

rockschool®

Syllabus Guide

Diploma in Music Performance DipRSL (Level 4)



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Syllabus devised by: Stuart Slater, Mary Keene and Nik Preston
Syllabus consultants: Diego Kovadloff, Nicki Wells, Sarah Page, Eva Brandt, Andrew Jones, Stuart Roberts, Brian Ashworth, Jono Harrison, George Voros and Rockie Siew

Syllabus Guide written and compiled by Mary Keene
Proofreading by Peran Publishing

Contacting Rockscool

Website: www.rslawards.com
Email: diplomas@rslawards.com
Telephone: +44 845 460 4747

Introduction

This Syllabus Guide covers the following Diploma:

DipRSL Level 4 in Music Performance (QAN 501/0719/7)

The aim of RSL's Performance Diploma qualifications is to provide high standard, industry-relevant qualifications in instrumental/vocal performance at both Level 4 (Diploma) and Level 6 (Licentiate).

The level and content of the qualifications are ideal for experienced/skilled musicians already working or aiming to work in the performance industry. Level 4 candidates will be looking to gain formal recognition of their more advanced skill-set along with a clear understanding of all aspects of working as a professional contemporary performer.

Accreditation & credits

All Rockscool Diplomas are regulated by Ofqual and can be found on their register <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>. DipRSL (Perf) is worth 90 QCF credits.

Instrument/Genre specialisms

Applications for the Performance Diplomas can be made by candidates of any instrument offered in the Rockscool syllabus range. Please see www.rslawards.com.

Diploma definitions and post-nominal letters

Rockscool Diploma Qualifications are available at:

Level 4 which is a Diploma of RSL (DipRSL)

Level 6 which is a Licentiate of RSL (LRSL)

Candidates may use DipRSL or LRSL post-nominally if they wish after gaining the qualification.

Pre-requisites

Suitable for: Candidates who have reached a high level of playing and are looking to take a step forwards in professional performance.

Qualifications required for entry:

- Grade 8 (full grade or performance certificate of any accredited board) in a relevant instrument
- A-level Music(graded A-D)
- BTEC or Music Practitioner qualification in the relevant instrument

If candidates have an equivalent qualification gained outside the UK they must submit this for approval to diplomas@rslawards.com giving details of the institution from which it has been accredited.

Entry application

Candidates are only allowed to enter for the Performance Diplomas using the official entry form that can be found at www.rslawards.com.

All entries will be accompanied by the pre-requisite evidence and full payment for the relevant Diploma. Alternatively, candidates can request to pay by card and sent a payment link but no Diplomas will be registered until this payment has been made.

Fees

All current fees for the Diplomas are available at:
www.rslawards.com/music/diplomas/dates-and-fees

Units

The Level 4 Diploma consists of one Unit of work split into three Learning Outcomes:

- Performance
- Promotion
- Viva Voce

Candidates are expected to complete the whole of this Unit in one exam sitting. However prior research and preparation would be expected for all sections and the promotional portfolio will be submitted at the beginning of the exam having been completed in the candidate's own time.

Learning Outcome 1.1 – Performance Skills

Candidates need to create a total programme of 20-25 minutes of music. They should design this using a theme and be prepared to define and explain how the chosen pieces fit into their theme during Learning Outcome 1.3.

Pieces can be played in any order and do not need to be played all at once for each skill. All styles and genres are acceptable with the exception of classical. The candidate will be asked at the beginning of the exam which pieces they have chosen for which skill.

Candidates should refer to the repertoire section of the website for all programme choice criteria.

Candidates will be marked on the following criteria:

- Evidence of Advanced Technical skills
- Evidence of Advanced Development skills
- Evidence of Advanced Soloing skills
- Range and Depth of stylistic understanding
- Communication and memory
- Timekeeping
- Self reliance/equipment and audio management

Advanced Technical Skills – Candidates will need to prepare between 11-15 minutes of advanced technical skill work as part of the total programme. The number of pieces played is up to the candidate as long as they are able to fully showcase their technical skills. A maximum of five minutes of the total technical skills time can be played a cappella/unaccompanied.

Advanced Development Skills – Candidates also need to prepare two pieces, with a combined total of 3-5 minutes, which demonstrate their development skills. There must be a minimum of 24 bars development within each piece. All pieces designated as development skill pieces must be performed to a backing track.

Only the developed parts need to be Level 4 standard enabling candidates to have more free rein with a simpler piece.

Advanced Soloing Skills – To complete the programme, candidates must prepare one song to demonstrate their advanced soloing skills. This song should last between 3-5 minutes and there must be a minimum of 24 consecutive bars soloing.

Candidates may perform their solo part(s) with or without backing but the rest of the piece must have backing. Vocalists however should check the soloing criteria carefully as this will differ for their instrument. Only the solo parts need to be Level 4 standard enabling candidates' greater freedom to use a simpler piece.

Stylistic understanding – At Level 4, candidates are not expected to have an advanced level multiple-style ability, however candidates who do exhibit a wider range of styles will be credited.

Memory and communication – All pieces must be played from memory. Communication should involve engaging the 'audience' e.g. the examiner in this exam setting.

Timekeeping – Candidates will be expected to have a clear grasp of, and adhere to, their performance timings. They will be measured both on the total show time and the times allocated to each section of advanced skills.

Self-reliance/management – Candidates should take complete control of the exam room set-up and may bring equipment to supplement this if they wish. Audio management including level setting, sound check etc will also be under the management of the candidate. Where possible, the examiner will set up the PA so that the candidate can adjust this at need. The candidate will also be invited to control the backing tracks so should prepare their appropriate technology in advance of the exam.

Learning Outcome 1.2 - Promotion

Candidates will be marked on the following criteria:

- Understanding of Target Audience
- Relevance/range of submitted material
- Effectiveness/quality of communication

Candidates will be asked to produce, and submit on the day of exam, a cross-media promotional portfolio to support their programme. The candidate should envision that these materials would be used to promote a live gig using the same programme. Candidates should therefore carefully consider the following:

- How does the promotion reflect the programme chosen, in terms of style, image etc?
- Who is the target audience and is my material likely to reach them?
- Is the quality of my material professional and suitable for a real life event?
- Is the material authentic and representative of me as an artist?

Candidates will be asked questions in relation to their promotional portfolio in the first part of the exam interview.

Learning Outcome 1.3 – Viva Voce

Candidates will be marked on the following criteria:

- Own evaluation of the performance
- Justification of programme theme/objectives
- Ability to understand/articulate Level 4 music
- Health and Safety
- Contract knowledge
- Liabilities and insurance

Candidates will be expected to offer a balanced evaluation of their own performance and articulate and fully explain the Level 4 elements to be found within their programme. Candidates can use the published criteria to aid them in their learning of this and should refer specifically to their pieces when explaining key characteristics of Level 4 music.

They should also be prepared to justify the theme of their programme, detailing how it is reflected in the pieces chosen, order, style(s), and musical components.

The second half of the interview will cover the more practical aspects of performing in a live environment. Questions will cover practical application of health and safety, contracts, liability and insurance. Candidates are advised to refer to the Recommended Resources in the Handbook to research these areas for the exam.

Exam Day

- On entering the exam room the candidate will be welcomed by the examiner and the examiner will check the candidate's name and take the promotional portfolio from them.
- From this point onwards the candidate should take control of the exam and proceed with setting-up, organising music, checking PA settings etc.
- The candidate should tell the examiner the theme of their programme, the names of the pieces and which advanced skills each piece will cover.
- The performance will begin as soon as the candidate is ready to start.
- After the performance is finished, the candidate should take a seat where indicated by the examiner, and the interview will commence.
- The examiner will then ask the candidate prepared questions which will cover their Promotional portfolio (LO 1.2) and all elements of the Viva Voce (LO 1.3).

Results and Ratification

Marking Formula

For each LO, there are a number of criteria, each receiving a mark between 0-7 as follows:

- 0-1 = Unclassified
- 2-3 = Pass
- 4-5 = Merit
- 6-7 = Distinction

The marking formula is mathematical, requiring the average score to be calculated across the criteria within each LO. This is achieved by totalling the criteria and dividing by the number of criteria.

Each threshold needs to be reached, with no rounding up or down. Therefore, an average score of '1.9' is unclassified, whereas '2' is a pass. Each LO must receive a minimum of 2 overall in order for the qualification to be awarded.

Results

Candidates will receive their results no more than four weeks after their exam.

Results will be sent digitally via a PDF report to the email address registered with the candidate's online account.

Ratification and certificates

Due to the professional value and high level of Diploma qualifications, all Diploma results must be assessed and ratified before confirmation of the final result and certificates issued.

RSL aims to have this done within eight weeks of the report being sent to the candidate.

Special Considerations/Reasonable Adjustments/Appeals

All current policies with regard to RSL Diplomas can be found on our website www.rslawards.com.