

Piano Proficiency Test One

Technical Skills:

1. Play the five-finger scales in all the major keys, hands together. Repeat the exercise for all minor keys. Refer to Appendix 1.
2. Play the inversions of the major triads, hands separately, transposing through all 12 keys. Repeat the exercise, using minor triads. Refer to Appendix 2.
3. Practice these chord progressions (LH only), in Major Keys: C D E F G A Bflat; and Minor keys: d e g a. Refer to Appendix 3.
4. Play the diatonic triads (RH or LH) in all major keys up through 3 sharps and 3 flats, calling the qualities of the chords as you play them. Repeat the exercise, using the natural minor scale. Repeat the exercise, using the harmonic minor scale. Refer to Appendix 4.
5. Play the following scales, using proper fingering. You may play hands separately, ascending and descending through one octave.

Major Scales: C, G, D, A, E

Minor Scales (natural, harmonic and melodic): c, g, d, a, e

Fingering: RH: 123 12345

LH: 54321 321

Major Scale: F

Fingering: RH: 1234 1234
(1)

LH: 54321 321

Practical Skills:

1. Harmonize *Happy Birthday* by ear in F major, placing the melody in your RH and an accompaniment in your LH. Repeat, transposing to the key of G major.
2. Harmonize the *Keys of Canterbury*, placing the melody in your RH and an accompaniment in your LH. Refer to Appendix 5.
3. Prepare and perform a piece from the list given below:

Bach: *Little Anna Magdalena Notebook* (a selection)
Gurlitt: *Album Leaves*, op. 101 (a selection)
Burgmüller: *Arabesque* or *Ballade*, from Op. 100
H. Berens: *Fifty Piano Pieces for Beginners*, op. 70, Book II or III (a selection)
Schumann: *Album for the Young* (a selection)
From the Alfred book, *Group Piano for Adults*:
A piece selected from pp. 329-337, 342 or 343
4. Sight-read a piece for two hands in five-finger position, given to you by your instructor at the exam.

Appendix One:

Musical notation for Appendix One, showing a sequence of chords in treble and bass clefs. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. The sequence includes chords with various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and intervals. The notation ends with "etc.".

Appendix Two:

Musical notation for Appendix Two, showing a sequence of chords in treble and bass clefs. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. The sequence includes chords with various accidentals and intervals. The notation ends with "etc.".

Appendix Three:

Musical notation for Appendix Three, showing a sequence of chords in treble and bass clefs. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. The sequence includes chords with various accidentals and intervals. The notation ends with "etc.".

Chord progressions shown below the notation:

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
 3 2 3 2 2 1 1 1 1 1
 5 5 5 5 5 4 4 5 5 5

I IV⁶ I V⁶ V⁴ I

i iv⁶ i V⁶ V⁴ i

Appendix Four:

M m m m M M M m dim

5

natural: m dim M m m m M M M
 harmonic: m dim Aug m M M dim

Appendix Five:

English Folk Song

→ Piano

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Name: _____

Piano Proficiency Test One - Specific Requirements

1. 5-finger scales - All 12 keys - Major AND minor - Hands together

Required tempo: student must play at a minimum of quarter note = 56 (tempo range 56-80 quarter note)

Executed tempo: _____

2. Chords and Inversions - All 12 keys - Major AND minor - Hands separately

Required accuracy: student may not make more than 3 errors per skill

Circle Number of Errors

RH Major	0	1	2	3
LH Major	0	1	2	3
RH minor	0	1	2	3
LH minor	0	1	2	3

3. LH Chord Progressions

Major Keys: C D E F G A Bflat

Minor keys: d e g a

Required minimum tempo: 56 = half note

Executed tempo: _____

4. Diatonic Triads - Either hand permitted.

Students must identify (speak) the quality of each triad as they play. Accuracy is more important than speed.

Major Keys: C D E-flat F G A B-flat

Minor keys: c d e f# g a b

Required accuracy: No more than one error per key.

5. Scales - proper fingering - Hands separate permitted - 1 octave ascending and descending

Major scales: C G D A E and F

Minor scales: natural, harmonic, melodic - c g d a e

Required tempo: 72 = quarter note -1 note per beat fluently - **Zero errors**

Practical Skills:

1. Harmonize *Happy Birthday* in both F Major and G Major, playing the melody in RH and chordal accompaniment in LH. (Students are encouraged to use chord progressions from #3 as a guide.)

Required tempo: quarter note = 60 - **Zero errors**

2. Harmonize the *Keys of Canterbury* - playing the melody in RH and accompaniment in LH.

Required tempo: eighth note = 120 - **Zero errors**

3. Prepare and perform a piece from the given list (see Test One)

Required tempo and accuracy: Students should perform at performance tempo with three (3) or fewer errors. Memory is not required.

4. Sight read a piece, given to you by your instructor at the exam. Pieces at this level should remain in five-finger position. Approved examples are included for the instructor.

Required accuracy: Students may have two attempts, with the goal of playing through with no more than three (3) errors.