

# Electronic Keyboard: Grade 8

## EXAM STRUCTURE



The Grade 8 exam lasts 30 minutes and contains the following:

	Maximum marks
<b>PIECE 1</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>PIECE 2</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>PIECE 3</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>TECHNICAL WORK</b>	<b>14</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Keyboard exercise</li> <li>▶ <i>Either</i> scales &amp; chord knowledge or exercises</li> </ul>	
<b>SUPPORTING TEST 1</b>	<b>10</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Sight reading</li> </ul>	
<b>SUPPORTING TEST 2</b>	<b>10</b>
ONE of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Aural</li> <li>▶ Improvisation</li> </ul>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

## PIECES

Candidates play a balanced programme of three pieces, chosen from the list below. Instead of one listed piece, candidates can play an own composition, an own choice piece or an own arrangement. See pages 16-18 for further guidance.

The following pieces are in Trinity's *Electronic Keyboard Pieces & Technical Work 2019-2022: Grade 8*.

1. CHOPIN	Minute Waltz (Waltz in D $\flat$ major, op. 64 no. 1)
2. GILLESPIE	A Night in Tunisia
3. GRAINGER	In Dahomey
4. LISZT	Friska (from <i>Hungarian Rhapsody no. 2</i> )
5. PAGANINI	Caprice no. 24 in A minor (from <i>24 Caprices for Solo Violin</i> )*
6. THISELTON	Spring Dance
7. WHELAN	Riverdance
8. WIDOR	Tocatta (from <i>Symphony for Organ no. 5</i> , op. 42 no. 1)

\* Own interpretation piece

### Own composition

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



**Duration:**  
3.5-5 minutes

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

- ▶ Wide range of expressive techniques
- ▶ Creative use of form
- ▶ Extended techniques, wide range, chromaticism and rhythmic variation
- ▶ Use of any key/mode

### 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 8.*

#### 1. KEYBOARD EXERCISE (from memory)

Candidates should choose *one* of the scale & arpeggio combinations (marked \*) in section **2.** below using *one* of the tonal/modal centres of F#, Eb or A (candidate choice).

#### *Either*

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

Using the tonal/modal centres of F#, Eb and A: * Major scale followed by major 7th arpeggio * Dorian scale followed by minor 7th arpeggio * Mixolydian scale followed by major arpeggio with a lowered 7th (F# <sup>7</sup> , Eb <sup>7</sup> , A <sup>7</sup> ) (NB: candidates will not be asked again for whichever scale & arpeggio combination they selected for section 1.)	scale hands together, arpeggio in RH only	two octaves	<i>legato</i> , <i>mf</i>	min. ♩ = 140
▶ Major pentatonic scale on F#, Eb and A	hands separately, straight or swung (examiner choice)			
▶ Minor pentatonic scale on F#, Eb and A				
▶ Chromatic scale in similar motion starting on any note (examiner choice)	hands together			
▶ Blues scale on F#, Eb and A	RH only, straight or swung (examiner choice)			

<p>Chords in root position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ F#<sup>6</sup>, Eb<sup>6</sup>, A<sup>6</sup>, F#m<sup>6</sup>, Ebm<sup>6</sup>, Am<sup>6</sup></li> <li>▶ F#<sup>o7</sup>, Eb<sup>o7</sup>, A<sup>o7</sup></li> <li>▶ F#<sup>9</sup>, Eb<sup>9</sup>, A<sup>9</sup></li> <li>▶ F#+, Eb+, A+</li> </ul>	<p>bass note in LH and remaining notes in RH</p>	
<p>Chords in root position and all inversions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ F#<sup>7</sup>, Eb<sup>7</sup>, A<sup>7</sup>, Db<sup>7</sup>, Bb<sup>7</sup>, E<sup>7</sup></li> <li>▶ F#<sup>Δ7</sup>, Eb<sup>Δ7</sup>, A<sup>Δ7</sup>, F#m<sup>7</sup>, Ebm<sup>7</sup>, Am<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>		

**Or**

**3. EXERCISES** (music may be used) – Candidates prepare three of the following four exercises.

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

1. Big Band Bend	keyboard functions exercise
2. Falling Leaves	scalic exercise
3. Ballroom Elegance	pianistic exercise
4. Circles	sequencing exercise

## SUPPORTING TESTS

Candidates prepare:

- ▶ Sight reading
- ▶ Aural or improvisation

### Sight reading

After 30 seconds' preparation time, candidates perform a previously unseen musical extract at a level approximately two grades 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 8 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.

## Aural questions

Parameters	Task	Requirement
Harmonised 12-16 bars	Listen to the piece once	i) Identify the time signature ii) Comment on the dynamics iii) Comment on the articulation
Major or minor key	Listen to the piece twice	Identify and comment on three other characteristics of the piece
$\frac{2}{4}$ , $\frac{3}{4}$ , $\frac{4}{4}$ , $\frac{6}{8}$ or $\frac{5}{8}$	Study a copy of the piece, and listen to it twice with three changes	Locate and describe the changes as pitch or rhythm