

Music Theory Diplomas

from 2017

Trinity College London
trinitycollege.com

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Trinity accepts entries for its exams on the condition that candidates conform to the requirements of the appropriate syllabus. Any amendments to the requirements will be published and advertised via our website and in subsequent imprints.

Trinity College London is an international exam board regulated by Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) in England, CCEA Regulation in Northern Ireland and by Qualifications Wales. Various arrangements are in place with governmental education authorities worldwide. Trinity's qualifications are regulated within the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). Various arrangements are in place with governmental education authorities worldwide.

Introduction

Trinity's theory diplomas require a broad understanding of theoretical and analytical concepts and procedures, in addition to a wide-ranging knowledge of music history in the Western classical tradition. They are offered at two levels, assessed by written exam:

- ▶ Level 4 Diploma in Music Theory (known as AMusTCL)
- ▶ Level 6 Diploma in Music Theory (known as LMusTCL)

Trinity aims to treat each candidate individually when considering how we can make our exams accessible to all, recognising that requirements vary. Please visit trinitycollege.com/music for more information, or contact us directly to discuss any specific requirements.

Trinity would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success in your exams and wider music-making. Further information on all our exams, as well as additional supporting materials for teachers and candidates, can be found on our website.

Range of qualifications

Trinity's music qualifications offer flexible progression routes from beginner to advanced levels in a range of musical genres. All are designed to help candidates develop as musicians according to their individual needs as learners.

Grade exams assess a broad range of musicianship skills, including performance, while certificate exams focus entirely on performance, including separate marks for presentation skills. Candidates can enter any combination of grade or certificate exams, and do not need to pass any particular level in order to proceed to a higher level.

Theory exams are available from Grade 1 to support learners to develop their understanding of the technical language of music. However, no theory qualifications or other prerequisites are required to enter grade or certificate exams at any level.

After Grade 8 or the Advanced certificate, candidates can progress to diplomas at associate (ATCL), licentiate (LTCL) and fellowship (FTCL) levels. These assess higher skills in performance, teaching and theory.

This syllabus focuses on diplomas in music theory. Visit our website for information about grade and certificate exams, diplomas in performance and teaching, and Music Tracks – an initiative designed to support teachers in delivering large- and small-group instrumental tuition.

RQF* Level	EQF** Level	Classical & Jazz	Rock & Pop	Theory & Written	Music Tracks†	Solo Certificate †	Group Certificate †	
7	7	FTCL						
6	6	LTCL		LMusTCL				
4	5	ATCL		AMusTCL				
3	4	Grade 8	Grade 8	Grade 8		Advanced	Advanced	
		Grade 7	Grade 7	Grade 7				
		Grade 6	Grade 6	Grade 6				
2	3	Grade 5	Grade 5	Grade 5		Intermediate	Intermediate	
		Grade 4	Grade 4	Grade 4				
1	2	Grade 3	Grade 3	Grade 3		Foundation	Foundation	
		Grade 2	Grade 2	Grade 2		Track 2		
		Grade 1	Grade 1	Grade 1		Track 1		
Entry Level 3	1	Initial	Initial		Initial Track			
Entry Levels 1-2					First Access Track			

* Regulated Qualifications Framework in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

** European Qualifications Framework

† Not RQF or EQF regulated

About the exams

Trinity's diplomas in music theory demand a broad understanding of analytical concepts and procedures, while drawing on an extensive knowledge of music history in the Western tradition.

AMusTCL is a written diploma in which the standard is equivalent to the written work component at the end of the first year of an undergraduate course at a conservatoire or other higher education institution. This qualification provides evidence that candidates can manipulate musical materials, understand the notational and structural conventions of representative Western classical music, and can demonstrate both awareness of musical styles based on analysis of set works, and also aural imagination and creativity in responding to specific stimuli.

LMusTCL is a written diploma in which the standard is equivalent to the written work component on completion of an undergraduate course at a conservatoire or other higher education institution. Building on the foundation of study needed for AMusTCL, this qualification provides evidence that candidates can, in responding to set tasks, demonstrate a wide understanding of analytical concepts and procedures as well as draw on an extensive knowledge of all periods of musical history in the Western arts tradition, including an in-depth understanding, based on a set work, of the historical development of a particular genre.

Exam structure

AMusTCL	LMusTCL
<p>Musical skills and stylistic development (written exam, 3 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Section A: Musical skills ▶ Section B: Prescribed works <p>Candidates answer five questions, of which at least one must be from Section A and at least one must be from Section B.</p>	<p>Musical skills and stylistic development (written exam, 3 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Section A: Musical skills ▶ Section B: Prescribed works <p>Candidates answer Question 1 and <i>either</i> 2a, 2b or 2c in Section A, and <i>either</i> i or ii in Section B.</p>

Age requirements

There are no minimum age requirements for Trinity's theory diplomas.

Prerequisites

Candidates must hold the following qualifications prior to entry:

AMusTCL	LMusTCL
No prerequisite	AMusTCL or Trinity Grade 8 theory of music

Alternative prerequisites and approved prior learning

Alternative qualifications and prior learning will be considered in place of the listed prerequisites.

Candidates who wish to offer alternative prerequisites must send evidence of their qualification in the form of a copy of their certificate or final transcript of studies to the music team at Trinity's central office at least six weeks before the closing date for entries at their local centre. The decision of the music team will be final in such cases.

Examples of alternative qualifications are as follows:

In place of:	Trinity will consider one of the following:
AMusTCL or Trinity Grade 8 theory of music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Grade 8 theory of music from any other Ofqual-regulated board (ABRSM or LCM) or from UNISA, AMEB or other regulated body ▶ Any other qualification containing music theory and/or composition at an equivalent level

Candidates wishing to offer approved prior learning should send suitable evidence to the music team in the same way as for alternative prerequisites. Trinity reserves the right to request further supporting evidence if necessary. Each case will be considered on its individual merits, having due regard to the academic standing and validity of the award or experience offered.

Proof that all requirements or prerequisites have been met, or have been deemed by Trinity to have been met, will be needed before a candidate is permitted to register for a qualification.

Provisional and conditional entries cannot be accepted.

Post-nominals and academic dress

Candidates who have passed a Trinity diploma are entitled to use the letters standing for that diploma after their name: AMusTCL or LMusTCL as appropriate.

Holders of Trinity diplomas are also entitled to wear academic dress. Associates are entitled to wear an academic gown and Licentiates a gown and hood (purple edged with mauve). Candidates wishing to obtain academic dress should contact Trinity's central office for appropriate authorisation.

AMusTCL

The AMusTCL comprises one written exam of 3 hours' duration.

Prerequisites

There is no prerequisite for this qualification, but it is assumed that, before embarking on study for this diploma, candidates will have gained a knowledge of diatonic and chromatic harmony, melodic writing, music history and analysis such as that required for successful completion of Trinity's Grade 8 theory of music exam, alongside general listening and reading.

Assessment objectives

Candidates should demonstrate:

- ▶ a broad-based body of knowledge in music theory and familiarity with relevant concepts and issues, including knowledge of how to analyse musical structures by studying a written score
- ▶ knowledge of how to observe, interpret, manipulate and develop written music
- ▶ specific knowledge of the set works studied, including an understanding of their underpinning theoretical systems and how this relates to written practice.

Exam requirements

Candidates are required to answer a total of **five** questions, including at least one question from Section A and at least one question from Section B.

Although this is not a requirement, candidates are encouraged to consider the benefits of choosing the same historical periods for both Section A and Section B as this will enable them to gain a much fuller and better informed understanding of those particular periods.

Section A: Musical skills

Section A tests knowledge of written musical skills including harmony, counterpoint, orchestration and melodic composition.

The periods and types of questions are as follows:

1. Baroque (before c.1760): Lutheran chorale

The opening phrase of a Lutheran chorale is given in full. Candidates are required to add alto, tenor and bass to the given soprano in phrases 2 and 3 then add a fourth phrase, ending in the tonic.

2. Classical (c.1760-1810): Orchestration

A specially prepared reduction of a few bars from a classical work for orchestra is given. Candidates are required to orchestrate the music for a specified group of instruments, following the conventions of the period.

3. Early Romantic (c.1810-1860): Pianoforte

Part of a piano work is given in full. Candidates are required to complete the remainder of the extract, some of which will be provided. In the last few bars an appropriate conclusion must be written.

4. 20th century: Popular song

Part of a song is given in full. Thereafter the words, music of the vocal line and lettered chord symbols are provided and candidates are required to write the piano accompaniment. In the last few bars the song has to be concluded in full.

5. 20th century: Melodic composition

A choice of two openings is given. Candidates are required to write an original complete melody of between 24 and 30 bars' duration for a voice or single-line instrument of their choice. The music must not use the system of major/minor keys.

Section B: Prescribed works

Section B tests knowledge of prescribed repertoire. For each work there are two options. Candidates may answer *either* by writing a single essay *or* by answering a series of sub-questions requiring answers ranging between a few words and a paragraph.

The prescribed works for 2017-2020 are as follows:

1. **Baroque** – Bach: *Christmas Oratorio*, BWV 248, parts 1, 2 and 3; Bärenreiter Urtext TP85 (NB vocal scores are not suitable)
2. **Classical** – Mozart: *Serenade for 13 Wind Instruments* in B \flat major, K361; any reputable edition, eg Eulenburg 100
3. **Early Romantic** – Schumann: *Symphony no. 3* in E \flat , op. 97, *Rhenish*; any reputable edition
4. **20th century** – Orff: *Carmina Burana*; Eulenburg 8000 (NB vocal scores are not suitable)
5. **20th century** – Ravel: *Daphnis and Chloé*, parts 1 and 2 (the full ballet, **not** the suites); Dover pages 1-181 (the Durand edition, from which the Dover edition is taken, is also acceptable).

Candidates will need to take an unmarked score of each work prepared for Section B into the exam room. If the copy does not have printed bar numbers candidates should insert them in advance as questions will refer to places in the score by this method. Begin numbering afresh at the start of each movement. Bar numbers are the only permitted markings that candidates may have in their scores.

Mark scheme

Each question carries 20 marks. It is not necessary to pass all sections or any particular section in order to achieve a pass overall. The total mark for the exam corresponds to different attainment levels as follows:

Total	Attainment level
80-100	Distinction
60-79	Pass
0-59	Below pass

Assessment criteria are available on our website.

Support materials

A reading list, sample paper, specimen answers and guidance for preparing for Section B are available free-of-charge on our website.

A study guide for Section A is available to purchase from trinitycollege.com/shop or from your local music retailer.

Past papers are available to purchase from trinitycollege.com/shop or from your local music retailer.

LMusTCL

The LMusTCL comprises one written exam of 3 hours' duration.

Prerequisites

Candidates are required to have passed AMusTCL or Trinity Grade 8 theory of music or an approved equivalent qualification (see page 7) before entering for this diploma.

Assessment objectives

Candidates should demonstrate:

- ▶ a broad-based body of knowledge in the conventions of music composition (from the Renaissance to the present day) and familiarity with relevant concepts and issues at a professional advanced level, communicating musical intentions clearly and economically
- ▶ the ability to engage effectively with a range of musical briefs by demonstrating the ability to complete them whilst displaying an understanding of the relevant stylistic and technical considerations
- ▶ knowledge of how to develop materials into well-formed and coherent musical structures, employing relevant compositional techniques and methodologies, and composing idiomatically for instruments
- ▶ the ability to communicate answers clearly in continuous prose, using appropriate terminology
- ▶ the ability to orchestrate an extract of moderate length whilst displaying an understanding of the relevant technical considerations, including attention to instrumental balance, colour and effect
- ▶ a high level of creativity in analysing and developing music, including familiarity with concepts and procedures of the major 20th century analysts, applying these to previously unseen contexts as well as set works.

Exam requirements

Candidates are required to complete both sections of the exam.

Section A: Musical skills (50 marks)

Candidates are required to answer both questions. Each question carries 25 marks.

Question 1: String quartet

Candidates must answer this question, by continuing the given opening in an appropriate style for about 20 bars. The opening will be taken from any movement from either a classical or early romantic string quartet and either the top or bottom part will be given, but the final bars will be left for the candidate to complete.

Candidates must answer *either 2a or 2b or 2c*.

Either Question 2a: Analysis

Five extracts of works are set. Candidates are required to suggest a possible period and date of composition for each extract (eg late romantic, 1890) and to support this by reference to the style, texture, harmony and any other relevant musical features.

or Question 2b: Theme and variations

Writing for piano, candidates are required to harmonise a given theme and then write two variations. The second variation is acceptable as a sketch.

or Question 2c: Orchestration

Candidates are required to orchestrate a given extract presented in piano score of up to 20 bars in length. The response should be scored for full orchestra, which may include percussion at the candidate's discretion.

Section B: Prescribed works (50 marks)

Candidates should select one genre from the options given below for their chosen year of exam. Questions requiring essay-type answers will be set covering a) analytical and b) historical and contextual matters relating to various genres and the associated set works.

2019-2020:

either i Opera

Set work – Beethoven: *Fidelio*

Dover study score (NB vocal scores are not suitable)

or ii Orchestral music

Set work – Debussy: *La Mer*

Eulenburg 1321

Candidates will need to take an unmarked score of each work prepared for Section B into the exam room. If the copy does not have printed bar numbers candidates should insert them in advance as questions will refer to places in the score by this method. Begin numbering afresh at the start of each movement. Bar numbers are the only permitted markings that candidates may have in their scores.

Mark scheme

50 marks are available for each section. It is not necessary to pass both sections in order to achieve a pass overall. The total mark for the exam corresponds to different attainment levels as follows:

Total	Attainment level
80-100	Distinction
60-79	Pass
0-59	Below pass

Assessment criteria are available on our website.

Support materials

A sample paper is available free-of-charge on our website.

Past papers are available to purchase from trinitycollege.com/shop or from your local music retailer.

Information and regulations

The following section contains key information and regulations that apply to Trinity's theory diplomas. Please note that Trinity's separate Information & Regulations booklet gives more detailed guidance and can be downloaded from our website.

Entry requirements

- There are no age requirements for Trinity's theory diplomas.
- Candidates entering for LMusTCL must hold a listed prerequisite qualification or an approved alternative qualification or approved prior learning; full details are given on pages 6-7.
- Candidates may enter for more than one diploma in the same or different subjects at the same session, but no more than one entry will be accepted per candidate per session in the same level and subject.

Reasonable adjustment

- Trinity is committed to creating an inclusive environment where candidates with special needs are able to demonstrate their skills and feel welcomed. We aim to make our exams accessible to all. We treat each learner individually when considering how we can achieve this aim, recognising that requirements vary. Candidates can be assured that we do not compromise on the standard of marking or allow the quality of exams to be affected in any way.
- All provision is tailored to the particular needs of each candidate. In order to be most beneficial, as full an explanation as possible of the required provision should be given. The need and request for provision should be made on the appropriate form available to download from trinitycollege.com/music-csn. For enquiries please contact music-csn@trinitycollege.com

Exam centres

- Exams can be taken at one of Trinity's public exam centres which are available throughout the world. Details of these are available on our website. Candidates should contact their local centre representative for more information.

Exam dates

- Written exams take place twice a year, normally on Saturdays in May and November. The dates of written exams at public centres are published in advance on our website.

Entry process

- Exam entries may be submitted by a teacher, parent or guardian, or by candidates themselves if they are aged 18 or over. Correspondence will be conducted with this person only.
- All entries must be made on an official Trinity entry form and sent to the local Trinity representative along with the correct entry fee in advance of the closing date for application to the exam. Closing dates and contact details for local representatives can be found on our website.
- Cheques should be made payable to Trinity College London. A receipt will only be provided if the appropriate section of the entry form is completed and a stamped addressed envelope supplied.
- By entering for a Trinity exam, candidates agree to abide by Trinity's regulations, syllabus requirements and the professional judgements of its examiners.

- Entries at one centre may be transferred to another centre for a fee, but cannot be deferred to a later exam session. In the case of a transfer, a new entry form must be completed and the appropriate fee must be paid (please contact Trinity's central office for further details). Entries may not be transferred from one candidate to another.
- Trinity is required to collect candidates' dates of birth in order to produce anonymised statistical information for various government and educational bodies. If this information is not provided on the entry form then the entry process may be delayed.

Inaccurate and late entries

- If an entry form is incomplete, it may be refused.
- Candidates' names as shown on the entry form will be used when producing certificates for successful candidates. Please ensure that all details on the entry form are complete and accurate.
- If you require a correction to be made on an entry form or to details held about you on Trinity's database, please contact your Trinity representative.
- Please note that entries will not be accepted if received less than 14 days before the exam date. Late entries received more than 14 days before the exam date may be accepted at the discretion of the Trinity representative, depending on availability. Please contact your Trinity representative before submitting a late entry.
- Entries which are received following the application closing date will be subject to the following surcharges:
 - for late entries received up to 21 days before the exam date: + 50% of the entry fee
 - for late entries received between 20 and 14 days before the exam date: + 100% of the entry fee.
- Trinity makes no guarantee that acceptance of a late entry will result in the exam taking place. If a late entry is accepted but an exam slot is not available, Trinity may at its discretion refund the entry fee, although the surcharge fee will be retained in all cases to cover administration costs.

Exam appointments

- Once the entry has been processed, your local Trinity representative will send an appointment form giving details of the date, time and place of the exam, along with the candidate's ID number and their exam subject and level. This will normally be sent 21 days before the date of the exam.
- If there are any errors in the information specified on the appointment form, please notify your Trinity representative immediately. Errors such as an entry for the wrong diploma cannot be put right in the examination room. If any errors become apparent, the candidate should alert the invigilator.

On the day

- Candidates are advised to arrive at least 20 minutes before the start of the exam.
- Candidates are responsible for their own property at all times. Trinity will not accept any liability in the event of candidates' property being lost, stolen or damaged, either while in transit to or from the exam centre or at any time before, during or after the exam.

Conduct of written exams

- ▶ Candidates are not allowed to take books, papers or music (except for an unmarked copy of the set work(s) chosen for AMusTCL and LMusTCL) into the exam room. Bags must be left with the invigilator; they may not be taken to candidates' desks.
- ▶ Candidates must not communicate in any way with each other during the exam. A candidate may ask a question of the supervisor on exam procedure but not on the content of a question paper. Both question and answer must be spoken aloud.
- ▶ Candidates who are late are permitted to enter the exam room and begin answering questions if they arrive up to 25 minutes after the starting time. Late arrivals will not be given any extra time in which to complete their answers.
- ▶ Candidates are not permitted to leave the exam room until 30 minutes after the starting time of the exam. If a candidate leaves the exam room, they will normally not be allowed to return. Neither rough work nor the question paper may be taken out of the exam room.
- ▶ If a candidate is absent, his/her exam paper will be returned to Trinity's central office marked 'absent'. Under no circumstances may another person be substituted for an absent candidate.

Exceptional circumstances

- ▶ If candidates are ill and cannot take an exam as planned, the Trinity representative must be informed as soon as possible. The person who signed the entry form may apply to the Trinity representative for a re-entry permit by providing a medical certificate current for the date of the exam and the appointment form originally issued.
- ▶ The re-entry application must be made no later than 30 days after the exam date. The Trinity representative will forward the medical certificate and appointment form to Trinity, who will issue a re-entry permit for an exam at the same level in the same subject.
- ▶ A re-entry permit can be used for an exam within 21 days to 12 months of the original exam date upon payment of 50% of the entry fee current at the new date of entering. If a permit is used towards entry for an exam at a higher level, any difference in fee is also payable.
- ▶ If candidates wish to postpone or cancel an exam, the original fee will not be refunded. There are special arrangements in case of genuine compassionate circumstances. Trinity will not offer re-entry permits for non-medical reasons, though sympathy will be shown to genuine cases in which appropriate evidence is provided.

Results, reports and certificates

- ▶ Candidates for all diplomas receive a written report.
- ▶ Results are sent to the local representative for distribution.
- ▶ Representatives will despatch those results to the person who signed the application form.
- ▶ Certificates show the date, centre, subject, and level achieved by a successful candidate, as well as the name of their teacher and school (if requested). The personal details shown on certificates will be taken from those recorded on the entry form.
- ▶ Trinity cannot accept responsibility for the non-arrival of any exam report or certificate after it has been posted. Please refer to Trinity's website or contact your local representative for information about replacement certificates and certifying statements.

Exam infringements

- ▶ All exam infringements will be referred directly to Trinity's central office by the examiner. Exam reports may be withheld until the outcome of any referral has been considered by Trinity. Depending on the severity of the infringement, marks may be deducted or, in extreme cases, the exam may be invalidated.

Results review and appeals procedure

- ▶ Anyone who wishes to question their exam result should refer to trinitycollege.com/results-enquiry for full details of our results review and appeals process.

Policies

Equal opportunities

- ▶ Trinity is committed to providing equality of opportunity and treatment for all, and will not unlawfully or unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly on the basis of any characteristic.

Child protection

- ▶ Trinity is fully committed to safeguarding and protecting the candidates that we work with. All posts, including examiners, are subject to a safer recruitment process, including the disclosure of criminal records and vetting checks. Our safeguarding policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and promote safeguarding and safer working practice across all parts of our work.

Data protection

- ▶ Trinity is registered as a Data Controller with the Information Commissioner's Office in the United Kingdom under data protection legislation. Please see trinitycollege.com/data-protection for the most up-to-date information about Trinity's data protection procedures and policies.

Customer service

- ▶ Trinity is committed to providing a high-quality service for all our users from initial enquiry through to certification. Full details of our customer service commitment can be found at trinitycollege.com/customer-service

Malpractice

- ▶ Trinity requires its registered exam centres to report any suspected malpractice by candidates, teachers or examiners. In situations where a centre is found to be inadequate or to be guilty of malpractice, either in terms of provision of facilities or in administration, the exam centre may be required to suspend all of its activities relating to Trinity exams until the cause of the problem is identified and rectified, if appropriate. In extreme circumstances, the centre may have its registered status withdrawn.
- ▶ In the very rare cases or circumstances where a centre or individual may be suspected of malpractice, Trinity will aim to minimise any inconvenience caused to any affected candidate, and would like to thank candidates, teachers and centre staff for their kind co-operation in reporting any suspected incident of cheating, thereby assisting Trinity in upholding the quality and integrity of its exam process.

