

Repertoire vs Comprehensive Exams

Following a successful trial in 2017 and 2018, a repertoire-only exam format is now available for most* subjects and instruments from the earliest grade level through to Grade 8. Candidates can do an AMEB exam that simply provides them with feedback and a grading for the pieces they have been working on, without having to prepare and present technical work, aural tests, sight reading or general knowledge.

Of course, it is always advisable for these important aspects of musical development to be covered in lessons regardless of whether they are prepared in time for examination day.

What will this new exam format be called?

This exam option is called '*Repertoire*'. When enrolling, just look for this word behind the subject or instrument you wish to enrol for, eg 'Trombone REPERTOIRE' or 'Violin REPERTOIRE'.

Is the traditional AMEB examination still going by the same name?

No. To differentiate these two different examination formats, the original AMEB examination format will now be called '*Comprehensive*', eg 'Trombone COMPREHENSIVE' or 'Violin COMPREHENSIVE'.

Is the *Repertoire* exam an easier exam than the *Comprehensive* exam of the same grade?

The examiner will expect the same level of performance ability from the *Repertoire* candidate that they expect from the *Comprehensive* candidate. The only difference is that the *Repertoire* exam candidate has had less to prepare for their exam.

So does a *Repertoire* exam candidate get a grade and a report?

Yes, the examiner will provide a *Repertoire* candidate with a full page report and a grading based on the expectations for that grade level. This format means that the *Repertoire* candidate will receive more detailed feedback on each of the pieces they present in their exam.

Who would benefit from doing a *Repertoire* exam rather than a *Comprehensive* exam?

This new format would suit students who have very short weekly lessons with their tutor and possibly only during school terms, so there is less time to prepare for all of the sections of a Comprehensive AMEB exam. It might also suit HSC music students who wish to gain feedback on their performance pieces prior to their HSC music performance exam or candidates who sit for AMEB exams on a number of instruments. Candidates who are not confident verbal communicators might also prefer a 'walk in, play, then walk out' approach to their exams.

Who would benefit from doing a *Comprehensive* exam rather than a *Repertoire* exam?

Any candidate who plans to use their AMEB result history for a scholarship application, for entry into an orchestra such as SYO or AYO, or to gain bonus points for university entry should continue to enrol for the *Comprehensive* format as this is the more rigorous and prestigious qualification option of the two.

Do I still need to do written exams if I sit for a *Repertoire* exam in the higher grades?

Yes, additional requirements still apply for the *Repertoire* candidate's practical certificate to be released when they pass a Grade 6, 7 or 8 *Repertoire* exam.

What pieces can I perform in a *Repertoire* exam?

Candidates must select their program from the most recent version of their instrument's syllabus, that is, the syllabus content found in the 2019 Manual of Syllabuses. Information about how to correctly prepare for a *Repertoire* exam is explained on the last page of each instrument section in the 2019 Manual of Syllabuses.

Can I enrol for a *Comprehensive* exam, then on exam day, elect to change to a *Repertoire* exam if I feel I would have a better chance of passing?

This creates issues for your examiner, and additional post-exam administration, so you should always present for the exam format for which you have enrolled. Subject changes post-enrolment will always incur additional administration costs. See the [Change of Subject](#) form on our website for further information.

*The *Repertoire* exam format is **not** offered in the CPM, Rockschoool or For Leisure syllabuses