



**Accordion Examination
Board of New Zealand
Incorporated**

**EXAMINATION
SYLLABUS**

2022 until further notice

www.accordions.com/aebnz



Accordion Examination Board of New Zealand Incorporated

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Information, Entry Form and Music List available at www.accordions.com/aebnz

Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
EXAMINATION REGULATIONS	2
AURAL TESTS	3
GENERAL NOTES	3
FREE BASS GRADES	3
PRELIMINARY GRADE ACCORDION	4
GRADE 1 ACCORDION	5
GRADE 2 ACCORDION	6
GRADE 3 ACCORDION	7
GRADE 4 ACCORDION	8
GRADE 5 ACCORDION	9
GRADE 6 ACCORDION	10
GRADE 7 ACCORDION	11
GRADE 8 ACCORDION	12
ACCORDION PERFORMERS DIPLOMA OF NEW ZEALAND (APDNZ)	13
ACCORDION TEACHERS DIPLOMA OF NEW ZEALAND (ATDNZ)	
PART I - Theory	14
PART II - Practical and Viva Voce	15

INTRODUCTION

To Teachers, Students and Parents,

The Accordion Examination Board of New Zealand Inc. (AEBNZ) aims to encourage accordionists to develop their skills and to provide them with a framework to set goals for their musical achievement.

This revised AEBNZ syllabus contains minor amendments from the February 2012 version, the main amendment brings the technical work for the higher grades closer in line with other international examination bodies.

The AEBNZ offers practical accordion examinations in New Zealand ranging from Preliminary Grade and Grade 1 to Grade 8 and Performers and Teachers Diplomas. These examinations are available to everyone, and any make, size or type of accordion may be used, providing the music can be adequately performed.

The examinations provide the opportunity to progress through the grades and to gain a Teachers' Diploma recognised by the Institute of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand as being of equal standard to existing diplomas for piano, violin, and other instruments.

Since 1974, the AEBNZ has provided examinations to teachers and students who acknowledge the value of an outside assessment of their progress. The AEBNZ thanks everyone who has made the success of these examinations possible through their participation. Thank you also to the New Zealand Accordion Association Inc. for its continuing support and encouragement.

The AEBNZ wishes all candidates the very best of musical success.

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

1. An annual Teachers Newsletter setting out closing dates and examination times for the year will be emailed with current entry forms attached. The newsletter, entry forms, syllabus and music list can also be downloaded from www.accordions.com/aebnz and are available from the Secretary:



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2. The following prerequisites are required:
Grades 6 to 8 Practical require Grade 5 Theory (ABRSM or Trinity College).
Performers' and Teachers' Diplomas require AEBNZ Grade 8 Practical or an equivalent qualification may be substituted. If submitting for consideration an alternative qualification to the AEBNZ Grade 8, you should attach as much supporting evidence as possible to include transcripts, syllabuses, concert programmes, references and certificates, to your entry form. Each proposed substitution will be considered on individual merit by the Chief Examiner. The Teachers' Diploma also requires Grade 8 Theory.
3. Candidates who are blind or visually impaired should indicate this on their entry form. In lieu of sight-reading, additional Aural Tests will be given from those prescribed for the next highest grade.

AURAL TESTS

Aural Tests will be as prescribed for ABRSM, except for the Preliminary and Diploma examinations.

GENERAL NOTES

The technical work (scales, arpeggios and broken chords) should be played from memory, ascending and descending throughout the prescribed range. Scale tempo markings are given in each grade;  for all major and minor arpeggios,  for all other technical work.

The technical work for Preliminary to Grade 6 may be played using standard (stradella) bass or free bass at the candidate's choice.

The candidate is required to play the technical work for Grades 7 and 8 on an accordion with a real range of at least two octaves in the bass.

List A (study) for Grades 1 to 6 inclusive has both standard (stradella) and free bass options and either may be played, at the candidate's choice.

The examiners, in marking, will pay attention to accuracy of notes and time and other things inherent in a good performance (quality of touch, variety and graduation of tone, choice of tempo, observance of marks of expression, rhythm, phrasing and accent, and the use of practical fingering).

Switch markings may be taken as suggestions.

Immediate repeats are not required to be played.

FREE BASS GRADES

Candidates whose left hand is too small to play the music as written will not be penalised for "spreading" chords or omitting occasional notes at wide stretches, provided the result is musically satisfactory.

Where the music written goes above or below the normal free bass accordion range, candidates may play an octave lower/higher, as appropriate, provided the musical intention is not altered.

Grade 1 Accordion

Technical Work Legato and from memory. 20 Marks

Scales ♩ = 60

- C, G, D, F Majors.
 - Each hand separately and hands together in similar motion ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves.

Broken Chords ♩ = 58

- Three note groups in the keys of C Major and G Major.
 - Right hand only, ascending and descending.
 - One octave according to the following pattern:



Performance One piece selected from each list.

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------|----------|
| List A | See Music List. | 15 Marks |
| List B | See Music List. | 20 Marks |
| List C | See Music List. | 20 Marks |

Sight-reading 10 Marks

- A passage with no note shorter than a crotchet in 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 time.
- Hands separately only.

Aural Tests As for ABRSM 8 Marks

General Knowledge 7 Marks

The notes, rests, signs and terms of the pieces selected, also the keys in which the pieces are written.

Total 100 Marks

Grade 2 Accordion

Technical Work

Legato and from memory.

20 Marks

Scales ♩ = 66

- C, G, D, A, F Majors.
 - Each hand separately and hands together in similar motion ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves.
- A, E, D minors (harmonic or melodic at the candidate's choice).
 - Each hand separately and hands together in similar motion ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves.

Broken Chords ♩ = 63

- Four note groups in the keys of C Major and G Major.
 - Right hand only, ascending and descending.
 - One octave according to the following pattern:



Performance

One piece selected from each list.

List A	See Music List.	15 Marks
List B	See Music List.	20 Marks
List C	See Music List.	20 Marks

Sight-reading

10 Marks

- A passage with no note shorter than a crotchet in 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 time
- Hands together.

Aural Tests

As for ABRSM

8 Marks

General Knowledge

7 Marks

The formation of the prescribed scales, the keys of the pieces selected with simple modulations, and the signs and terms which occur in them.

A basic knowledge of the accordion.

Total 100 Marks

Pass 70 | Merit 80 | Honours 90

Grade 5 Accordion

Technical Work From memory. Legato and staccato as directed by the examiner. 18 Marks

Scales $\text{♩} = 60$

- Major and minor scales (harmonic or melodic at the candidate's choice) in all keys.
 - Each hand separately and hands together in similar motion ascending and descending.
 - Range three octaves where possible.
- C, G, F Majors in contrary motion with both hands beginning on the key note (unison).
 - Range two octaves.
- Chromatic scales beginning on any note named by the examiner.
 - Each hand separately and hands together in similar motion ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves.

Arpeggios $\text{♩} = 44$

- All Major and minor chords.
 - Right hand only, root position only.
 - Range two octaves.

Performance One piece selected from each list.

List A	See Music List.	9 Marks
List B	See Music List.	17 Marks
List C	See Music List.	17 Marks
List D	See Music List.	17 Marks

Sight-reading Standard for this grade is Grade 3 material. 8 Marks

Aural Tests As for ABRSM 9 Marks

General Knowledge 5 Marks

The period of the composers, the form and analysis of the pieces selected, together with a knowledge of the signs, terms, keys and modulations which occur in them.

A general understanding of the construction and mechanical principles of the accordion.

Total 100 Marks

Pass 70 | Merit 80 | Honours 90

Grade 6 Accordion

Theory Prerequisite | Grade 5

Technical Work From memory. Legato and staccato as directed by the examiner. 18 Marks

Scales $\text{♩} = 72$

- Major and minor scales (harmonic and melodic) in all keys.
 - Each hand separately and hands together in similar motion ascending and descending.
 - Range three octaves where possible.
- C, G, D, F, B flat Majors in contrary motion with both hands beginning on the key note (unison).
 - Range two octaves.
- Chromatic scales beginning on any note named by the examiner.
 - Each hand separately and hands together in similar motion ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves.
- Contrary motion chromatic scale beginning on C in the left hand and E in the right hand.
 - Range two octaves.

Arpeggios $\text{♩} = 50$

- All Major and minor chords.
 - Right hand only, root position only.
 - Range three octaves where possible.
- Diminished seventh chords beginning on B, C, C sharp.
 - Right hand only, root position only.
 - Range two octaves.

Performance One piece selected from each list.

List A	See Music List.	9 Marks
List B	See Music List.	17 Marks
List C	See Music List.	17 Marks
List D	See Music List.	17 Marks

Sight-reading Standard for this grade is Grade 4 material. 8 Marks

Aural Tests As for ABRSM 9 Marks

General Knowledge 5 Marks

The period of the composers, the form and analysis of the pieces selected, together with a knowledge of the signs, terms, keys and modulations which occur in them.

A general understanding of the construction and mechanical principles of the accordion.

Total 100 Marks

Pass 70 | Merit 80 | Honours 90

Grade 7 Accordion

Theory Prerequisite | Grade 5

Technical Work From memory. Legato and staccato as directed by the examiner. 18 Marks

Scales $\text{♩} = 72$

- C, E flat, F sharp, A Major and minor scales (harmonic and melodic).
 - Each hand separately and hands together in similar motion ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.
- C, E flat, F sharp, A Majors in contrary motion with both hands beginning on the key note (unison).
 - Range two octaves for each hand.
- C, E flat, F sharp, A Majors in similar motion, left hand beginning on the key note, right hand beginning on the third degree of the scale.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.
- C, E chromatic scales with hands beginning and ending on the key note.
 - Each hand separately and hands together in similar motion ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.
- C, E chromatic scales in contrary motion with hands beginning and ending on the key note.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.

Arpeggios $\text{♩} = 50$

- C, E flat, F sharp, A Major and minor chords, root position and first inversion only.
 - Each played legato. Hands separately and together in similar motion, ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.
- Dominant seventh chords beginning on C, E flat, F sharp, A Major.
 - Each played legato, root position only. Hands separately and together in similar motion, ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.

Performance One piece selected from each list.

List A	See Music List.	7 Marks
List B	See Music List.	19 Marks
List C	See Music List.	19 Marks
List D	See Music List.	19 Marks

Aural Tests As for ABRSM 9 Marks

General Knowledge 5 Marks

Same as for Grades 5 and 6, but in more detail. In addition, some knowledge of other works by the composers of the pieces selected is required.

Initiative Test 8 Marks

The candidate will be given music of Grade 7 standard, fifteen minutes before starting the exam. The candidate will be expected to play the right hand and demonstrate how a satisfactory left hand fingering would be achieved. The candidate will also be asked interpretive points about the music.

Total 100 Marks

Pass 70 | Merit 80 | Honours 90

Grade 8 Accordion

Theory Prerequisite | Grade 5

Technical Work From memory. Legato and staccato as directed by the examiner. 18 Marks

Scales $\text{♩} = 72$, except where noted otherwise

- C sharp, E, G, B flat Major and minor scales (harmonic and melodic).
 - Each hand separately and hands together in similar motion ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.
- C sharp, E, G, B flat Major and minor (harmonic) two ways.
 - In similar motion, left hand beginning on the key note, right hand beginning on the third degree of the scale.
 - In contrary motion with both hands beginning and ending on the key note.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.
 - $\text{♩} = 60$
- C, B flat Major in thirds in the right hand.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.
 - Legato $\text{♩} = 52$, Staccato $\text{♩} = 54$
- C sharp, E, G, B flat chromatic scales in similar motion.
 - Left hand beginning on the key note, right hand a minor third higher ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.
- C chromatic scale in contrary motion with hands beginning and ending on the key note.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.

Arpeggios $\text{♩} = 50$

- C sharp, E, G, B flat Major and minor chords, root position, first and second inversions.
 - Each hand separately and together in similar motion, ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.
- Dominant seventh chords beginning on C, F and B in root position only.
 - Each played legato, root position only. Hands separately and together in similar motion, ascending and descending.
 - Range two octaves for each hand.

Performance One piece selected from each list.

List A	See Music List.	20 Marks
List B	See Music List.	24 Marks
List C	See Music List.	14 Marks

Aural Tests As for ABRSM 10 Marks

General Knowledge 6 Marks

Same as for Grades 5 and 6, but in more detail. In addition, some knowledge of other works by the composers of the pieces selected is required.

Initiative Test 8 Marks

The candidate will be given music of Grade 8 standard, fifteen minutes before starting the exam. The candidate will be expected to play the right hand and demonstrate how a satisfactory left hand fingering would be achieved. The candidate will also be asked interpretive points about the music.

Total 100 Marks

Pass 70 | Merit 80 | Honours 90

Accordion Performers Diploma of New Zealand (APDNZ)

Practical Prerequisite | Grade 8 AEBNZ or substitution (see page 2)

Performance

60 Marks

The candidate will submit a list of eight prepared works to the Accordion Examination Board of New Zealand Inc. four weeks prior to the examination.

At least two works from each of the following periods must be submitted:

- Baroque.
- Classical, Romantic or Impressionistic.
- Contemporary, preferably original accordion works.

The candidate will be required to perform FOUR of these works, to be chosen by the examiner. Orchestral reductions and transcriptions must be well transcribed and of good quality and style. Music composed for the accordion must be played as written.

Note: The degree of difficulty, choice, and suitability to the instrument will be considered in awarding marks.

Repertoire

10 Marks

The candidate will submit, at the time of the examination, a suggested concert programme of approximately 60 minutes. This is not to be performed, but will be discussed with regard to content, programming, artistic merit and audience appeal.

Initiative Test

Same as Grade 8

10 Marks

Aural Tests

10 Marks

- Melody.
 - The candidate will hum, sing, or play from memory the lower part of a two-part phrase played twice by the examiner.
- Pitch.
 - The examiner will name and play the key chord and the tonic of a phrase and the candidate will give the letter name of any one or more notes as they are played slowly.
- Harmony.
 - The examiner will play the tonic chord of a Major or minor key, followed by a progression of up to three chords in that key. The candidate will then name each chord when played again as either Tonic, Subdominant or Dominant chords (or I, IV or V) and identify the position of the chord as root position, first or second inversion (or a, b, or c).
 - The examiner will play a passage and the candidate will identify one or more modulations from a Major key to its Dominant, Subdominant and Relative minor keys. The original key will be named by the examiner.

Viva Voce

10 Marks

To answer questions on the general literature of the accordion. Also to show some knowledge of the works by the composers represented, any of the recognised types of musical form, modulations occurring in the works already performed, and the meaning of any terms and signs commonly used in accordion music.

Total 100 Marks

| Pass 70 |

Accordion Teachers Diploma of New Zealand (ATDNZ)

Theory Prerequisite | Grade 8

Practical Prerequisite | Grade 8 AEBNZ or substitution (see page 2)

There are two separate sections for this diploma:

Part I	Theory	Total 100 Marks
Part II	Practical and Viva Voce	Total 100 Marks

These may be taken either together or separately, and both must be passed before the diploma is awarded. If taken separately, not more than five years must have elapsed between the first successful pass and the completion of the whole examination.

Part I	Theory	3 Hours
Harmony		
	Complete the harmonisation of a 16 bar phrase in Stradella symbols, of which the first two bars will be given.	20 Marks
	Complete the bassline of a 16 bar, two part, phrase for Free Bass, of which the first two bars will be given.	20 Marks
Intervals		
	Diatonic, Chromatic, simple, and compound intervals in any key.	8 Marks
Time and Rhythm		
	All the note and rest values including syncopation and irregular time signatures.	8 Marks
History		
	A thorough knowledge of the history of the accordion, its development, composers and their works.	8 Marks
	A thorough knowledge of the accordion's construction and how the instrument works.	8 Marks
Terminology		
	The meanings of the terms, signs, and abbreviations as used in the Music List.	8 Marks
General Knowledge		
	Questions based on:	20 Marks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bellows control and technique.• Systematic teaching.• Fingering for both hands.	

| Pass 70 |

Part II Practical and Viva Voce

Quick Study Piece 8 Marks

The candidate will receive from the Accordion Examination Board of New Zealand Inc., on request, the 'Quick Study Piece' one month prior to the examination. This work should be studied and prepared by the candidate WITHOUT any assistance from a teacher.

Repertoire 42 Marks

The candidate will submit a list of six prepared works to the Accordion Examination Board of New Zealand Inc. four weeks prior to the examination.

At least one work from each of the following periods must be submitted:

- Baroque.
- Classical, Romantic or Impressionistic.
- Contemporary, preferably original accordion works.

The candidate will be required to perform THREE of these works, to be chosen by the examiner. Orchestral reductions and transcriptions must be well transcribed and of good quality and style. Music composed for the accordion must be played as written.

Teaching Material 15 Marks

A list of teaching pieces fifteen minutes in duration from the Music List, Preliminary through to Grade 5, is to be presented by the candidate at the examination and questions will be asked relating to the teaching of these pieces.

Principles of Teaching 15 Marks

The candidate will be expected to answer questions relating to the teaching of the accordion.

Demonstration Lesson 20 Marks

The candidate will be required to provide a student and demonstrate to the examiner a typical lesson. Questions may also be asked about teaching techniques for levels other than that of the student presented.

Note: the degree of difficulty as well as the presentation of all material will be considered when awarding marks.