VCE Music Performance: Alternative instrument application guidelines

In some circumstances, for example, student plays a culturally-specific instrument; application may be made to use that instrument to complete the Music Performance study design and examination requirements as a soloist. In these situations students must indicate the instrument they wish to use for Units 3 and 4 Outcomes 1 and 2 and the end-of-year performance examination.

In these situations the information below should be used by schools and teachers to ensure that the application form for approval of alternative instruments is completed accurately. Schools and teachers should consider this information with the VCE Music study design, the current prescribed lists, published at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/music-performance/Pages/unit3-4.aspx](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/music-performance/Pages/unit3-4.aspx), and assessment information, including criteria for the award of grades in the end-of-year performance examination for Music Performance provided on the VCAA website.

In addition to approval to use an alternative instrument, approval of the works students will perform in the end-of-year performance examination program is also required. Unpublished works including works composed by students may be submitted for approval. Complete notation (TAB not acceptable) and a recording of the work, for example an audio CD or a MIDI file copied to CD should be provided with the application.

Criteria

These criteria are drawn from the VCAA *Principles, guidelines and procedures for prescribed VCE Text lists*.

Approved alternative instruments will:

* enable the requirements of the study design and end-of-year performance examination for Music Performance to be met
* allow the student to have the opportunity to demonstrate the highest level of performance in relation to the criteria for the award of grades
* allow the student to demonstrate excellence, that is:
* the instrument has (for pitched instruments) an appropriate range and (for all instruments) allows use of an extensive range of performance techniques
* the works in the proposed performance program will be an excellent example of the style and/or genre, meet community standards, and, as appropriate, be of an appropriate level and standard, that is the works will be:
* of appropriate technical standard with regard to the examination criteria
* appropriate for the age and development of students and in that context reflect current standards and expectations.

Students who wish to use an alternative instrument must propose a complete program of at least four works including at least two works that are examples of contemporary, art, popular and jazz styles.

VCE Music Performance guidelines for approval of an alternative instrument for solo end-of-year performance examination

Reviewers use the following statements to recommend approval or non-approval.

Approved

The following statements may be used to describe reasons why an instrument has been approved for solo performance in the end-of-year performance examination for Music Performance. This information will be used by the approval panel members to provide advice to the VCAA regarding the application.

The instrument and proposed program will allow the student to:

* meet the requirements of the study design
* meet the relevant criteria and guidelines for selection of works for the end-of-year performance examination
* have the opportunity to demonstrate the highest level of performance in relation to the criteria for the award of grades.

The instrument and program will provide excellence, that is:

* the instrument has (for pitched instruments) an appropriate range and (for all instruments) allows use of an extensive range of performance techniques
* the works in the proposed performance program will be an excellent example of the style and/or genre, and, as appropriate, be:
* representative and characteristic of a range of styles including at least two works that are examples of contemporary, art, popular and jazz styles
* of an appropriate level and standard , that is the work will be:
	+ of appropriate technical standard with regard to the examination criteria
	+ appropriate for the age and development of students and in that context
	+ reflect current standards and expectations.

Other information that may be provided in relation to approved repertoire for alternative instruments

Where the instrument and work are approved, further information may also be included in the approval letter, for example:

* either … (this work) … or … (that work) … may be used but not both
* the movements of … (title of work) … specified for performance are … or … (for example, movement 1 or 3)
* the accompaniment can be pianoforte or … but the program must contain at least … (for example, one unaccompanied work)
* the work is approved for the … category (for example, Contemporary, Art, Popular and Jazz styles)
* no accompanied works are required for this instrument
* no more than three (3) pre-recorded accompaniments may be used.

Not approved

The following statements may be used to describe reasons why an instrument has **not** been approved for performance in the Music Performance end-of-year performance examination. This information will be used by the approval panel members to provide advice to the VCAA regarding the application.

The instrument will **not** allow the student to:

* meet the requirements of the study design
* meet the relevant criteria and guidelines for selection of works for the end-of-year performance examination
* have the opportunity to demonstrate the highest level of performance in relation to the criteria for the award of grades.

The application:

* did **not** provide sufficient justification or information as to how the instrument and/or works will allow the student to address the examination criteria
* **no notated music is provided** to allow for assessment of the application
* only incomplete notation is provided, for example only TAB or chord charts. The score or chart provided did not align with the arrangement provided in a recording and the range of techniques and conventions intended for inclusion in the performance was unclear
* the instrument and/or specific repertoire **does not display a sufficient range** of styles and/or techniques.