

ACADEMY OF SOUTH INDIAN MUSIC (LONDON) EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: INSTRUMENTAL (Effective from 1st September 2023)

GRADE – 1

PRACTICAL

Topic 1

Sarali Varisaigal - 10

Candidates should be able to sing in selected shruti and in 3 speeds/ kalas sequentially without any stop

You will not be asked a specific sarali in the exam, you can choose the ones that you are comfortable singing

Topic 2

Janta Varisaigal - 5

Candidates should be able to sing in selected shruti and in 3 speeds/ kalas sequentially without any stop

You will not be asked a specific Janta in the exam, you can choose the ones that you are comfortable singing

Topic 3

Upper Sthayi Varisaigal - 4

Candidates should be able to sing in selected shruti and in 3 speeds/ kalas sequentially without any stop

You will not be asked a specific upper sthayi in the exam, you can choose the ones that you are comfortable singing

Assessment criteria:

Shruti consistency, Laya/ talam proficiency, Swarasthana precision

Candidates must perform the examinations with Thambura or Sruthi box; marks will be deducted if this is not met.

THEORY - ORAL

Theory Concepts:

Saptaswaras: S : Shadjamam, R: Rishabham, G: Gandharam, M: Madhyamam, P: Panchamam, D: Dhaivatam, N: Nishadham

Saptha Thalās: Dhruva, Matya, Rupaka, Triputa, Jhumpa, Ata, Eka

Technical Terms:

Carnatic Music

Swaram

Swaravali

Jantavarisai

Assessment criteria: Basic theoretical knowledge (in short verbal answers)

GRADE – 2

PRACTICAL

Topic 1

Sapta Tala Alankaras in Mayamalavagowla ragam or Shankarabaranam ragam (Candidates should be able to sing in selected shruti and in 3 speeds/ kalas sequentially without any stop)

- Dhruva tala alankara
- Matya tala alankara
- Rupaka tala alankara
- Triputa tala alankara
- Jhumpa tala alankara
- Ata tala alankara
- Eka tala alankara

You will not be asked a specific Alankara in the exam, you can choose the ones that you are comfortable singing

Topic 2

Any 2 Dhatu Swaras in Mayamalavagowla ragam or Shankarabaranam ragam & Adi talam (Candidates should be able to sing in selected shruti and in 3 speeds/ kalas sequentially without any stop)

smgm|rgsr||srg|srgm|| (pattern continues)

srsg|rgm||smgr|srgm|| (pattern continues)

or any other Dhatu Swaras that your teacher may have taught

You will not be asked a specific Dhatu Swara in the exam, you can choose the ones that you are comfortable singing

Topic 3

Any 2 Nottu Swaras from the following:

Shamalae meenakshi – Shankarabharanam

Sakthi sahita Ganapathim – Shankarabharanam

Vara sivabalam - Shankarabharanam

You can choose and sing anyone that you are comfortable singing/playing

Assessment criteria:

Shruti consistency, Laya/ talam proficiency, Swarasthana precision

Candidates must perform the examinations with Thambura or Sruthi box; marks will be deducted if this is not met.

THEORY - ORAL

Saptha Thalas: Dhruva, Matya, Rupaka, Triputa, Jhumpa, Ata, Eka

Parts of a Thalam (Laghu, Dhrutham, AnuDhrutham)

Sthayi (Octave) – Thara, Mathya and Mandra Sthayis

Jathis - Tisra, Chathusra, Khanda, Misra and Sankeernam

Assessment criteria: Basic theoretical knowledge (in short verbal answers)

GRADE – 3

PRACTICAL

Topic 1

4 Geetams (Candidates should be able to sing in selected shruti/ key and in 2 speeds/ kalas sequentially without any stop)

Total of any 4 Geetams in any ragams taught by your teacher

You will not be asked a specific Geetams in the exam, you can choose the ones that you are comfortable in singing

Topic-2

Jathiswaram or Swarajati

Any one Swarajatis from the following list

(Candidates should be able to sing in selected shruti/ key and in madhyama kala)

- “Rara Venu Gopabala”, Bilahari ragam in Adi talam
- “Samba Shiva”, Khamas ragam in Adi talam
- “Raaveme maguva”, Aananda bhairavi ragam in Adi talam

Topic 3

Any one from the following (Candidates should be able to sing in selected shruti/ key and in madhyama kala)

Thevarams

Thirupugal

Bhajans

Assessment criteria :

Shruti consistency, Laya/ talam proficiency, Swarasthana precision, Sahitya/ lyrics pronunciation correctness

Candidates must perform the examinations with Thambura or Sruthi box; marks will be deducted if this is not met.

THEORY

Students will complete a written theory examination. In addition to the topics covered in syllabus for grade 1 and 2.

1. Arohanam and Avarohanam for the following Ragas:
Shankarabaranam
Mayamalavagowlai
Kalyani
Hamsadwani
Malahari
Mohanam
Suddasaveri
2. 12 Notes in the Octave, their Names and Symbols
3. Write short notes about: Sruthi, Swaram, Arohanam, Avarohanam and Geetham
4. Short life history of Purandara Dasa

GRADE – 4

PRACTICAL

Topic 1

Total of any 3 Adi Thala varnams (In two speeds) in any ragams taught by your teacher
(Candidates should be able to sing in selected shruti/ key and in 2 speeds/ kalas sequentially without any stop)

You will not be asked a specific varnam in the exam, you can choose the ones that you are comfortable in singing

Topic 2

Total of any 2 Krithi or Kirthanams in Adi Thalam in any ragams taught by your teacher
(Candidates should be able to sing in selected shruti)

You will not be asked a specific Krithi or Kirthanam in the exam, you can choose the ones that you are comfortable in singing

Topic 3

Total of any 2 Krithi or Kirthanams in Rupaka Thalam in any ragams taught by your teacher
(Candidates should be able to sing in selected shruti)

You will not be asked a specific Krithi or Kirthanam in the exam, you can choose the ones that you are comfortable in singing

Assessment criteria :

Shruti consistency, Laya/ talam proficiency, Swarasthana precision, Sahitya/ lyrics pronunciation correctness

Candidates must perform the examinations with Thambura or Sruthi box; marks will be deducted if this is not met.

THEORY

Students will complete a written theory examination. In addition to the topics covered in syllabus for grade 1 to 3.

Janaka and Janya Ragams

Basic understanding of the 72 Melakarthis

Arohanam and Avarohanam for the following Ragas:

Kamboji, Anandabairavi, Abohi, Karaharapriya

Thala Eduppu (Graham) and its types (Samaa, Athitham and Anagatham)

Musical Instruments – Thambura and Violin

Notation writing: Geetham

Short life history of Saint Thyagaraja

GRADE – 5

PRACTICAL

Adi Thala Varnam	-	2
Kriti or Kirthanams in Adi Talam	-	4
Kriti or Kirthanams in Rupaka Talam	-	4
Kalpana Swaram for one Kirthanam		
Sight Singing		

Assessment criteria :

Shruti consistency, Laya/ talam proficiency, Swarasthana precision, Sahitya/ lyrics pronunciation correctness, pronunciation correctness, Raga bhava expression

Candidates must perform the examinations with Thambura or Sruthi box; marks will be deducted if this is not met.

THEORY

Students will complete a written theory examination. In addition to the topics covered in syllabus for grade 1 to 4.

1. Classification of Raga system : Janaka and Janya
2. Types of Janya Ragams with examples
3. Musical Instruments : Flute and Veena
4. Notation Writing : Adi Thala Varnam
5. Life history of Sri Muthuswami Dikshithar

GRADE – 6

PRACTICAL

1. Nava raga malika (In 2 speeds) - 1
2. Kriti or Kirthanams in variety of thalas - 8
3. Kalpana Swaram for one Krithi or Kirthanam in Adi Thalam

Assessment criteria :

Shruti consistency, Laya/ talam proficiency, Swarasthana precision, Sahitya/ lyrics pronunciation correctness, pronunciation correctness, Raga bhava expression

Candidates must perform the examinations with Thambura or Sruthi box; marks will be deducted if this is not met.

THEORY

Students will complete a written theory examination. In addition to the topics covered in syllabus for grade 1 to 5.

1. Manodharma Sangeetham (Improvised Music): Raga Alapana, Thanam, Niraval and Kalpana Swaram
2. Gamakas and their Types
3. Musical Instruments : Miruthangam and Nadaswaram
4. Notation Writing : Ata Thala Varnam
5. Musical Forms
6. Life history of Sri Shyama Shastri

GRADE – 7

PRACTICAL

1. Ata Thala Varnam (In 2 Speeds) - 1
2. Kriti or Kirthanams in Variety of Thalas - 12
3. Kalpana Swaram for one Krithi or Kirthanam in Adi Thalam
4. Kalpana Swaram for one Krithi or Kirthanam in Rupaka Thalam

Assessment criteria :

Shruti consistency, Laya/ talam proficiency, Swarasthana precision, Sahitya/ lyrics pronunciation correctness, Raga bhava expression

Candidates must perform the examinations with Thambura or Sruthi box; marks will be deducted if this is not met.

THEORY

Students will complete a written theory examination. In addition to the topics covered in syllabus for grade 1 to 6.

1. Comparison of Indian Music with Western Music and Hindustani
2. Concert Format in Carnatic Music
3. Writing notation for music, showing structure of Thalam, Kalam, Karvais, Sthayi, Edduppu Etc
4. Percussion Instruments

GRADE –8

PRACTICAL

Kritis or Kirthanams in a variety of thalas - 15
Ragam, Niraval and Kalpana swaras for a krithi or kirthana
Thillana - 1
Padam - 1

Assessment criteria :

Shruti consistency, Laya/ talam proficiency, Swarasthana precision, Sahitya/ lyrics pronunciation correctness, Raga bhava expression, Presentation

Candidates must perform the examinations with Thambura or Sruthi box; marks will be deducted if this is not met.

THEORY

Students will complete a written theory examination. In addition to the topics covered in syllabus for grade 1 to 7.

1. Life history and contribution to Carnatic music :

- Shyama Shastri
- Tyagaraja
- Muthuswami Dikshitar
- Purandara Dasa

2. Raga lakshana for the following ragas:

- Aarabhi
- Kamas
- Karahapriya
- Bairavi
- Hindolam

Diploma in Carnatic Music

Candidates applying for diploma grade must be above fifteen years of age at the date of the Examination and should have passed the Grade –8 of the Academy of South Indian Music (London) Examination.

There are two stages in the assessment process.

Stage -1 Students will be examined by the examination panel on the practical.

PRACTICAL

Pada Varnam - 1

Pancharatna Kritis - 1

Kritis or Kirthanams in a variety of thalas - 15

Raga, Krithi, Niraval and Kalpana swaras for a krithi or kirthana

Thillana - 1

Padam - 1

Virutham / Ragamalika Kriti – 1

Stage -2 assessment

Candidates should perform a full repertoire concert with accompanying artists in a live audience setting. The Concert should last minimum for 1.00 hrs.

The suggested concert format is:

- Varnam in Madyama kala
- Vinayagar Krithi
- Krithis or Kirthanas in variety of thala
- Raga, Krithi, Niraval and Kalpana swaras
- “Thukkdas”
- Thillana
- Thirupahal or Mangalam

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Assessment is carried out by means of a practical demonstration of the knowledge, understanding and skills required.

The examination is divided into Sections and each Section is composed of several components, which are separately assessed and aggregated to give the total out of 100. This reflects the need to ensure competence across a wide range of components.

Results are indicated using the following attainment bands:

GRADE	MARKS
Distinction	80-100 marks
Merit	65-79 marks
Pass	50-64 marks
Not Attained	0-49 marks

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Please see the ASIM Equality and Diversity Policy on the ASIM website for full information.

EXAMINATION RE-TAKES

Candidates who are not successful may not re-take the examination until 3 months after the original examination.