

# Level-by-Level Requirements

## Preparatory A

The Preparatory A level is designed to introduce beginners to a positive assessment experience while supporting student success and celebrating individual achievement. Students discover the joy of making music at the piano and demonstrate their basic understanding of keyboard geography and the fundamentals of reading. The importance of developing well-rounded musicianship is established through inclusion of aural and reading skills from the first stages of study.

Preparatory A Requirements		Marks
<b>1</b>	<b>Repertoire</b> <i>two</i> selections from the Repertoire Lists  <i>one</i> Student's Choice (The figures in parentheses indicate marks awarded for memory as a portion of the total mark for each selection.)	<b>60</b> 20 (2) 20 (2) 20 (2)
<b>2</b>	<b>Technical Requirements</b> Technical Tests Major keys: C, G, D Minor keys: A – pentascales	<b>20</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Musicianship Requirements</b> Aural Skills Clapback Playback Reading Skills Playing Clapping	<b>20</b> 10 (5) (5) 10 (5) (5)
	<b>Academic Co-requisites</b> None	
	<b>Total possible marks (pass = 60)</b>	<b>100</b>

- Students may choose to begin this assessment with either Repertoire or Technical Requirements.
- The Musicianship Requirements section is conducted at the end of the assessment.

### Resources for Preparatory A Assessment Preparation

See p. 134 for a complete list of piano method books suitable for Preparatory A assessment preparation.

**Technique:** *Preparatory Technical Requirements for Piano*

**Musicianship:** see p. 130 for Aural Skills and Reading Skills resources

Visit [www.TheAchievementProgram.org](http://www.TheAchievementProgram.org) for information about publications.

## 1 Repertoire

Students must prepare *two* contrasting selections from the following Repertoire Lists and *one* selection of the student's choice that is of equal difficulty and musical quality to the required works in Preparatory A. Selections must be memorized. Please note that two marks per piece will be deducted if music is used.

Bullets used to denote selections for assessment purposes:

- one selection

### Repertoire

#### Berlin, Boris

*Our Animal Friends* GVT

- The Playful Pup
- Starlight the Pony

#### Chatman, Stephen

*Amusements*, 1 FHM

- Foolin' Around
- Monkey Business

#### Ferrell, Billie

*Solos Now* (primer level) MYK

- Little Monster

#### Kabalevsky, Dmitri

*24 Pieces for Children*, op. 39 SCH

- Melody (no. 1)
- March-Like (no. 3)

#### Niamath, Linda

*In My Garden* FHM

- Spider's Web

#### Poe, John Robert

*Simon Says* KJO

- Walk Like a Duck

#### Thompson, John

*John Thompson's Easiest Piano Course*, 2 WIL

- The Dancing Bear
- Turkey in the Straw

### Repertoire from Method Books

*The ABC of Piano Playing*, 2 FHM

- The Cuckoo
- On Parade
- We Play Hockey

*The ABC of Piano Playing*, 3 FHM

- The Ballerina
- Cradle Song
- A Skating Waltz

*Alfred's Basic Piano Library, Lesson Book 1A ALF*

- Horse Sense

*Alfred's Basic Piano Library, Lesson Book 1B ALF*

- The Clown
- The Cuckoo
- Oom-Pa-Pa
- The Rainbow
- Waltz Time
- The Windmill

*Alfred's Premier Piano Course, Lesson 1B ALF*

- I Asked My Mother
- The Joke
- My Sombrero

*Alfred's Premier Piano Course, Lesson 2A ALF*

- Qwerty

*Alfred's Premier Piano Course, Performance 1B ALF*

- As Morning Dawns
- My Dog
- Pogo Stick

*Bastien Piano Basics, Performance 1 KJO*

- Golden Trumpets
- On the Planet of Mars
- Seconds, Please!

*Bastien Piano Basics, Piano 1 KJO*

- Cops and Robbers
- March
- Rock Group
- Sing, Bird, Sing
- Space Walk
- Spooks
- Swingin' Beat

*Celebrate Piano!®, Lesson and Musicianship 1B FHM*

- Aura Lee
- Lazy Summer Day
- The Sad Dragon

*Celebrate Piano!®, Lesson and Musicianship 2A FHM*

- Easy Day

*Celebrate Piano!®, Solos 1 FHM*

- Ladybug Waltz
- The Teeter-Totter
- Trumpet Parade

*Celebrate Piano!®, Solos 2 FHM*

- Clowns
- The Mouse in the Grandfather Clock

*Hal Leonard Student Piano Library, Piano Lessons 2 HAL*

- Bayou Blues
- Circle Dance
- First Light

*Hal Leonard Student Piano Library, Piano Solos 2 HAL*

- Goofy Gadget
- The Stream
- Take It Slow
- Those Creepy Crawly Things on the Cellar Floor
- Viva La Rhumba

*Music for Young Children, Moonbeams 1 MYC*

- Andante
- Hurrah
- Melody for Alphorn
- Music Signs
- Wake Up!

*Music for Young Children, Moonbeams 2 MYC*

- Frère Jacques
- Lady Bug
- Pixie Waltz

*Music for Young Children, Sunbeams 2 MYC*

- Go to Sleep

*The Music Tree, Student's Book 1 SUM*

- Drum and Bugle
- First Boogie
- Forest Echoes
- Over the Rainbow
- Pony Song
- When the Saints Go Marching In

*The Music Tree, Student's Book 2A SUM*

- La Bamba
- Brisk March
- The Merry-Go-Round Broke Down
- The Modern Dragon

*Piano Adventures®, Lesson Book 1 FJH*

- Dinosaur Stomp
- The Haunted Mouse
- The Juggler
- Song for a Scarecrow

*Piano Adventures®, Lesson Book 2A FJH*

- Moonlight Melody
- My Daydream
- Our Detective Agency
- Storms on Saturn

*Piano Adventures®, Lesson Book 2B FJH*

- Carefree Waltz

*Piano Discoveries, Explorer Book 1A HMP*

- Eek! Bump! Yikes! Jump!
- Giggling Goblins
- Have You Seen the Leprechaun?
- The Mirror

*Piano Discoveries, Explorer Book 1B HMP*

- Let's Go to the Fair
- The Phantom Returns
- Ragamuffin Rag
- Things That Go Bump in the Night
- Where Have All the Socks Gone?

*Teaching Little Fingers to Play More WIL*

- Go Tell Aunt Rhody
- The Pet Parade
- 'Tis A Gift To Be Simple
- Waltz without Words

## 2 Technical Requirements

### Technical Tests

Students must play all Technical Tests from memory, ascending and descending, with good tone and logical fingering, at a steady tempo. The metronome marking indicates minimum speed.

See “Technical Patterns” on p. 17 for examples.

Keys for Preparatory A Major C, G, D  
Minor A

Scale	Keys	Played	Tempo	Note values
Pentascals* (five-finger pattern)	C, G, D major A minor	HS tonic to dominant ending with blocked root position triad	♩=100	♩

\* A pentascale comprises the first five degrees of a scale: tonic, supertonic, mediant, subdominant, and dominant.

## 3 Musicianship

### Aural Skills

#### Clapback

Students will choose to either clap, tap, or sing the rhythm of a short melody after the adjudicator has played it *twice*. The second measure will consist of only one note.

Time signature	Note values	Approximate length
$\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$	♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩	two measures

Example only



#### Playback

Students will be asked to play back a melody based on the first three notes of the pentascale. The melody will move in only one direction (up or down) and will contain a repeated note and stepwise motion. The adjudicator will name the key, play the tonic triad *once*, and play the melody *twice*.

Beginning note	Approximate length	Keys
tonic or mediant	four notes	C, G, F major

Example only



### Reading Skills

#### Playing

Students will be asked to play by sight *two* four-note melodies written on the grand staff:

- one melody in the bass clef, played with the left hand
- one melody in the treble clef, played with the right hand

The melodies will move by step in one direction only (up or down) and may contain a repeated note. Fingering will be indicated for the first note only.

Time signature	Note values	Keys
$\frac{4}{4}$	♩ ♩ ♩ ♩	C major

#### Clapping

Students will be asked to clap or tap a simple two-measure rhythm. A steady pace and rhythmic accentuation are expected.

Time signature	Approximate length	Note values
$\frac{2}{4}$	two measures	♩ ♩ ♩

Example only

