

# Information for Candidates

## Planning for your exam

- A long time before your exam day, sit down with your teacher and read through the syllabus for your instrument and grade. This is a good check that you are preparing the right pieces and scales.
  - For all subjects except the piano you need to have your own accompanist. Make sure this is arranged well in advance so there's time for at least one practice with the accompanist before the exam day.
  - At some venues, it's possible to book a rehearsal time so that you can get used to the piano and the exam room ahead of time.
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## What should I bring?

- Piano candidates – your music (no photocopies!). Younger candidates may bring a footrest if they wish.
  - Singing candidates – a list of your songs (with syllabus numbers) to give to the examiner, and the music for your accompanist.
  - Strings and woodwind candidates – your instrument, your music (no photocopies!), and the music for your accompanist. A seat will be available for cello candidates, but you are also welcome to bring your own seat from home if you wish.
  - An adjustable music stand will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own stand if you prefer.
  - It is not necessary for candidates to present an exam slip or other paperwork on arrival.
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## How long will it take?

- The time allowed for your exam depends on your instrument, but will be approximately:
    - Prep Test: 10 minutes
    - Grades 1 to 3: 12 minutes
    - Grades 4 to 5: 15 minutes
    - Grade 6: 20 minutes
    - Grade 7: 25 minutes
    - Grade 8: 30 minutes
    - Performance Assessment: 15 minutes
  - You should arrive at the exam venue 15 minutes before your exam time. Examiners usually keep to the timetable well, but the steward will tell you when you arrive if your exam will be a few minutes earlier or later than scheduled.
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## Any questions?

Information and maps are available for some exam venues on the New Zealand page of the website ([www.abrsm.org/nz](http://www.abrsm.org/nz)). You can also visit the home page ([www.abrsm.org](http://www.abrsm.org)) to find general information about the exams as well as a forum for chatting with other teachers and students.

If you have any questions about your exam venue, or about how the exam will run, please email the ABRSM office on [office@abrsm.org.nz](mailto:office@abrsm.org.nz) or freephone 0800 MUSEXAM (687 392).