



ATAR course examination, 2026

MUSIC

Practical examination:

Option 3 (performance and composition portfolio)

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:	7–10 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	20
Style/Expression	17	25
Program requirements	10	5
Total		50

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.

Composition portfolio

Schools are required to deliver Practical (composition portfolio) examination submissions to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority by **4 pm** on **Tuesday, 22 September 2026**.

Materials required for the composition portfolio

The candidate must ensure that:

- all written documentation is presented in both electronic and hard copy forms
- all work is carefully and securely packaged and labelled with their WA student number
- support documents or equipment submitted do not contain the candidate's name or names of persons associated with the candidate's school or family
- visual recordings of performances do not contain identifiable school uniforms or other items of clothing or equipment that may be identified with a school
- the composition portfolio does not contain any teacher comments or markings.

To be submitted by the school on behalf of the candidate

A clearly labelled composition portfolio, comprising:

- a minimum of two compositions with a total combined time of 7–10 minutes
- a minimum of one composition for an ensemble of four or more instruments/voices/parts and a maximum of one composition for a solo instrument
- a completed Composition portfolio submission form
- printed scores/digital files and recordings of all compositions
- a clearly marked electronic backup (e.g. USB drive) including all scores, the Composition portfolio submission form and any other materials printed included in the portfolio submission
- a completed *Declaration of authenticity* is returned to the Authority in the folder provided (**not** attached to or included in the individual candidate's portfolio).

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 (composition portfolio) examination

Criteria	Marks available	Percentage of practical examination
Compositional process	36	45
Composition portfolio requirements	8	5
Total		50

Instructions to candidates

1. You must follow the requirements for this examination published in the *Music ATAR course Practical (performance and/or composition portfolio) examination requirements 2026* document.