Cambridge Pre-U MUSIC
Practical Examination Requirements

These examinations will take place towards the end of term five or at the beginning of term six.

Section A: Recital

All candidates must perform a recital on one instrument or voice, lasting between 15 and 20 minutes. The candidate may perform in one of the following ways:

- as a soloist
- as an accompanist or in a duet or in a small ensemble

Section B: Extended Performing

All candidates must present one further skill, which must be different from the one offered in Section A, in a programme lasting not longer than 10 minutes.

- The same instrument (or voice) as that presented in Section A but in a different category
- A second instrument in any of the categories (solo, accompanying, duet/ensemble)
- Improvisation on a stimulus provided by visiting examiner (on any instrument/voice)

To gain the highest marks, the general level of the programme for a solo performance in the compulsory part of the examination should be equivalent to that of pieces prescribed by the conservatoires in their grade 7 lists. The level of difficulty offered for accompanying, ensemble or duet should be roughly commensurate.

Advanced Recital

This is an option*, but it is one which most candidates will choose. They will perform a recital on any instrument or voice, lasting no more than 30 minutes. None of the options offered in Sections A and B may be repeated here.

To gain the highest marks, the general level of the Advanced Recital should be that of a conservatoire grade 8 examination.

These performing standards are not preliminary requirements but must be achievable targets for all Pre-U candidates by the end of the spring term in their 6ii year.

N.B. If a candidate has only one instrument (which may be voice) and he/she is intending to opt for the Advanced Recital, it should be clearly understood that he/she will have to perform in all three ways on that one instrument (i.e. solo, ensemble and improvisation) because no performance option may be repeated.

*The other options are a portfolio of compositions and a dissertation.

NEG
September 2011