



ATAR course examination, 2026

MUSIC

Practical examination: Option 1 (performance)

Time allocated

Set up, warm up and tune prior to examination:	5 minutes
Percussion and drum kit; set up, warm up and tune prior to examination:	10 minutes
Performance:	15–20 minutes

Materials required for the performance

To be provided by the candidate

- *Personalised practical examination timetable*
- three copies of each performing score or explanatory notes if a score is not required, each with a copy of the *Repertoire cover page* attached
- accompanist(s), with up to four ensemble members and/or recorded accompaniment
- *Declaration of confidentiality and conduct* form for each accompanist
- additional permissible performance equipment

To be provided in the examination room

- a piano
- a standard 3.5 mm jack lead connected to a speaker/s
- any special equipment requested by a candidate via the *Music ATAR course Practical examination information collection form* and approved by the Authority

For Contemporary Music and Jazz candidates only

- a drum kit
- an amplifier for electric guitar and bass guitar candidates
- a PA system. Voice candidates may provide their own microphone if preferred

For Western Art Music percussion candidates only

- percussion instruments

Structure of the examination

The Music ATAR course examination consists of a written component and a practical (performance and/or composition portfolio) component.

Criteria for marking the practical (performance) examination

Criteria	Marks available	Percentage of practical examination
Technique	30	40
Style/Expression	17	50
Program requirements	10	10
Total		100

Instructions to candidates

1. You are permitted up to five minutes (for drumkit and percussion candidates: up to 10 minutes) to set up, warm up and tune prior to the commencement of the examination.
2. Your program of pieces should present a balanced repertoire contrasting in tempo, genre/style and/or era as appropriate to context.
3. Once the examination commences, you are to perform your entire program of pieces.
4. You may take up to 60 seconds between each piece.
5. You will be stopped by the markers if you play over the maximum time allocated.

Information

1. You must provide live or recorded accompaniment for any repertoire with an accompaniment part. Recorded accompaniment must contain backing or accompanying material only.
2. You must not carry or wear anything that can identify you in any way.
3. You must follow the requirements for this examination published in the *Music ATAR course Practical (performance and/or composition portfolio) examination requirements 2026* document.