

Exam Preparation

FOR TEACHERS

Please make sure you are up to date with the current syllabus for the candidates' exam. Changes can be made, it is important to know the current [regulations](#) and [syllabi](#).

Choose a suitable programme for your student, making best use of choices in the syllabus, and making sure it is the correct syllabus. Remind your student in a constructive way of how much time they have left to prepare for their RIAM Exam.

Aural training, sight-reading, and theory can all be incorporated into every lesson, in a fun and formative manner. Don't leave it too late in exam preparation to introduce these vital exam components.

Encourage your student to perform their pieces before their exam, to family and friends, or class concerts. Providing a mock exam before the day may help introduce and overcome stressful issues such as entering the room, and setting up.

If you are preparing for RIAM Theory Exam, take time to go through the past papers which can be downloaded [here](#).

Encourage parents and candidates to get to the Exam centre early- last minute panics will affect the performance, and it is only fair that the candidates get the chance to show all their hard work in the most relaxed way possible.

FOR CANDIDATES

Make sure to check that you have everything for your exam the night before – your music, your instrument and music stand and your theory certificate (if you are doing theory exams separately).

Always try to get to the exam centre a little early. That way you will have plenty of time to prepare your music, warm up and have a look over your theory.

Feeling nervous is normal – everyone feels a little worried before an exam, but remember that you have worked hard, now aim to give your best.

When you get into the exam room, make sure you are comfortable. Check your music stand is the right height, or that the piano stool is the right height. Our top tip from RIAM piano teacher and examiner, Anthony Byrne is to make sure you don't sit too close to the piano. Give yourself room to move your arms.

Start with whatever makes you comfortable – some people like to do their scales first to warm up, others prefer to play their pieces first so that the scales do not distract them. Choose the order that suits you best.

If you are not sure of something the examiner says, be sure to ask them to repeat it. They will be happy to do so.

For the sight-reading, use the time the examiner gives you to look through it. Take your time and try to keep going.

For many instrumentalists, the singing exercises are the worst part of the exam. They will be over before you know it, so give them a go.

Most importantly, smile and enjoy it- the examiner is looking forward to hearing you perform!]