VCE Music Performance: Alternative work application guidelines

The end-of-year performance examination for VCE Music Performance requires students who elect to perform as a:

* member of a group, to perform **two** works selected from the *Prescribed list of group works* published by VCAA. In some circumstances, for example, an ensemble format not catered for within the list, students may wish to seek permission for an alternative work or works to be used to meet this requirement
* soloist, to perform a program of works selected from the *Prescribed list of notated solo works* published by VCAA.

In exceptional circumstances, students may seek permission to perform a work that is not on the list. In these situations the information below should be used by schools and teachers to ensure that the application form for approval of Alternative works is completed accurately.

In these situations schools and teachers should use the information below to ensure that the application form for approval of Alternative works is completed accurately. Schools and teachers should consider this information with the VCE Music study design, the current prescribed lists, which are 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/%20unit3-4.aspx), and assessment information, including criteria for the award of grades in the Music Performance end-of-year performance examination, provided on the VCAA website.

Unpublished works including works composed by students may be submitted for approval.

Note that applications for alternative works should be made for a work to be performed on the same instrument/s as the remainder of the examination program. For example, if the student has nominated Flute as their instrument they may not apply to perform an alternative work using piccolo or if a student has nominated Alto saxophone as their instrument they may not apply to perform an alternative work using soprano saxophone. For instruments such as Guitar – contemporary popular, Trombone or Trumpet where students may change instruments within the examination, the alternative work may be performed on any instrument allowed. For example, a student may apply for an Alternative work for Guitar – contemporary popular that they intend to perform on an acoustic guitar and still perform other works in their program using electric guitar or a student may apply for an alternative work that they intend to perform on D trumpet but all other works in their program will be performed on B flat trumpet.

Criteria

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

Approved alternative works will:

* enable the requirements of the study design and end-of-year performance examination 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
* provide excellence, that is the work will be an excellent example of the style and/or genre, and, as appropriate, be:
* representative of the styles listed in the relevant Prescribed list
* representative of the categories on specific instrument lists
* representative of new and established works
* of an appropriate level and standard, that is, the work will be of an appropriate technical standard with regard to the examination criteria and appropriate for the age and development of students
* meet authentication and duplication requirements, that is the student has not performed the work for any other VCE Music examination or assessment work
* meet community standards.

Complete notation (TAB not acceptable) and a recording of the work must be provided with the application.

Guidelines

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

Approval of an alternative work for Music Performance (Group)

For students who are enrolled as a member of a group a maximum of two (2) works may be approved.

Section A (works listed by title and performer)

The work:

* will allow the student to meet the relevant criteria and guidelines for selection of works for the VCE Music Performance Prescribed list of arrangements as outlined in the VCAA *Principles, procedures and guidelines for VCE Text Selection*
* can be allocated to a relevant style category within Section A
* as part of the proposed program, will allow the student to have the opportunity to demonstrate the highest level of performance in relation to the criteria for the award of grades
* is similar in character to an existing work on the list but provides a new challenge to the performer
* is of a suitable standard and musically interesting.

Section B (notated group/ensemble works)

The work:

* will allow the student to meet the relevant criteria and guidelines for selection of works for the VCE Music Performance Prescribed list of group works as outlined in the VCAA *Principles, procedures and guidelines for VCE Text Selection*
* is appropriate for performance by the student’s group/ensemble
* as part of the proposed program, will allow the student to have the opportunity to demonstrate the highest level of performance in relation to the criteria for the award of grades
* is of a suitable standard and musically interesting
* expands the list, for example, is for an instrumental ensemble not identified in Section B
* is an appropriate rearrangement of a work on the current list.

Non-approved works

The following statements may be used to describe reasons why a work has **not** been approved for performance in the end-of-year group performance examination:

* Insufficient justification given in application.
* Reason given is not acceptable, for example … prefer this song (where another work by the same performer is already on the list).
* No notation, chart or recording is provided to allow for assessment.
* Only TAB is provided.
* The work does not display a sufficient range of techniques.

The work:

* is not approved because it does not allow the student to meet the criteria of the award of grades
* is too difficult for the VCE standard
* is too long for inclusion in a suitably balanced performance program presented within time allowed for the examination
* is not as musically interesting as other works on the list. It lacks contrast
* does not allow other assessed performers in the group to demonstrate achievement against the criteria for the award of grades
* was deleted from a previous list as it was neither technically nor artistically demanding
* is not an appropriate re-arrangement of a work on the current list, for example an arrangement for two parts of a work originally scored in four parts where significant aspects of the original are no longer evident.

Approval of an alternative work for Music Performance (Solo)

The work:

* will allow the student to meet the relevant criteria and guidelines for selection of works for the VCE Music *Prescribed list of notated solo works* as outlined in the VCAA *Principles, procedures and guidelines for VCE Text Selection*
* can be allocated to a relevant category within the prescribed list, for example, is a work in a category of the list for that instrument, for example, contemporary, art, popular and jazz styles, unaccompanied
* as part of the proposed program, will allow the student to have the opportunity to demonstrate the highest level of performance in relation to the criteria for the award of grades
* substitutes for a unique work in the list that is no longer available to purchase
* is similar in character to an existing work on the list but explores/demonstrates a different technique/aspect of the style
* has a style/character that is not represented on the list
* expands the list
* is of a suitable standard and musically interesting.

Non-approved works (for instruments where a list exists)

The following statements may be used to describe reasons why a work has NOT been approved for performance in the end-of-year examination:

* Insufficient reason given in application.
* Reason given is not acceptable, for example … use in another examination.
* No notated music or an incomplete score or TAB is provided to allow for assessment. The score or chart should align with the arrangement provided in a recording and the range of techniques and conventions intended for inclusion in the performance should be evident.
* The instrument/work and/or repertoire does not display a sufficient range of techniques.

The work:

* is not approved because it **does not allow the student to meet the criteria** of the award of grades
* is too difficult (or too easy) for VCE standard
* is **too long** for inclusion in a suitably balanced program presented within time allowed for the examination
* is on another VCAA Prescribed list and the overlap is not permitted
* is not as musically interesting as other works on the list, for example, it:
* lacks contrast
* was deleted from a previous list as it was neither technically nor artistically demanding
* does not encompass a wide enough range in relation to the overall range of the instrument
* has less musical variety than other works on the list
* is not sufficiently contrasting from works by the same composer (and in the same style) that are on the list
* is not suitable as it requires improvisation and/or the style required is not clear
* includes improvisation and other techniques that are not relevant to the criteria for the award of grades.

Other information that may be provided in relation to approved works

* For group and solo performance, specific movements may be approved for performance, for example, any two contrasting movements or movements 1 and 2 or movements 2 and 3.
* For solo performance, the work may be approved for performance with accompaniment or as an unaccompanied work or instruments that may be used for accompaniment will be listed.