

Electronic Keyboard: Grade 1

EXAM STRUCTURE



The Grade 1 exam lasts 13 minutes and contains the following:

	Maximum marks
PIECE 1	22
PIECE 2	22
PIECE 3	22
TECHNICAL WORK	14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Keyboard exercise ▶ <i>Either</i> scales & chord knowledge or exercises 	
SUPPORTING TESTS	20
Any TWO of the following:	
▶ Sight reading	
▶ Aural	
▶ Improvisation	
▶ Musical knowledge	
TOTAL	100

PIECES

Candidates play a balanced programme of three pieces, chosen from the lists below. An own composition may be played instead of one listed piece. See pages 16-18 for further guidance.

Core repertoire

The following pieces are in Trinity's *Electronic Keyboard Pieces & Technical Work 2019-2022: Grade 1*.

1. BEETHOVEN Pastoral (theme from *Symphony no. 6*)

2. ELGAR Land of Hope and Glory (Pomp and Circumstance March no. 1)

3. LOGGINS Footloose*

4. SCHUBERT Unfinished Symphony (theme from *Symphony no. 8*)

5. SMITH Whirling Dervishes

6. TRAD. Cockles and Mussels

7. TRAD. English Country Garden

8. TRAD. Shaker Tune

9. TRAD. Star of County Down

10. TRAD. Wild Mountain Thyme

* Own interpretation piece

Alternative repertoire

The following pieces are in the books listed.

11.	BULLARD	Feeling Fine	Piano Time Pieces book 2	OUP 9780193727878
12.	FREEDMAN <i>arr.</i> FLETCHER	Rock Around the Clock	Making the Grade: Keyboard Grade 1	Chester CH71995
13.	HOOK	Gavotte	Piano Time Pieces book 2	OUP 9780193727878
14.	JACOBS/CASEY	Summer Nights	Keyed Up: The Yellow Book (Upper Elementary)	Alfred 20104UK
15.	LEIBER/STOLLER	I Want to Be Free	Keyed Up: The Yellow Book (Upper Elementary)	Alfred 20104UK
16.	STING	Fields of Gold	The Complete Keyboard Player book 2 (revised edition)	Wise AM963193
17.	TRAD. <i>arr.</i> LITTEN	Mango Walk	Keyed Up: The Yellow Book (Upper Elementary)	Alfred 20104UK
18.	THE VELVET UNDERGROUND	There She Goes	The Complete Keyboard Player book 2 (revised edition)	Wise AM963193

Own composition

Candidates may perform an own composition instead of one listed piece. More information can be found on page 18.



Duration:
approx. 1 minute

Own compositions must be comparable in technical and musical demand to the pieces listed for this grade. Suitable features include:

- ▶ Dynamic contrast
- ▶ Simple syncopation or other rhythmic feature
- ▶ Use of fills
- ▶ Use of keys stipulated for technical work at this grade

TECHNICAL WORK

Candidates prepare section **1.** and *either* section **2.** or section **3.** (see pages 19-20).

All requirements are in Trinity's *Electronic Keyboard Pieces & Technical Work 2019-2022: Grade 1.*

1. KEYBOARD EXERCISE (music may be used)

Candidates should play one of the following scales in the RH, accompanied by chords I and V in the LH, as illustrated in *Electronic Keyboard Pieces & Technical Work 2019-2022: Grade 1.*

- ▶ G major or D harmonic minor (candidate choice)

Either

2. SCALES & CHORD KNOWLEDGE (from memory) – Examiners select from the following:

▶ G major	hands separately	one octave	<i>legato</i> , <i>mf</i>	min. ♩ = 70
▶ D minor (candidate choice of <i>either</i> harmonic or melodic or natural minor)				
▶ Dorian scale on G				
▶ Dorian scale on D				
▶ G major pentatonic (5 notes)				
▶ D minor pentatonic (5 notes)				
▶ Blues scale on D	RH only, straight or swung (candidate choice)			
▶ Chromatic scale in contrary motion starting on D	hands together			
▶ Chord progression of I-V-I in the following keys: G major, D minor	RH only or LH only (candidate choice)			

Or

3. EXERCISES (music may be used) – Candidates prepare all three exercises.

Candidates choose one exercise to play first. Examiners then select one of the remaining two exercises to be performed.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Left Right, Left Right | keyboard functions exercise |
| 2. Morning Stretch | scalic exercise |
| 3. Dark Towers | pianistic exercise |

SUPPORTING TESTS

Candidates choose two of the following:

- ▶ Sight reading
- ▶ Aural
- ▶ Improvisation
- ▶ Musical knowledge

Sight reading

After 30 seconds' preparation time, candidates perform a previously unseen musical extract at a level lower than the exam being taken. See page 22 for sight reading parameters.

Aural

Candidates answer questions based on a single musical example played on the piano by the examiner. See page 24 for more information.

The aural test requirements for Grade 1 are below.

Improvisation

Candidates perform an improvisation based on a stimulus chosen from the following three options:

- ▶ Stylistic
- ▶ Motivic
- ▶ Harmonic

See pages 24-31 for the requirements and parameters.

Musical knowledge

Candidates answer questions assessing their understanding of the pieces performed, as well as their knowledge of notation and the electronic keyboard. Questions are based on candidates' chosen pieces. See pages 32-33 for example questions and responses.

Aural questions

Parameters	Task	Requirement
Melody only 4 bars Major key $\frac{2}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$	Listen to the melody three times	Clap the pulse on the third playing, stressing the strong beat
	Listen to the melody once	i) Identify the dynamic as <i>forte</i> or <i>piano</i> ii) Identify the articulation as <i>legato</i> or <i>staccato</i>
	Listen to the first two bars of the melody once	Identify the last note as higher or lower than the first note
	Listen to the melody twice, with a change of rhythm or pitch in the second playing	Identify where the change occurs