

VIOLA—LEVEL 7

Performance Exam Requirements
Duration of examination: 20 minutes

Scales and Arpeggios (Memory is required.)

Play one from each of these four categories:

1. Three-octave major scale in Db, D, Eb, E, F, or G. Slur two sets of triplet eighths or eight sixteenths, followed by the tonic and subdominant arpeggios, slurring one set of triplet eighths.
2. Three-octave melodic or harmonic minor scale in c, d, e, or f, followed by the tonic and subdominant arpeggios. Bowings as above.
3. Two-octave harmonic minor scale in e or g. Slur one set of triplet eighths or four eighths, followed by tonic and subdominant arpeggios, slurring triplet eighths.
4. Three-octave chromatic starting on C scale. Slur two or four eighths.

Metronome: quarter note = 66-76

Use whole bows on all.

Etude (Memory is not required.)

One etude, or two etudes totaling a minimum of one page.

2 Pieces (Memory is strongly recommended and will be graded.)

One substantial piece, or a fast concerto movement

One short contrasting piece from a different period

Piano accompaniment is required for 18th C. and later sonatas.

Sight Reading

Note: Sight reading is currently only part of the in-person exam.

Range might exceed two octaves

Major and minor keys up to three sharps and three flats

Meters 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8, 3/8, 9/8, 2/2

Note values may include dotted eighth and sixteenth in one beat and eighth rests

Slurs of two, three, four, and six notes

Some shifting to second or third position

Recommended Goals for Level 7

Accuracy of pitch and rhythm
Extended fast passages played evenly and cleanly
Developing agility in trills
Working on two-octave double-stopped scales
Increasing bowing skills in sautillé, spiccato and complex string crossing
More power and beauty of tone
Growing familiarity with varied styles demanded by different periods

Examples of Music Suitable for Level 7

Note: Teachers may choose any publisher or any other works of comparable level. Listings with asterisks cover more than one level. Please check the guidelines and recommendations for this level to determine if a selection is level appropriate.

Scale Books

Barber: Scales for Advanced Violists*
Bauer: Progressive Scale Studies for Viola*
Flesch: Scale System*
Mogill: Scale Studies*
Mogill: Advanced Scale Studies*

Etudes and Technical Studies

Bruni: 25 Studies
Fuchs: 15 Characteristic Studies
Gazda: Studies in Lyricism*
Harvey: The Shifting Book for the Viola*
Harvey: Octaves for the Viola, Book 1
Hofmann: Melodic Double Stop Studies*
Kayser: Studies, Op. 20*
Kimber: Three Double-Stop Caprices
Kimber: Six Etude-Caprices*
Kreutzer: 42 Etudes*
Mazas: Etudes Speciales, Op. 36 Books 1 & 2*
Palaschko: 12 Studies, Op. 55
Sitt: Practical Viola School*

Pieces

Bach: Cello Suites, Nos. 1-3
“J.C. Bach”/Casadesus: Concerto in c minor, mvmts. 1 & 2
Ben-Haim: Three Songs without Words
Bucci: Concertante (from Solos for Young Violists, Vol. 2 ed. Barber)
Clarke: Passacaglia
Clarke: Lullaby in a minor (from Shorter Pieces for Viola and Piano)
Dittersdorf/Primrose: Andantino in A
Fauré: Après un Rêve
Forsyth: Chanson Celtique
Gritton: Jazz Dance (from Viola Music by Women, Intermediate 2 ed. Cooper)
“Händel”/Casadesus: Concerto in b minor
“Handoshkin”/Goldstein: Concerto in C major
Harberg: Prayer
Milhaud: Sonate #1, mvmts. 1, 3 & 4
Pietsch: Andante Cantabile
Rolla: Concerto in F major
Rosetti: Concerto in G major
Severn: Polish Dance (NB: Violin Level 6)
A. Stamitz: Concerto #4 in D major (Schott)
Swain: Song at Evening (from Viola Music by Women, Intermediate 2 ed. Cooper)
Telemann: Fantasias (originally for gamba), Nos. 1, 3, 4, 7 & 12
Telemann: Fantasias (originally for violin)
Tertis: Sunset (from Tertis: The Early Years, Book 1)
Vanhala: Concerto in C major, mvmt. 3
Vaughan Williams: Six Studies in English Folk Song, No. 6
Vaughan Williams: Suite for Viola, Musette & Galop; Group III #1 & 3
Villa-Lobos/Primrose: Aria from “Bachianas Brasilieras No. 5” (Schirmer)
Weickmann: Nachtlied, Op. 4#1
Wieniawski/Davis: Reverie

Suggestions for additional study material, not suitable for the exam:

Harvey: Octave Scale Studies for the Viola, Book 1
Kember & Smith: Viola Sight-Reading 2*
Kievman: Practicing the Viola Mentally and Physically*
Schradiack: School of Viola Technique, Book 1
Sevčík: School of Bowing, Op. 2
Sevčík: Preparatory Studies in Double-Stopping, Op. 9
Sevčík: Shifting the Position, Op. 8
Starer: Rhythmic Training*
Surmani & Manus: Alfred’s Essentials of Music Theory*