

Digital Grades and Diplomas: piano requirements

This document provides information on the types of piano allowed for Digital Grade and Diploma exams.

1. Graded exams

Acoustic (upright or grand) or digital pianos must be used. The tone quality of the instrument should be capable of fulfilling the demands of the repertoire being presented in the exam.

Digital pianos may be used at all grades, but must have sufficient range for the selected pieces, without any adjustments to the score, and must have a touch-sensitive, weighted keyboard, and sustain pedal, if required. A solo piano voice must be used.

Electronic keyboards may be used up to Grade 3, provided that the instrument is touch-sensitive and is capable of achieving all the technical and musical demands of the chosen pieces. The instrument should have a sustain pedal if required, and sufficient range to ensure that no adjustments need to be made to the score. A solo piano voice must be used.

It must be understood that examiners will only be able to assess what they hear. If the above criteria are not met, this may result in referral.

2. Diploma exams

An acoustic grand or upright piano must be used for solo piano diplomas at ATCL and LTCL. Digital pianos and hybrid pianos (acoustic action with wooden keys and hammers, but digital audio output) are not permitted.

FTCL diplomas may only be taken on an acoustic grand piano.