prepared pieces, they will be marked down one whole grade from the overall result for the piece that was not presented. Refer to syllabus links above in the previous question for full examination requirements.

My candidate is preparing for a Singing Video For Leisure (Repertoire) Examination, are they required to memorise all songs?

All songs must be performed from memory in all examinations, as this is standard performance practice for this repertoire.

What is the cost for a Video Repertoire Examination?

The cost is the same as the equivalent 'in-person' examination. Refer to the [Pricing and Payments](#) page for the Music Examination fees.

How do I adequately prepare my candidate for a VRE; have the examination requirements changed?

It is the responsibility of the enroller to prepare the candidate in accordance with the relevant *Manual of Syllabuses*, and in consultation with the [Enrollers' Handbook 2020](#). The requirements for VRE have not changed; they are the same as Repertoire in-situ exams.

However, AMEB has introduced an interim VFLRE examination syllabuses in the disciplines of [piano](#), [saxophone](#) and [singing](#). The requirements for a VFLRE are different to an in-situ 'For Leisure' examination.

Can I supervise my child/student's examination?

Yes. We require that all Supervisors are over 18. Where the supervisor is not the parent/guardian of the candidate, we expect that they will hold a valid Queensland Working With Children and Young People Blue Card.

Can my candidate use a page turner?

Yes. Physical distancing and isolation practices may make this a challenge so we do recommend a candidate setting up to minimise or negate the need for a page turner as the first preference. The candidate's Supervisor is permitted to be the page turner.

Will future sessions be postponed and if so, what will be the options offered to candidates?

Currently we cannot say if we will be postponing future examination sessions. AMEB Qld continues to be directed in accordance with the Departments of Health and Education's COVID-19 directives. In the event that we cannot facilitate future in-situ examinations, AMEB Qld will offer the same options to all enrolled candidates which include:

- a transfer to the next available in-situ examination session
- transfer to a VRE or a VRLRE
- a refund.

Do candidate's need to provide a copy of any sheet music with the submission form for list pieces and/or own choice pieces?

There is NO requirement for a video examination to provide a copy of any sheet music with the submission form for list pieces and/or own choice pieces.

Can vocalise be used as an Own Choice piece in Musical Theatre?

It is expected that Own Choice works are of similar length and educational value as other list pieces for the grade. The Repertoire examination requires the candidate to prepare a program of songs that will demonstrate the candidate's achievement of the technical, musical and artistic objectives prescribed for Section II of the Comprehensive examination. Therefore, a vocalise would not be suitable.

You may find the Objectives for Section II of the Singing Comprehensive exam on pages 477 and 481 of the 2020 *Manual of Syllabuses*.