



LCM GRADES 2023

General information

- 1 All performances to be from memory and without accompaniment
- 2 Tune categories are: Air – slow or lively; Jig – double, slip or single; Reel; Slide; Polka; Hornpipe; March; Set dance; Fling; Barndance; Highland; Schottische; Mazurka; Harp piece
- 3 Each tune to be played twice with repeats where appropriate
- 4 APC Yellow Book contains tunes suitable for Grades 1 and 2; Red Book, Grades 3 and 4; Fiddle & Pipe Books, all grades. LCM website has sample repertoire lists for all grades. Some suggested tunes are given below
- 5 Marking for all grades is: Performance 60%, Repertoire 20%, Supplementary tests 20%
- 6 Use of ornamentation is expected from Grade 3 and variation from Grade 7

SYLLABUS

GRADE 1

Performance: 3 tunes of different types

Repertoire: 3 tunes of different types

Supplementary tests: Beat time to polka, double jig or reel played by examiner.

Identify tune types – air, polka, double jig played by examiner.

Identify instruments- whistle, flute, fiddle, accordion from a recording.

Describe your own instrument and name a prominent player of that instrument

GRADE 2

Performance: 3 tunes of different types, one of the tunes must be a hornpipe, jig or reel
e.g. 1: air - *The South Wind*, 2: jig – *The Kesh Jig*, 3: march - *The Mountains of Pomeroy*

Repertoire: 5 tunes of different types e.g. 1: slide – *Sergeant Cahill's*, 2: polka – *Maggie in the Wood*, 3: march – *the Song of the Chanter*, 4: barndance – *Lucy Farr's*, 5: reel – *Walter Sammon's*

Supplementary tests: beat time to a polka/double jig/reel/march played by examiner.

Tune types: identify an air/polka/jig/reel played by examiner.

Sing/play back a phrase played twice by the examiner.

Identify instruments played on a recording – tin whistle, flute, fiddle, accordion, harp.

Name 5 instruments used in traditional music.

Describe your own instrument and name 2 prominent players of it.

GRADE 3

Performance: 3 tunes of different types, one of which must be a reel, jig or hornpipe, should include some simple ornamentation.

Repertoire: 5 tunes of different types with some simple ornamentation

Supplementary tests – Beat time to any tune.

Identify tune types – air, polka, double jig, reel played by examiner.

Sing/play back one phrase of a tune played by examiner (twice).

Identify instrument from a recording – whistle, flute, pipes, fiddle, accordion, concertina, harp.

Describe your own instrument, name 2 prominent players of it + 1 prominent group.

GRADE 4

Performance: 3 sets of 2 tunes, one set must include slow air, all should include simple ornamentation; e.g. 1: air – *Bruach na Carraige Báine/ Greencastle hornpipe*, 2: jigs – *An Seandúine Dóite/Slieve Russell*, 3: reels: *The Humours of Tulla / The Blacksmith's Daughter*

Repertoire: 5 tunes of different types, to include simple ornamentation. E.g. 1: slide – *The Brosna Slide*, 2: slip jig – *Humours of Derrykrosane*, 3: hornpipe – *the Humours of Tuamgraney*, 4: reel – *Rolling in the Ryegrass*, 5: barndance – *John McKenna's Ballroom Favourite*.

Supplementary tests: Beat time to any tune.

Identify air/polka/ double jig/reel/march played by examiner.

Sing/play back a tune extract played twice by examiner.

Identify any instrument from a recording.

Name 2 prominent players of your instrument and 2 prominent groups

GRADE 5

Performance: 3 selections of 2 tunes. A slow air must be included as the first tune in one set and a wide range of ornamentation is expected.

Repertoire: 3 selections of 2 tunes, with wide range of ornamentation

Supplementary tests: Name and demonstrate 3 different ornamentation types appropriate to your instrument.

Beat time to any tune.

Identify tune types – air, polka, double jig, reel, hornpipe, march.

Sing/play back tune extract played by examiner (polka, jig, march).

Name 4 types of dance tunes and give their time signature.

GRADE 6

Performance: 3 sets of 2 tunes of different types, must include a slow air. Wide range of ornamentation expected e.g. 1: air – *Sliabh Geal gCua* /hornpipe – *The Plains of Boyle*, 2: jigs – *Garret Barry's* / *Rambling Pitchfork*, 3: reels – *The Wise Maid* / *Fermoy Lasses*

Repertoire: 4 sets of 2 tunes of different types with wide range of ornamentation; e.g. 1: mazurkas – *Seamus O'Kane's* / *Jackie Donnan's*, 2: slip jigs *Give us a drink of Water* / *Hardiman the Fiddler*, 3: set dance /reel - *The Downfall of Paris* / *The Reel of Rio*, 4: air/march – *Lament for Aughrim* / *Battle of Aughrim*, 5: slides – *The Star Above the Garter* / *Merrily Kiss the Quaker's Wife*

Supplementary tests (20%): Name and demonstrate 4 different types of ornamentation used on your instrument.

Identify polka, march, reel, hornpipe, slide, double jig, slip jig played by the examiner.

Sing/play back a phrase of a tune played by examiner.

Play a phrase from a tune of your choice, then play it a second time with simple melodic variation. Name 3 different regional styles and give a description of each.

GRADE 7

Performance: 3 selections of different types including slow air in one set. Must include a wide range of ornamentation and simple melodic variation.

Repertoire: 5 selections of different types with wide range of ornamentation

Supplementary tests: Identify any tune type.

Describe simple variations played by examiner.

Sing/play back two phrases of melody played by examiner.

Discuss one prominent player of your instrument or any prominent trad group. Be prepared to name and play tune examples associated with your chosen musician or group

GRADE 8

Performance: Play 3 sets of two tunes showing wide range of ornamentation and variation. Must include a slow air, followed by a dance tune. At least one dance tune must have at least 3 parts. E.g. 1: air - *Táimse im Chodladh*/hornpipe - *The Cuckoo's Nest*, 2: reels - *The Galway High Reel*/*Over the Moor to Maggie*, 3: jigs - *Queen of the Rushes*/*The Cat's Meow*

Repertoire: 5 sets of 2 tunes to include ornamentation and variation.

E.g. 1: reels – *Splendid Isolation*/*Lawries reel*, 2: marches – *The Rose in the Gap*/ *March of the Meenatotten Bull*, 3: slip jigs – *The Kid on the Mountain*/*Drops of Springwater*, 4: barndances – *Kitty Seán's*/*If there weren't any Women in the World*, 5: hornpipes – *The Harp and Shamrock*/*Kitty's Wedding*

Supplementary tests: Identify any tune type played by examiner. Describe variations played by examiner.

Sing/play back 2 phrases played by examiner.

Discuss a prominent player of your instrument and a prominent group of your choice. Be prepared to name and play tunes associated with the player and group