



AMEB Exam Information

EXAM REQUIREMENTS

- AMEB (Australian Music Examination Board) exams are made up of 5 components.

- They are:
1. Scales
 2. Pieces
 3. Aural Tests
 4. Sight Reading Test
 5. General Knowledge Questions

1. SCALES

Scales for AMEB exams are set out in the “AMEB [*instrument*] Technical Work Book”. All scales must be memorised. In the exam only a selection of the scales are heard but students must be ready to play any scales from their grade.

2. PIECES

Pieces must be prepared as per the grade requirements (the tutor will confirm). One piece from each List must be prepared as well as ‘extra’ pieces as required. Music can be used for the performances of pieces in the exam. An accompanist will be required to play with the student for any List pieces (not extra list pieces) that have a piano part.

3. AURAL TESTS

Aural Tests differ from grade to grade. They are tests to gauge the ability of the student to listen to rhythms, melodies and pitches and reproduce them by clapping and singing. Example questions are set out in the AMEB Aural Test book which teachers should use to help students practise the skills for their grade.

4. SIGHT READING TEST

The **Sight Reading Test** consists of a short piece that the student sees for the first time in the exam room. The student has a short amount of time to look at the music and then attempt to play it combining rhythm, pitch and expressive markings on the music. Sight reading examples are set out in the “AMEB [*instrument*] Sight Reading Book”, which teachers should use to help students practise their sight reading skills.

5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS

General Knowledge Questions will be asked from the students list pieces only (not extra list pieces). The depth of required knowledge increases as the grade increases. The specific requirements for each grade are set out the most current AMEB syllabus. It is a chance for the examiner to check that student understands the meaning of notes, rhythm, expressive markings, terms and signs on the page.



AMEB Exam Information (continued)

PREPARING FOR THE EXAM

1. Once the teacher and student decide which grade will be prepared you will be required to purchase at least two books. The corresponding book of pieces for the grade and the technical work book (which contains the scale requirements for ALL grades). The book of pieces must be purchased for each grade while the Technical Work Book is a one-off purchase. The books can be ordered through the AMEB website (see contact details) or at various music stores.

2. The teacher will enrol the student in the exam. They will need the student's name, date of birth and AMEB student number (if they have previously sat an AMEB exam). When enrolling you will be able to list dates that you are not available, but once the exam is set it is **virtually impossible to change the date**. See the table below which outlines the exam periods for 2014. They only change slightly from year to year (NB. 'Last date for 50% refund' column).

METRO EXAM PERIODS

Examination Session	Online Enrolment Opening Dates	Closing Dates Fridays	Examination Dates	Last Date for 50% Refund
06 Metro Plus - First Session (Including Speech and Drama and AMusA)				
Sydney Metro	17 Jan	14 Feb*	19 Apr - 7 Jun (Major venues)	22 Feb
Penrith	17 Jan	14 Feb*	19 Apr - 31 May (Private studios)	22 Feb
03 Metro Plus Music - Second Session		Period-to-Period Transfers 6 June		
Period 1 2000 - 2071 postcodes	28 Mar	6 Jun	9 Aug - 30 Aug	14 Jun
Period 2 2072 - 2112 postcodes	28 Mar	6 Jun	23 Aug - 20 Sep	28 Jun
Period 3 2113 - 2143 postcodes	28 Mar	25 Jul	4 Oct - 18 Oct	9 Aug
Period 4 2144 - 2200 postcodes	28 Mar	25 Jul	18 Oct - 8 Nov	23 Aug
Period 5 2201 - 2999 postcodes	28 Mar	25 Jul	8 Nov - 12 Dec	13 Sep
Accordion, Harp, Electronic Organ, Organ	28 Mar	25 Jul	13 Oct - 18 Oct	18 Aug



AMEB Exam Information (continued)

PREPARING FOR THE EXAM

3. Each exam has an **exam fee** which must be paid at time of enrolment. The teacher will arrange with you details on getting the fee to them in time. See the table below for current prices as per the 2014 AMEB Manual.

Fees are as follows for all Wind Instrument Codes (except Saxophone for Leisure)		Fees are as follows for all Brass Instrument Codes		Fees are as follows for all Stringed Instrument Codes	
Grade	Fee (\$)	Grade	Fee (\$)	Grade	Fee (\$)
Preliminary Grade	81.00	Grade 1	86.00	Preliminary Grade	81.00
Grade 1	86.00	Grade 2	86.00	Grade 1	86.00
Grade 2	86.00	Grade 3	97.00	Grade 2	86.00
Grade 3	97.00	Grade 4	97.00	Grade 3	97.00
Grade 4	97.00	Grade 5	106.00	Grade 4	97.00
Grade 5	106.00	Grade 6	106.00	Grade 5	106.00
Grade 6	106.00	Grade 7	120.00	Grade 6	106.00
Grade 7	120.00	Grade 8	143.00	Grade 7	120.00
Grade 8	143.00	Associate Perf	252.00	Grade 8	143.00
Certificate Perf	165.00	Graduate Perf	378.00	Certificate Perf	165.00
Associate Perf	252.00			Associate Perf	252.00
Graduate Perf	378.00			Graduate Perf	378.00

4. Once the enrolment date closes it will take some time before the exam dates and times are released. You will be given around **3 weeks notice** of the date and time of the exam. It is very hard to alter exam times once set (and requires a fee). It is very important to inform teaches of any dates within the exam period that the student cannot make BEFORE the entries are put in.

5. Closer to the exam date the teacher will help to arrange a **piano accompanist** for the students. It is important to leave enough time to have a rehearsal with the accompanist before the exam day. They will have a fee for the rehearsal and exam which is payable directly to them.



AMEB Exam Information (continued)

6. The teacher will receive a form that they will pass on to you with the time, date and location of the exam. The student should arrive at their exam location no later than 20 minutes before their allotted time. The student will enter the exam room with their instrument, music for their pieces (not scales) and the form for the examiner.

7. Results are released soon after the exam date. They can be viewed using AMEB Connect which is the online portal used for enrolments. For more details you can visit the AMEB NSW website at www.ameb.nsw.edu.au

PRACTISE REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAM PREPARATION

- There is a lot to cover when working towards an exam. In general students should be practising at least **4 times a week**, ensuring each session is focused with clear goals. An example practise session may be:
 - Memorise one set of scales; C major, a harmonic minor, a melodic minor and arpeggios
 - Work on list A and B pieces
 - Work through and be tested on general knowledge for list A
- Students should aim to have all pieces and scales near perfect at least three weeks before the first possible exam date. This will then give them time to work on finer details and ensure they have covered all the necessary components.
- While the tutor is there to guide your child in their preparation, it is the **responsibility** of you and your child to ensure there has been adequate preparation for the exam. If you do not think your child will be able to commit to an exam, discuss with their tutor about not enrolling.

AMEB NSW CONTACT DETAILS

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Thank you,

The Music Partnership Pty Limited