

A vibrant collage of musical instruments and symbols. At the top, a golden trumpet is prominent. Below it, a blue guitar, a yellow mask, and a blue treble clef are visible. In the center, a large orange horn is featured. To the right, a black and white piano keyboard is partially shown. The background is a mix of dark and light colors with various musical motifs.

FIRST-STEPS

An accessible introduction to exams for beginners

KEYBOARD

Australian Music



Examinations Board

FURTHER INFORMATION

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KEYBOARD FIRST STEPS

Keyboard First Steps offered by AMEB WA are intended as introductory examination experiences for beginners. They are especially designed as a means of getting them accustomed to external examinations. The tests give preparatory exam experiences before the normal graded examinations offered through the AMEB Manual of Syllabuses.

Candidates may choose either test that suits their level of preparation: **Keyboard First Steps – Test 1** or **Keyboard First Steps – Test 2**. Alternatively, they may do them both in sequence over a time frame that matches their rate of learning.

A written report will be provided. It will identify strengths as well as areas for improvement in Technical Work, Pieces and Aural Tests, and include a general comment about progress.

No pass or fail grade will be awarded.

A certificate will be issued to all participants. Please contact the office for enrolment information.

These pages may be photocopied for students. Test content may be presented with music or from memory.

KEYBOARD FIRST STEPS - TEST 1



12 minutes



\$70

Instrument requirement

Electronic or Acoustic Keyboard with minimum 4 octaves

Section 1 - Technical Work

SCALES

Ascending and descending, hands separately (Legato) – five finger position (first five notes of the scale only)

Major: C, G, D, F

OR

CHORDS – Triads

Play in root position separately with either hand as requested by the examiner any of these triads: C major, G major, D major, F major

Section 2 - Pieces

Play two short pieces (own choice)

⇒ List A: Any piece in Simple Triple time

⇒ List B: Any piece in Simple Duple or Simple Quadruple time

NOTE: Both RH and LH must be used, either consecutively or together

Section 3 - Aural Tests and General Knowledge

Aural Tests

Time and rhythm

- a. Clap the note values of a simple two bar rhythmic passage played by the examiner

Pitch

- a. The examiner will play a phrase of up to six one-beat notes, then repeat it, waiting on each note for the candidate to sing or hum it
- b. The candidate will state which is the higher or lower of two notes played by the examiner, not less than a fifth apart

General Knowledge

Simple questions will be asked regarding the value of notes and rests and the meaning of sharp and flat signs.

KEYBOARD FIRST STEPS -TEST 2



15 minutes



\$70

Instrument requirement

Electronic or Acoustic Keyboard with minimum 4 octaves

Section 1 – TECHNICAL WORK (prepare Scales and Chords)

SCALES

Ascending and descending, hands separately (Legato) – one octave

Major: C, G, D

Harmonic Minor: A

AND

CHORDS – Triads

Play in root position separately with either hand as requested by the examiner the triad sequence of I IV V in the keys of C major, G major, D major and the triad sequence of i iv V in A minor

Section 2 - Pieces

Play two short pieces (own choice)

⇒ List A: Any piece in Simple Triple time

⇒ List B: Any piece in Simple Duple or Simple Quadruple time

NOTE: Both RH and LH must be used mostly together

Section 3 - Aural Tests and General Knowledge

Aural Tests

Time and rhythm

- Clap the note values of a simple two bar rhythmic passage played by the examiner

Pitch

- The examiner will play a phrase of up to nine one-beat notes, then repeat it, waiting on each note for the candidate to sing or hum it
- The candidate will state which is the higher or lower of two notes played by the examiner, not less than a third apart

General Knowledge

Simple questions will be asked regarding the name and value of notes and rests and the meaning of sharp and flat signs.