

Australian

Music

Examinations

Board

HANDBOOK FOR TEACHERS

Fun facts and helpful hints

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GET IN TOUCH

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Our office hours are 9am to 2pm, Monday to Friday. We're also available online up to 5pm each working day so please feel free to reach out via phone or email – we're here to help.

DISCLAIMER

This publication is intended as a guide to AMEB exams in Tasmania and is to be used as a teaching resource. It is complementary to the current AMEB Syllabuses and should not be used in place of it.

Information is correct at time of publishing. Please refer to the AMEB Tasmania website for any updates, changes or corrections – <u>utas.edu.au/ameb</u>.



WELCOME

Welcome to the Teachers' Handbook for AMEB Tasmania. This resource is for teachers across the state, emerging to established, and familiar to undiscovered with AMEB. You will find in this document information about the support we provide to teachers and learners of all levels, as well as syllabus updates, and an overview of all that we offer across music, speech and drama, dance, and performing arts education and accreditation.

The pandemic is officially over and we've phased out most of the remaining measures we've held in place up to now.

Likewise, our venues have largely done the same. Any venue requirements will be advised via exam notifications but it's worth noting that vaccination status is no longer a consideration for any of them.

We continue to provide opportunities for your students to achieve their exam goals, and Video Exams remain an option for anyone unable or unwilling to attend an exam venue. Pandemicspecific information has been included in this edition, denoted like this in red. We thank everyone for supporting each other by adhering to the requests that are ongoing and everyone is encouraged to take additional precautions as best suits their personal situation.

We have some exciting new publications available in 2024 in the new Viola syllabus, and additional flute Grade books. There's also a brand new Teaching syllabus hitting the shelves in February with cutting edge research into pedagogy and teaching techniques.

The PAA offering has expanded again to include Public Speaking, which further adds to the incredibly diverse and broad suite of options available to learners through PAA and our Speech and Drama syllabuses.

Theory of Music resources continue to grow with the last year's release of the Grade 5 Online Theory Course and associated Integrated Course and Workbook. And Grade 6 isn't far away!

SCORE continues to be a point of investment for the AMEB Federal team and work continues behind the scenes to build new features and further streamline all that it currently does.

As always, we'll present a variety of workshops and events through the year but one not to be missed is our Teacher Vitality Day. This event is fast becoming the must-attend day in the year so save the dates and stay tuned for what's planned and how to register – Mar 16 and 17.

I encourage you to stay in touch. Explore our websites, connect with our socials, read our eNews but, most importantly, reach out if there's something we can help with. We offer our support to our community of arts learners and educators. Please stay safe, healthy, connected, and with an abundance of music, creativity, and artistic flair. We look forward to seeing you and your students soon!

All very best wishes, Michelle Forbes

State Manager AMEB Tasmania





AIMS, OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES OF THE AMEB

Our values

Inclusion Excellence Leadership Community Creativity

AMEB is primarily an examining body in the fields of music, speech and drama, and the performing arts. At the crux of it, though, through an international system of accredited exams, AMEB exists to **support quality arts education**.

The AMEB structure is designed to provide the means and incentives for raising standards of proficiency, and to support and encourage teachers and institutions across arts education.

Further to exams, we are also involved in a range of related activities, including publishing, special research projects, nation-wide inclusive activities, commissioning new works by Australian and diverse composers, and the development of new and revised syllabuses based on evolving educational principles and practices.

Through our ongoing relationship with UTAS, we work to link the community of teachers and candidates to the influence and expertise of the UTAS School of Creative Arts and Media.

CONTACT AMEB

We welcome you to get in touch but we do recommend starting with our <u>website</u> as we've worked hard to include lots of the information you're likely to be searching for. If you can't find it there, we are here to help. We're on hand to provide information about syllabuses, and enrolment support.

If you'd like assistance with the AMEB Online Shop, or technical support with Online Theory Exams and Courses, our Federal team are the best people to speak with. The Federal team includes the syllabus department and our SCORE development team, who are best equipped to help you with those areas. Our online platforms also feature FAQs and support tickets to help you trouble shoot. Essentially, if your question relates to exams in Tasmania, the Tassie office is your best point of contact and we're happy to help get you in touch with the right person if we can't provide the answer ourselves.

Where are we?

Our Tasmanian office can be found in the UTAS Centre for the Arts at 37 Hunter Street (office 119). The building is open to public during semester time and we encourage you to call ahead and book a time to chat just in case. Our office opening hours are 9am to 2pm, Monday to Friday, and we're also available online through to 5pm each working day.

Where are the exams?

We hold exams in both the north and south of the State, with main exam centres across Hobart, Launceston, Devonport, and Burnie. We also offer bonus brass sessions in Ulverstone and Candidates can do a Video Exam if they can't make it to a physical location. In addition to our regular venues (and thanks to our supporters for making these available!), we offer the flexibility to examine students within personal teaching studios – you can apply to get yourself set up in SCORE, or get in touch if that's of interest.



THE AMEB TEAM

For your exams, you'll have regular contact with the AMEB Tasmania team, Gabi Robin (Exams Coordinator) and Michelle Forbes (State Manager). We're here to help, whether that be to provide technical assistance with enrolments, advice about a Syllabus, or just a curiosity about how exams "work".

Our team of Examiners are specialists in their field in both performing and teaching. By virtue of that expertise, we offer a unique assessment experience unlike other examining bodies. Our Examiners are trained to provide an assessment of the wholistic performer (against our national AMEB accreditation standards) and thoroughly enjoy seeing young artists perform at their best.

On the day of exams, you'll also meet our Exam Supervisors – a team of dedicated, supportive, kind, and welcoming individuals who attend exams to support the flow of the day and assist candidates to feel at ease with the process.

Our Tasmania State Committee provides guidance to, and shares insights with, our State Manager to help inform what we can do better, and where needs exist across the state.

The AMEB Federal Team are based in Melbourne and include our CEO (Bernard Depasquale), Head of Examining (Fiona Seers), Theory Editor (Andrew Raiskums), and lots of other terrific people who look after syllabus revisions, finance and payroll, IT support and SCORE development, customer service, marketing, and so many things.

ABOUT AMEB – A BIT OF HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Programs of music exams were initiated in Australia in 1887 by the University of Adelaide and in 1901 by the University of Melbourne, with other states soon to follow. Subsequently the Australian Music Exams Board (AMEB) emerged in 1918 as a national body with the purpose of providing graded assessments for achievement in music.

We aim to offer a whole suite of exam options that have been developed to stay fresh and relevant to the different ways students learn and achieve. Syllabuses have now expanded to include Speech and Drama, Contemporary Music, Musical Theatre, and Dance.

AMEB Syllabuses provide a tiered learning structure aimed at examinable criteria. That criteria is designed to support the wholistic development of aspiring artists. This includes relevant styles and genres, general knowledge, and technical skills.

The Tasmanian office has terrific relationships with the University of Tasmania through the School for Creative Arts and Media. We continue to be supported by a grant provided by the Minister for Education, Children and Youth, which is administered by UTAS. In 2018, the state branch became part of the Federal AMEB Ltd and now has access to even greater resources and support for our community.

Based in the Hobart office, Gabi Robin (Exams Coordinator) and Michelle Forbes (State Manager) work to deliver exams across Tasmania and support teachers and learners in their pursuit of quality arts education.



WHAT IS THE MANUAL OF SYLLABUSES?

It's your one-stop-shop, your go-to place to find out about what you need to prepare for an exam. We have a few different Manuals that are collations of the individual Syllabuses for each genre:

Music Manual of Syllabuses

This includes all "classical" practical and theory exams for instruments and voices. You can purchase the book, a PDF version, or select PDF sections of the full manual from the online shop through the AMEB Federal website.

Schools and studios can also get an Institution License to share access across your team.

Individual syllabuses

Accordion and Ensemble syllabuses are digitally published separately to the Music Manual. And did you know that you can buy select sections of the full manual for either individual instruments or the family of syllabuses? These digital reductions are fantastic for the teacher on the go and are available from the AMEB Online Shop.

Rockschool syllabuses

Each instrument has its own free, downloadable syllabus. There are additional, separate resources, such as guidance for Free Choice, Diplomas, and Popular Music Theory. These are available from our AMEB Federal Rockschool website.

PAA syllabuses

These are also free to download from our AMEB Federal Rockschool website. Other free resources are in abundance with demos, tracks and teaching tools available for most syllabuses.

Speech & Drama Manual of Syllabuses

This includes all practical and theory exams for the Speech & Drama Syllabuses: Speech and Performance, Drama and Communication, and Voice and Communication. This document can also be obtained as a PDF download from the online shop through the AMEB Federal website.

Navigating your Manual

The <u>Manual</u> is the book that collates all the individual, instrument/specialty-specific <u>Syllabuses</u>. It also includes all of the regulations and important information that relates to all syllabuses and exams. We recommend you read this general information at the beginning of each manual. This section includes information that is relevant to all syllabuses contained therein and may not be reiterated under each instrument or specialisation. There are important things like additional Theory requirements for senior grades, the general expectations of musicianship for each level, non-performance exam aspects such as General Knowledge, accreditation processes, exam procedures, additional reference material and lots of other useful things.

The main chapters then go into detail for each specialisation. This starts with a general <u>overview</u> of that specialisation before breaking down what must be prepared for each <u>level</u> and then each <u>grade</u>. For almost all Syllabuses, you'll find a list of required works to choose from – this is a great resource if you're looking for new repertoire inspiration for your students.

Don't forget to double check which exam type you're looking at – Syllabuses such as Comprehensive vs Repertoire (music) will have slightly different requirements and it's important that you don't overlook preparing your student for a component of the exam.



Fun fact: a vertical line next to a paragraph is an indication that the information is new or amended (just like we've done here).

The following sections provide an overview of some of the more significant changes in our syllabuses this year.

SPEECH & DRAMA NEWS

It's an easy read this year – there have been no changes, withdrawals, or releases for 2024. But you may want to check out the new Public Speaking syllabus under PAA – they're a great addition to the suite of exams and flexibility for students!

MUSIC THEORY NEWS

Online Theory Exams

All exams are now available online, with the exception of Diploma theory exams – these will continue to be taken as Paper-Based exams – and a couple of others that we're still working on. Theory of Music exams can still be undertaken as a paper-based exam but, where others are available online, they will be available only as Online Exams.

A reminder that we strongly recommend that smaller devices are not used for Online Exams as the screens may not provide the breadth of information needed to excel in your learning and assessment.

Theory of Music

The new Grade 6 Theory Course, including both the Online Course, and the Integrated Course and Workbook, is in the pipeline. Both will be fantastic resources for teachers and learners alike.

Online Theory Courses are a great learning tool in preparation for an exam. Courses provide lots of examples and practice questions and Online Exams offer unlimited practice exams until either you take your exam or the purchase expires.

Online Exam extensions

Once you purchase an exam, you have 12 months to complete it, with unlimited practices in between. We do recognise that unforeseen circumstances may arise before you manage to undertake your exam so you can now purchase an extension directly through SCORE, which will provide you with an extra 28 days before your exam expires.

Popular Music Theory

This syllabus is a great companion to the Rockschool contemporary music syllabuses. You can enrol and take your exam online at any time. Our Federal team administer these exams but you can now enrol directly in SCORE and track your students' journey just like all other AMEB exams.

Paper-Based Exams On Request

Our suite of Online Theory Exams now supports learning any time, anywhere, any syllabus, at any grade. If you'd still prefer to do a paper-based Theory of Music exam, you can apply for your own exam day, at a time convenient to you.



This model allows you to host your own exam session in your school or studio, at a time of year that best suits your students. An <u>On Request</u> process has been developed to provide greater flexibility for teachers and learners, and in response to feedback and requests for more session dates.

Please note that <u>Diploma Theory exams</u> will only be available on the annual August date (14th in 2024).

Your Theory of Music Candidates may also undertake their exam on the August Diploma day, or any other day that supports the learning trajectory of your students.

We have set the minimum number of candidates to five, however individuals or studios with fewer candidates are encouraged to register and we'll aim to pair you with a local venue and host.

We have a new feature in the pipeline on SCORE that will ensure we don't miss an ad hoc enrolment. In the meantime, we're still asking you to complete a separate application form to get us all the details we need. Once your exam day is confirmed, we'll pop everything into SCORE so that you can track your enrolments and their reports. You can also set up and manage your own venue in SCORE.

Please visit the AMEB Tasmania website for more details and the On Request registration form.

CLASSICAL MUSIC NEWS

Viola

Following the release of the new syllabus, both old and new syllabuses are currently examinable, until the end of 2025. The new syllabus includes a comprehensive review of the Manual Lists and technical requirements, and the introduction of a Certificate of Performance exam to assist with preparing to transition from Level 1 to Level 2. The new syllabus includes all your favourite repertoire and lots of great new works. The syllabus is supported by the new Viola Technical work book, Series 2 Grade books for Level 1, and a new Viola Sight-reading book that includes exercises tailored to the parameters of the new syllabus. The Grade books are supported by recorded accompaniments (Preliminary to Grade 3), which may be used for both practice and exam performances.

Please ensure you are referring to a Manual from 2023 onwards (and it's always best to have the most up to date version to hand).

It should be noted that candidates must prepare entirely one syllabus or the other and are <u>not</u> permitted to select elements of each.

Piano for Leisure: Certificate of Performance

The Manual List for this exam has been refreshed with approximately 40 new works added. We're really excited about the quality of these works, especially given their stylistic diversity and increased representation by women and Australian composers. No List pieces have been removed but editions may have been updated where previous version

No List pieces have been removed but editions may have been updated where previous version are out of print.



For Leisure Syllabuses Own Choice works

IMPORTANT Syllabus clarification relating to Comprehensive exams in <u>Piano for Leisure</u>, <u>Singing for Leisure</u>, and <u>Saxophone for Leisure</u>: General Knowledge questions may be asked of any List pieces AND Own Choice works.

General Knowledge has previously been asked only of List works however, during national discussions, this was found to be inconsistent with the intention of the syllabus. Candidates may choose to perform a program of List works OR substitute one List for an Own Choice piece. The intention of the syllabus is that the full program may be the subject of General Knowledge discussions.

Please note that <u>copies of Own Choice works must be supplied</u> for Comprehensive exams but we are also requesting that they are provided for Repertoire exams. The *For Leisure* syllabuses encompass such a wide variety of genres – which is part of its appeal – but this does present an unrealistic expectation for Examiners to be familiar with all works. To ensure Examiners are able to provide appropriate and constructive feedback on these works, we ask for your assistance in providing a copy of the music on the exam day.

Piano For Leisure Technical Work

The introductory overlap period has now concluded and only the "new" (ongoing) syllabus will be available for enrolment. Please ensure you are referring to a syllabus from 2022 onwards (and it's always best to have the most up to date version to hand).

A reminder that there are no changes to the Lists. This "new syllabus" includes only a new set of Technical Work to align with the current Piano (2019+) syllabus.

Flute

There new Flute Series 4 set of Grade Books has now been expanded to include Grade 5 and 6. There are no changes to the technical work requirements or manual lists, other than to add these fantastic new works to the options available to candidates.

Horn

The introductory overlap period has now concluded and only the "new" (ongoing) syllabus will be available for enrolment. Please ensure you are referring to a Manual from 2022 onwards (and it's always best to have the most up to date version to hand). The Manual Lists remain unchanged (excepting corrections).

Comprehensive and Repertoire exam options

A repertoire-only exam option was introduced in 2019 and has now expanded to include all syllabuses (except Band). To differentiate the two options, the traditional exam familiar to most teachers and candidates is now known as the <u>Comprehensive</u> exam. <u>Repertoire</u> exams allow candidates to present only a program of pieces, using works selected from the AMEB Syllabus Lists along with Own Choice options. The Technical Work, General Knowledge, Aural Test and Sight-reading elements are not examined in separate sections in the Repertoire exam. Rather, they are still assessed through the pieces themselves. Candidates should be advised that these are still considered to be essential elements of a well-rounded musician. **Fun fact**: the Examiners can tell when someone has been prioritising only their pieces when practicing.

More details on syllabus news can be found in the Manual of Syllabuses, page vii.

As always, the Federal team have just launched some new publications and resources that expand the existing syllabuses. Coming soon:

- Theory of Music Grade 6: Integrated Course and workbook
- New Teaching Syllabus supporting resources
- Viola Series 2 Grade books for Grades 5 and 6



ENSEMBLE NEWS

Choirs

A reminder that, while it is not explicitly stated, choirs are very welcome to undertake the ensemble exam – just enrol as a "mixed" ensemble. No repertoire is provided in the syllabus, but please ensure all selected works adhere to relevant requirements.

ROCKSCHOOL NEWS

Associate Award in Performance

There are now two new Diploma exams just for performers. These exams are purely performance-based and can be taken any time. The perfect extension beyond Grade 8!

Certificate 3 in Supporting Music and Performing Arts Learning

This new Diploma is now available for emerging teachers and assistants. A minimum of 16 years of age is recommended, as well as access to a classroom learning environment. The syllabus content focuses on three key topics; safe teaching, planning learning, and facilitating learning. This is a fantastic tool for emerging teachers, and teaching assistants and a great pathway toward the Professional Diplomas.

Band

Band exams have now been withdrawn 2023. The uptake of this option didn't seem to have been hugely popular, however you may work with a live accompanist in your exam.

Backing tracks and accompaniment

A reminder that we no longer accept USB sticks for Free Choice (and transposed) backing tracks in the exam room. All Free Choice backing tracks must be brought on a personal device. We'll be providing adaptors for candidates to plug into amps in each venue but please help your students prepare ahead of time: get them used to practicing with their tracks on their personal devices well ahead of the exam day. Please note that tracks must be downloaded ahead of time as internet is not guaranteed (particularly in our regional venues). Streaming issues may result in the candidate performing without their accompaniment, and associated reduction in marks.

A reminder that Rockschool Candidates can now work with a live accompanist in their exam. The report criteria of "sync" will remain as an examinable area and encompasses the Candidate's ability to maintain pulse and work with their associate artist.

Coming soon

The Rockschool team are working on new Grade books for Electric Guitar, Drums, and Bass.

PERFORMANCE ARTS AWARDS (PAA) NEWS

Public Speaking

PAA exams have now expanded to include Public Speaking. This syllabus would suit anyone but we think that it will be particularly attractive to students wanting to interview for part time jobs, those who are needing more confidence for oral presentations, and anyone preparing to speak before an audience.

Australian Music Examinations Board

Public Speaking joins <u>Acting</u> and <u>Screen Acting</u> syllabuses alongside <u>Jazz Dance</u>, <u>Street Dance</u>, and <u>Musical Theatre</u> under the banner of PAA.

PAA Syllabuses are free to download from the <u>Federal PAA website</u> and no teacher registrations are required. Resources online also include tracks and examples of steps.

These exams are great for schools and studios as exams can be done via Video or, if you're doing a live show, the Examiner comes to you. The "staged" syllabuses (ie Musical Theatre or Dance) can see all your students assessed in the one performance. This can be a studio (internal) show for the Examiner alone, or during of your fully-staged performance. The former is recommended as the Examiner does require the ability to ask for a section to be repeated but, if your audience is willing to see more of your production, that's totally fine!

These exams are administered by the AMEB Federal Office so please contact our team there for more information and to enrol.

MEDIA NEWS

Media syllabuses including <u>Vlogging</u> and <u>Podcasting</u> have now been withdrawn. We didn't see quite the take up anticipated for these very contemporary performance areas. However, interested Candidates can still achieve a qualification in these syllabuses by enrolling directly with the UK Rockschool team.

TEACHING NEWS

New Teaching Syllabus

We have just released a fabulous new Teaching Syllabus! This cutting edge syllabus is based on the very latest research and pedagogical techniques to support instrumental learning. The syllabus offers a Certificate and an Associate level exam, ideal for emerging and more established studio and instrumental teachers (respectively). The syllabus is supported by two incredibly valuable resources as essential companions – one is a collation of chapters authored by international authorities in disciplines such as studio teaching, student motivation, performance anxiety etc; the other offers a breakdown of assessments, expectations, and provides detail on what Examiners are looking for.

The framework for the syllabus is built on the four learning pillars: Why am I teaching?; What do I teach?; How and when do I teach?; My performance as a teacher.

Certificate 3 in Supporting Music and Performing Arts Learning

If you skipped the *Rockschool news* above, this new Diploma is now available for emerging teachers and assistants. A minimum of 16 years of age is recommended, as well as access to a classroom learning environment. The syllabus content focuses on three key topics; safe teaching, planning learning, and facilitating learning. This is a fantastic tool for emerging teachers, and teaching assistants and a great pathway toward the Professional Diplomas.

IMPORTANT EXAM INFORMATION

Exam requirements

It is essential that teachers and candidates consult the current year's Syllabus for details of exam requirements, and are familiar with what is required.



Exam types

Whether your student wants a comprehensive study of music, or if they are just learning pieces for fun, there's a syllabus to support, and an exam type to suit.

We have a great variety of options for your students. We have provided a thorough comparison on our Tasmanian website to help guide you to the best syllabus and exam type for each individual personality. It's essential, though, that your enrolment details are accurate. Examiners will be equipped with the materials relevant to the enrolments on that day. Furthermore, the timing of exams varies and late changes may not be possible to accommodate.

Music and copyright

Even if playing from memory, you will need to have all the music with you to answer your general knowledge questions.

A reminder that photocopies are not acceptable in exams. In general, the Copyright Act prohibits the use of photocopied music. If you are using photocopied music, it is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that a Copyright exception applies, or the relevant music publisher has granted permission for the copy. Even if playing from memory, you will need to have all the original music with you to answer your general knowledge questions. If an extra copy is required for the Examiner, a photocopy is fine as that music is not being performed.

Remember to obtain permissions for any photocopied material, which should be accompanied by the <u>APRA AMCOS Copyright Declaration Form</u>. Teachers are recommended to familiarise themselves with Copyright Law. A teacher handbook is currently under review however the APRA AMCOS website has a lot of information, or teachers can email <u>schools@apra.com.au</u>.

What to expect in the exam

Examiners really want every candidate to do well. They are listening for what a candidate CAN do, not what they can't. Examiners really don't want to give any candidate a failing grade so please make sure you've checked the syllabus and that your students are prepared.

Trainee Examiners

To ensure that the AMEB's high examining standards are maintained there may be a Trainee Examiner present during Level 1 and 2 exams. Candidates should be aware that they will only receive their Report from the Supervising Examiner. We'll let you know on the day of the exam that an Examiner in Training will be present. If you feel your candidate will require more notice or it will be a serious issue for them, please contact the office ahead of your exam day.

Exam warm up and practice

Access to venues prior to the day is available to Level 3 Candidates only, with venue approval. We greatly appreciate the support of our partners for the use of their venues but it should be noted that AMEB does not own these premises. Access for exams is by negotiation and warm up rooms are never guaranteed – they are a bonus, rather than an inclusion. We also aim for a standard venue offering across the state and, in fairness to candidates who may not be able to access the venue ahead of time in some locations, we are unable to offer such a service anywhere.

If such a room is available, it should be noted that the time each Candidate has in the room is brief – it's for the purposes of WARM UP, and not rehearsal. Please ensure that your student and their accompanist have had ample time to prepare ahead of exam day.

Rockschool have changed the venue requirements to now include a dedicated warm up room.



SCORE INFORMATION

How to get started

Head to SCORE at <u>score.ameb.edu.au</u>. We recommend adding it to your browser favourites but, if you lose this web address, we'll always have a direct link on the home page of our website. Start by setting yourself up as an "Enroller" (as long as you're 18+). We have a great FAQ section that has more information and step by step guides on creating your account and so much more.

Enrolling a student

Once you've logged in, you'll be greeted with your Dashboard. The large buttons will update to reflect your exam enrolments but, to begin, the shortcut menu includes *My Enrolments* and *Enrol now*. Click the latter and select the type of exam they're going to do.

Pop in the details for your student. Please ensure their name and details are entered correctly. This is the name that will appear on their certificate, and other details enable us to cross-reference other accreditation. If you've enrolled this student before, you can click the *Autofill* feature to pick them from your list and automatically enter their information. This feature appears a few times throughout the form to provide more short cuts and time savers for you.

Please do enter teacher and parent information – it's really helpful for when we have questions about availability, accompanists and other occasional variables of the scheduling process.

Candidates with special needs should include some information regarding their situation, what assistance would be of use on the day, and anything else that we should be aware of in order to best support them on exam day.

You can add multiple candidates in one sitting and pay for them all at the end. You can even draft your enrolments and come back later to check or add more. They'll stay in the shopping cart until you either pay for them or remove them – but do make sure you finalise your enrolment by paying prior to the enrolment close date otherwise you'll miss out. A note for the time being: Group enrolments do need to be completed with separate transactions, otherwise they'll come through candidates all in the one group. We know this isn't terribly convenient so it's something we're working on a solution for in the not-too-distant future.

Once you've entered all your candidates, click the little shopping trolley in the top, right corner. You can double check all the details here and edit anything that needs to be changed before proceeding to payment. Please note that payment is required at this point, otherwise your enrolment remains unconfirmed.

What happens next?

You'll receive an automated email, confirming the enrolment/s. This will be accompanied by an invoice (with \$0 balance), which you can always look up later in *My account / My transactions*. When your exam has been scheduled, you'll receive an email to let you know. Log into SCORE again and click on *My Enrolments* to view and download the exam time, venue, and other information. You'll find details under the *Options* menu for the individual enrolment.

Once the exam has been completed, we'll upload the Examiner's Report. Again, you'll receive an email to let you know that it's ready for you. Log in and go to the same place – *My Enrolments*. A new option will have appeared in your *Options* menu so you can view your results.

We'll then post out (eligible) certificates to the Enroller so, again, a reminder that keeping your details up to date is really important.



Private venues

If you're requesting paper-based Theory of Music exams, or want to hold an exam day at your own studio, you can set up your Private Venue within SCORE. Head to *My venues* in the menu and pop in your details.

If you'd like to host an exam day at your Private Venue, please note that there are a few requirements that must be met so that we can ensure that Candidates are well supported to enable them to present their best performance.

For an examiner to attend a venue, a minimum examining time of 2 hours is required per examining speciality.

Private Venues are required to provide:

- A quiet, comfortable, well ventilated, well-lit room that ensures privacy. Ideally the room should measure at least 3 x 4 metres.
- A piano in good condition with regard to action and tuning.
- A piano stool, preferably adjustable, and chair for an accompanist (if required).
- A reliable and well-balanced music stand for non-piano candidates.
- Suitably sized and stable desk and chair for the Examiner.
- Adequate waiting area for candidates, separate from the exam room.
- Suitable playback devices for Recorded Accompaniments and Rockschool Exams (if applicable).
- Clean and accessible toilet facilities.
- An Exam Supervisor who can greet candidates upon arrival, act as a point of contact for the Examiner, and assist with efficient running of the exam timetable.
- Public Liability Insurance.

If you'd like to find out more about Private Venues or want to enquire about hosting your own day, please have a chat with us in the AMEB Tasmania office.

Federal enrolments

You can now enrol for any of the following Federally administered exams and syllabuses directly through SCORE:

- AMEB Award
- FMusA
- Rockschool Popular Music Theory
- Rockschool Music Production
- Rockschool Professional Diplomas
- Rockschool PAA

Some other qualifications (eg Teaching) may include separate exam sections. These are often a combination of administration and can all be enrolled via SCORE.

SchoolPay Theory Course access

Please note that SchoolPay enrolments for Online Theory Courses are not accessible until payment is made. We acknowledge that the enrolment timelines for some practical exam allows enrolments to be made close to the exam date, leaving the invoice as pending when we begin scheduling. We'll continue with scheduling and administering those enrolments on good faith that that invoice will be paid in the appropriate timeframe. Online Theory Courses are slightly different in that our software provider charges us as soon as a new candidate has accessed the Course. As such, we now require payment prior to Course access being activated. If you've paid but we haven't allocated that payment yet, and you need access urgently, please get in touch and we'll get our Finance team to check for your transfer.



Did you know...

- You can manage your details in SCORE, such as correct an enrolment, or change information at any time. Please make sure you keep your address up to date so your certificates reach their destination. Some details need to be brought to the attention of the AMEB Tasmania Office so, if you're unable to change them, please just get in touch.
- There's a help desk where you can lodge a query or a request for help. This can be found in the side menu under *Contact Us.*
- There are more SCORE fun facts on our website on the *Exam information* page.
- We're here to help. If you're having difficulty navigating your way through SCORE, can't find the session or specialty you're looking for, or perhaps are just nervous using it for the first time give us a call and we'll happily walk you through it.

EXAM SESSIONS AND FEE UPDATES

Thanks for your feedback on the exam session dates. It sounds like the timing is all working really well for you. Very little has changed, apart from the usual shimmy around school holidays. We did, however, hear that teachers need at least one week after the holidays to check in with students before an enrolment close date so we've shifted things around to help with that. We've also given you two extra weeks for enrolling in Session 5.

The addition of strings to Session 1 (in Hobart) didn't quite see the uptake we anticipated but we recognise that it can take a little while to get into the rhythm of a new learning cycle so we'll offer it again in 2024.

A reminder that the final week of Session 5 is prioritised for our Candidates undertaking TCE exams.

You'll be able to enrol in two main sessions for any and all practical exams. Furthermore, there are two weekend-long sessions for which the following syllabuses and grades can enrol: Piano: all grades, all syllabuses (except Rockschool) Associate Diploma (all specialties)

Each of these weekends will be available in both Hobart and Launceston.

We set our enrolment closing dates so that we can immediately commence scheduling exams in order to provide you with at least 4 weeks' notice of your exam day. If you happen to miss the closing date for a session, please do give us a call as we may be able to slot you in. Please just be aware that this will attract an admin fee due to the manual and slightly fiddly nature of this process. But don't worry - we won't take your money unless we know that we can guarantee you an exam time within our schedules.

The trial of the late enrolment feature seemed to be helpful for a number of people so we're keeping that but only for the larger sessions (2 and 5). This feature enables you to add a late enrolment for one week without having to call the office. There's still an admin process involved for us to make sure we don't miss you so the admin fee still applies. But you can pay online as part of the process, and complete it at your convenience, without having to catch us in office hours.

Enrolments for the shorter (weekend-long) sessions close as late as possible prior to the session itself. We appreciate your feedback on this, and the knowledge that you only need one weeks' heads up for your scheduled exam time.



Some syllabuses and grades, such as Teaching, may be assessed at a time outside of the advertised sessions. These are scheduled in discussion with the Tasmanian office so please get in touch to chat about your options.

Our full list of session dates is available in a downloadable version from our website and can be found at the back of this handbook. Annual exam fees are also listed on the website. Fees vary depending on the duration of the exam and grade, and contribute to administration and the related costs of Examiner, Supervisor, and venue fees.

TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES

The Syllabus is our number one source of information and thoroughly outlines all the elements and aspects that you need to prepare for an exam.

Publications

We support teaching and learning with our range of highly regarded publications, including carefully graded repertoire books (Grade books), technical work books, handbooks, sight reading examples, and so on. Your favourite local retailer will have copies of most publications but you can always head to our <u>AMEB Online Shop</u> for any AMEB and Rockschool products.

Recorded accompaniment

CDs of recorded accompaniment have been developed (in some instruments) up to Grade 3, to support the pieces in the AMEB Grade books. These are fantastic practice tools to help with solidifying rhythm and pitch. To support our learners in remote communities, or with difficult financials situations, these recordings may be used in exams (although we do acknowledge that there's no substitute for working with a live associate artist!). Please note that the candidate must provide the device to play their accompaniments in their exam. All CDs are available through the <u>AMEB Online Shop</u>. If you're just looking for one or two tracks, or simply prefer digital, they can be found on a number of platforms, such as iTunes and Google Play.

Apps for learning

The <u>MyTempo App</u> is a great resource to get the most out of your AMEB Recorded Accompaniments, and enables the user to change the speed of the recording for enhanced practice. The MyTempo app features a range of new and enhanced functions to better support students and is available for both Apple and Android devices.

The <u>*REPLAY* App</u> specifically supports Rockschool syllabuses and allows learners to change the tempo of their backing track, select bars to loop repeatedly, change the key and more. The App can be downloaded via the <u>Rockschool UK website</u>.

Theory

Practice exams are available as downloadable PDFs from the AMEB Federal website and the Online Theory Courses have excellent walkthroughs and demonstrations of how to use the software. Online Theory Exam enrolments include unlimited practice exams. If you enrol your own students, you can track their progress by viewing practice exam results and identify those areas that you might need to continue to work on. Analytical notes and prepared scores are also available through the AMEB Federal website.

Workshops, seminars and masterclasses

We aim to curate and present topics of interest to teachers and students. Please let us know if you would like support with a particular teaching topic, or if you have an idea for a workshop.



Teacher Vitality Day!

This is the not-to-be-missed event for the year. We present to you a day aimed to invigorate and energise. We'll again be running workshops with wellbeing experts and other great content to help you stay up to date with the latest tools to support your teaching and your students. There'll also be networking opportunities (or just the chance to catch up with your colleagues over some nibbles). We'll present Teacher Vitality Day in the north and the south. This year's north venue will be Burnie. Further details and information (along with how to register) will be shared as the pieces settle into place. For now, pop these dates in the diary so you don't miss out and stay tuned to our eNews for further announcements and how to register for the free event. Saturday 16 March and Sunday 17 March (Burnie and Hobart with further details TBA).

Candidate Wellbeing Resources

Want to help your student in every way possible?

We've put together a whole bunch of suggestions and recommendations supported by research and best practices to take them beyond the scales and warm ups. They can learn about why things like sleep, diet, and exercise are important for their craft, and we've included links to support networks and avenues to seek further guidance – whether that be for mental health reasons or to overcome performance anxiety.

Have a read and direct your students (and their parents) to what we hope will be a useful and meaningful source of information.

The <u>Candidate Wellbeing Resource page</u> can be found via the *Resources and support* menu on our AMEB Tasmania website.

Facebook

Like us on Facebook (<u>/AMEBTasmania</u>) to stay up to date with all sorts of things – events, PD opportunities, sales and discount offers, research that supports the case for more arts for everyone, and so much more.

GENERAL EXAM PREP POINTERS

We have a section on our <u>website</u> with lots of helpful hints for your students, and we *strongly* recommend you (and they, and their parents) have a read as part of your exam preparation. You can also have a look at our <u>News items</u> on our website to read a summary of our Examiners' observations from last year. They've identified some exam elements that were often under prepared which might be a handy reminder to help with your exam preparation.

When preparing for Comprehensive exams, include aural, sight reading, and general knowledge as integral parts of your normal lesson routine. These are equally important for Repertoire exams – despite not being examined separately in the exam, they're still fundamental elements of musicianship and will be assessed through the pieces presented.

Encourage students to be calm at and during their music exam. Nerves can manifest in all manner of ways so, where possible, arrange performances for groups of your students before the exam so that they have some opportunities to present to an audience (eg Eisteddfod, studio soiree, mock exam). And be mindful of the stressors that parents and you can inadvertently place on them – kids in particular are really great at picking up when someone else is nervous or concerned.

If you're planning a studio concert, please send us some details – we'd be very happy to post it on Facebook to help get some more audience in the room (and perhaps bring in some prospective future students...).



Instil in their performances a thoughtful and measured preparation before commencing each requirement, they won't have the luxury of 10 minutes but they're not actually expected to commence immediately after being invited.

Suggest to students that they ask politely for clarification if they are unsure about the requirement or question being asked of them by the examiner. It's perfectly ok to do this and the Examiners would really rather this than assuming they're understood and the candidate not performing their best.

Remind students that pauses during the exam are probably because the examiner is making their assessment notes and is an indication of neither positive nor negative progress.

Instruct students to wear appropriate clothing that is also neat and comfortable, including shoes (eg suitable for pedalling, or heels that won't disrupt breathing).

After the exam

We appreciate that you and your student will be very anxious to hear of their <u>results</u>. These can take up to a few weeks to get to you (especially in longer sessions). A number of things can delay getting reports issued: Examiners may hold onto a batch of reports until they've completed all of their exam days; the admin team might need to prioritise ongoing exam days before issuing reports; there may have been an error in an enrolment that needs clarification before reports can be issued; and so on.

Please help us to manage expectations by letting students and parents know about this timeline and rest assured that we're not withholding reports just because we feel like it.

When reading the report, be receptive to comments and suggestions. Read your students' exam reports with an understanding that you were not present in the exam itself. Be aware that what you covered in preparation may not have translated to the day (despite everyone's hopes that it will!).

Interpret your students' results as one person's opinion on one day of a student's learning life, not as a definitive statement of their potential or ability. Use comments and suggestions to reflect upon your own ideas and teaching strategies and as a guide for continued growth of the student.

<u>Certificates</u> for eligible exams will be posted to the Enroller, following the end of the exam session. If an additional theory component is required, we'll withhold the certificate until that's complete. If the theory component is completed after the practical exam, we have no automatic way to match up a theory result with the pending certificate (well, at the moment at least). We're continuing to work on SCORE to help us automate this but, in the meantime, we need your help – just send us an email to let us know that you've done the theory part and request your certificate. We even have a handy <u>form on our website</u> for this!

EXAM PREP CHECKLIST

Double-check all technical, repertoire and other requirements against the relevant Syllabus you've enrolled in (do *not* mix old and new syllabus material). Grade Books, Manual List repertoire and other details do change from time to time so we always recommend having the latest version of the Syllabus.



Submit your repertoire. You can do this in SCORE ahead of the day but please remember to complete this a minimum of 72 hours ahead of your exam (2 weeks for Diplomas). If you're not able to do that, please print the form (on the final page of your Exam Notification), and complete it manually to bring with you on the day. More details are in the Exam Notification.

Write the titles of the works by referring to the current syllabus as your guide, rather than referring to the music books being used. This is a handy double-check of the repertoire you've selected.

You no longer need to print out your Exam Notification but the Exam Supervisor on the day will need to sight it – this could be on a device or the printed paper.

Don't forget to share triple check the enrolment on the Exam Notification: the exam you've enrolled for informs what the Examiner will be assessing; the Candidate's name is what will be printed on their certificate so it's important their qualification is accurate. And share the notification with your Candidate, their parents, and the accompanist or associate artist (if relevant) so that everyone can be at the right place and at the right time.

Gat all of your music/text ready.

For <u>Music</u>, this includes:

- Originals or photocopies accompanied by permissions;
- Put tabs on the pages to make the pieces easy to find;
- Page turning has been included in lessons and rehearsals (eg memorising or photocopying relevant pages);
- Erase any general knowledge references on the music well before the exam so that they get used to the appearance of the presentation copy in preparatory practice;
- Rockschool: remember to photocopy any page turns you need you are not permitted to have a page turner in the exam room with you.

For Speech & Drama, this includes:

- Any memorised interpretations should be accompanied by one copy of all passages presented in the program (bringing a copy is optional for original talks in senior grades);
- Two copies of reading material, including prose, poetry and drama readings one for the student, and one for the examiner, including anthology poems in Drama & Performance, and any reading task for Voice & Communication (Note: it is not necessary to bring a second copy of the candidate's choice of consecutive reading pages from a prose text. The prose text itself will be sufficient to enable the examiner to choose a short passage to be read);
- Drama & Communication Folios should include the words of all the texts and selfdevised dialogue used in the performance;
- Any edited passages should either be copied or re-typed so that only the character and/or words the candidate is presenting are shown
- Written material should be neat, accurate and easily accessible place tabs on pages of text to find easily and quickly.
- Help the Examiner by presenting all material in a display file or similar, in order of presentation.

Check the venue address and assist your students with instructions on how to get there. Consider where to park ahead of the day.



Remind students to arrive at the exam venue at least fifteen minutes before their allocated exam time. Have a strategy you can suggest for parents to use if they arrive too early, or if the exam start is delayed unexpectedly.

Remind all visitors (including teachers and parents) that they are required to follow the directions of Exam Supervisors.

Remember that waiting rooms (and warm up room, if available) are not a teaching studio. Only limited time is available in these and availability is not guaranteed.

MUSIC CANDIDATE PREPARATION TIPS

Observe and include minimum speeds for technical work in your preparatory lessons. Taking them a little faster than the minimum tempi in practice is a useful strategy to ensure that students achieve the minimum tempo with comfort.

SPEECH & DRAMA CANDIDATE PREPARATION TIPS

Appropriate choice of clothing can aid in the overall impression a Speech candidate makes in the exam. Encourage candidates to select one outfit that is functional and can accommodate all the various characterisations, eras and styles of delivery being presented, and is suited to the movements, gestures or props supporting their delivery. Clothing should not be distracting either to candidate or to Examiner. School uniforms are acceptable.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Safety and wellbeing

Keeping our team, candidates, and community safe is our first priority. We continue to take guidance from the health and Government advice, and we aim to remain agile in response to this continually changing environment. Thank you for your support and cooperation with these measures and understanding throughout the challenges.

If you feel that you should not attend a face-to-face exam, Video Exams remain an option for all syllabuses (except Diplomas). Please have a read of those options on our website, on our *Syllabuses* page.

With the new year, we have undertaken a fresh risk assessment and are asking our venues for their updated requirements. At this stage, there are no vaccination requirements for any of our venues and we are withdrawing some of the measures that have been in place through the pandemic. However, all exam day attendees are still expected to:

- Sanitise hands upon arrival
- Practice good personal hygiene
- Follow any instructions from AMEB personnel
- Adhere to Government, AMEB, and venue requirements.



Some Government recommendations remain in place and we'll continue to respond accordingly if/when changes to requirements are made. We'll ensure you have the latest on any changes as soon as we can gain an understanding of those changes, and what they mean for exam days.

We're here to help

Wondering what options might be available to you? Worried about your personal circumstances? Unsure if you should turn up on exam day? Please get in touch. We're humans, too, and we want to see you safe and your students thriving.

TEACHERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Communication

If you're the Enroller, whether you're registered as a teacher or representing a school, it is your responsibility to ensure all exam notifications, reports, and other communiques are provided to your students and/or their parents, and any associate artists.

We will do all we can to keep you up to date with new opportunities, changes to the Syllabuses, and important things you might need to know. You can stay in the loop through our <u>eNews</u>, and our <u>AMEB Tasmania Facebook Page</u>.

Exam sessions

Please be prepared for an exam to be scheduled at any time during the selected session. Yes, this does include all seven days of the week.

Conflicts of interest

Many of our Examiners hold their position due to their excellent teaching capabilities, and we recognise that Tassie's a small place. For this reason, there is a section on the enrolment form for you to let us know of any Examiners we should avoid assigning to your exam. Please note that requests for specific Examiners are viewed as potential conflicts of interest and will not be indulged.

Can't make an exam

There is a section in the enrolment form for you to note compulsory school activities and religious holidays. Please note that we can <u>not</u> be held responsible for scheduling an exam at a time your student isn't available if you haven't provided this information.

If something comes up and availability changes, please get in touch – the sooner the better! Shifting an exam time has many flow on effects, but we will certainly take a look at it the options for you. The earlier you let us know, the more likelihood of an alternative being available, especially if it's before the exam has been scheduled. Also, check our policies to know where you stand regarding transfer fees and refunds.

Last minute situations preventing a candidate from attending their exam, may be eligible for special consideration, IF we're aware ahead of time. Operationally, advanced warning also allows us to get the message to the Examiner, Supervisor, and anyone else who needs to know, and there may even be a hopeful candidate waiting in the wings for your timeslot.

We appreciate that life happens and, from time to time, a change may be needed to your scheduled exam time. Please understand that there are a lot of considerations that go into setting these times, and many factors are at play, which may mean a change can not be



accommodated. As such, we have listed the main scenarios, possible alternatives, and associated fees on our website in our <u>Enrolment Policies</u> document.

Policies

Our policies sit on our website and are complemented by our social media Code of Conduct (available on our Facebook Page). The majority of our candidates are under 18 and, while we take everyone's welfare seriously, we pay special care to ensure that those who are more vulnerable are protected. If, at any time, a member of the AMEB team requests you to modify your behaviour or leave a venue, you must comply.

We respect the privacy of candidates, and all those for whom we store personal details, and use our best endeavours to maintain confidentiality and respect. All AMEB communication about exams is normally with the Enroller, who might be the teacher, parent or guardian or (in the case of 18+ years) the candidate themselves. Please note that we may ask you to provide information that will allow us to confirm your identity before we can discuss a candidate's exam details.

AMEB AWARD

Is your student one of the many high achievers in our industry? Or do they maybe need a little extra motivation? This program could be what you both need!

The AMEB Award aims to recognise and celebrate the achievements of emerging performing artists, and to help them develop the values and skills that will build a thriving industry.

Underpinned by the values of Leadership, Creativity, Collaboration, Community, Entrepreneurship, and Assistance and support, each participant will complete various performance and contribution activities. Along with an AMEB exam, these activities will expand their creative horizons and support them to grow as a performer.

There's a huge amount of flexibility in the various activities – one performance must be with the exam instrument/specialty but the rest could encompass a variety of areas, for example a student completing their AMEB Singing exam might also be taking extracurricular dance lessons, have a second specialty in their local concert band, and give a speech at school assembly. They should be recognised for all their involvement and contributions to the performing arts, as well as their commitment to developing their own craft.

We'd like to help you celebrate these talented and enthusiastic artists and there are lots of opportunities to really showcase the talent around you. We'd love to attend an end of year assembly where an AMEB representative could present your year's recipients with their certificates and lapel pins. Or perhaps you'd like to advertise for prospective students that you offer and support the AMEB Award program? Please have a chat with us as we'd love to provide you with some promo material, copy, and anything else that would help to raise your own profile along with your talented students!

Enrolments are open year-round via SCORE, with 12 months to complete all the requirements. Find out all the details along with ideas for Activities, FAQs and lots more to start you off from our <u>AMEB Federal website</u>.



CONTACT US

Quick reference contacts: infotas@ameb.edu.au 03 6226 7337

The team in the AMEB Tasmania State Office is here to help. Please note that our office is open part time so we still recommend getting in touch to make an appointment – we'd love to see you! Our office is located in the Centre for the Arts, UTAS:

37 Hunter Street Hobart Level 2, Room 115 Monday – Friday, 9am – 2pm

Exams Coordinator – Gabi Robin grobin@ameb.edu.au 03 6226 7337 Please note that Gabi works part time, with standard hours as Monday to Friday, 9am to 2pm.

State Manager – Michelle Forbes <u>mforbes@ameb.edu.au</u> 03 6226 7337 Michelle can also be reached during office hours and through to 5pm each working day via email or phone.

AMEB Federal team

SCORE and other Federal support: 1300 725 709 or <u>online@ameb.edu.au</u> AMEB Online Shop: <u>ameb.edu.au</u>

Please remember to keep us updated with any changes to your contact details either via SCORE, or by contacting the office.

Please find on the back page of this document our newly designed exam session dates. Yes, there is a section upside down. But follow the fold prompts and you'll have a handy desk calendar!

Our <u>AMEB Online Shop</u> has many great resources and publications including:

- grade books
- technical workbooks
- recordings and handbooks
- aural and sight-reading books
- manual of syllabuses
- recorded accompaniments
- theory analysis and resources
- practice exams



* All instruments includes all specialisations across all syllabuses under Classical/For Leisure Music, Contemporary Music, and Speech & Drama. ** Final week is prioritised for TCE students.

Session 2	All Grades and Diplomas	6 May, 2024
15 Jun – 7 Jul	All instruments*, all syllabuses	All locations
Session 3	Piano (Classical/For Leisure)	29 July, 2024
17-18 Aug	Grade exams only	Private venue, Burnie only
Session 4	Piano (Classical/For Leisure)	12 August, 2024
7-8 Sep	Associate Diplomas (all classical instruments)	Hobart and Launceston
Session 5	All Grades and Diplomas	26 August, 2024
19 Oct - 27 Nov**	All instruments*, all syllabuses	All locations

Piano (Classical/For Leisure), Strings (Hobart only)

Associate Diplomas (all classical instruments)

Exam fees and other information can be found on the deme/ue.ube.setu erom bne sweNe score.ameb.edu.au. Facebook.com/AMEBTasmania SCORE is your AMEB enrolment management platform: How to enrol

Exams available

online at any time.

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Exam locations

exams and Music Production can be also be taken

Performance. Rockschool Contemporary Music Theory Music, Musicianship, Music Craft, and Speech and

Our suite of Online Theory Exams includes Theory of

smexe and (brass only) in Uiverstone. All grade exams

Exams will be held in Hobart, Launceston, Devonport,

can also be undertaken via Video Exam.

deme/ue.ube.setu :efiedew einemeel & AMA

Closing date

18 March, 2024

Hobart and Launceston

Please note

You can enrol at any time via SCORE. our team in the Federal Office.

Music Production, and Diploma exams are delivered by availability. Exams for PAA and Rockschool Theory,

session and are subject to venue and Examiner

Exams may be scheduled across any date within the

Something bespoke?

request for groups, details of which can be tound on Paper-based Music Theory exams will be available on

accommodate groups of enrolments at other times. session time? Please get in touch as we may be able to sessions? Run your own exam venue? Request a new Want to enrol for a Video Exam outside of these the AMEB Tasmania website.

Print, fold, and stick for your personal desk calendar. Use the QR codes to go directly to exam info or to SCORE.

EXAM SESSIONS

2024 AMEB

Ready to enrol? Head to SCORE!



AINAM2AT

ΟΝΙΛΕΚΣΙΤΥ

Session date

Session 1

6-7 Apr

Find out more about exams.