

GUIDELINES FOR GRADES 6 - 8

All candidates entering Grades 6 - 8 must enter initially at Grade 6 level. Candidates entering Grade 6 examination must be minimum 14 years of age on the 1st January of the year in which the examination takes place.

In Grades 6, 7 and 8, candidates must submit a **Research Project** as part of examination. A copy of the Research Project must reach the SCT Examination Office by email attachment only (PDF or Word format) by 5pm on March 01st prior to examination. The Research Project must be accompanied by a completed Cover Sheet, downloadable from the SCT website. Any Research Project received after this date will not be assessed and candidate will therefore not be eligible for any of the marks available for this section. Guidelines for subject area of Research Project are detailed under relevant grade information.

All audio, video and written (including online) sources utilised in the course of Research Project preparation must be acknowledged, and transcribing or plagiarising of existing material will render project inadmissible for marking.

During the course of the Musical Discussion & Repertoire section of the examination, the Examiner will discuss aspects of the Research Project with the candidate. Particular focus will be given to the candidate's ability to recall key information from the Research Project.

Performance tunes can be selected from the list of Suggested Tunes on pages 17 to 19 of this Syllabus. Alternatively candidates can play tunes of their own choice, provided the tunes are of similar standard to those featured on the list of Suggested Tunes.

Candidates awarded Distinction in **Grade 8** will receive the Mícheál Ó hEidhin medal in recognition of achieving an exceptional standard of musicianship.

GRADE 6

■ Performance (60 marks):

8 tunes from a prepared list of 13 as follows:

Candidates will be asked to play **one Slow Air**, **two Double Jigs** (connected), **two Slip Jigs** (connected), **two Reels** (connected).

Also to play **one** of the following: Mazurka, Fling, Barndance, Hornpipe, Schottische or Polka (as chosen by the Examiner).

Note: Slow Air may be chosen from list of suggested slow airs on page 17 of Syllabus

■ Aural Awareness (10 marks):

Candidates will be asked

1) to identify tune type **and** time signature based on a sample 8-bar melody played **twice** by the Examiner, i.e. Air, March, Polka, Double Jig, Reel, Slide, Hornpipe, Slip Jig, Mazurka, Barndance.

2) to name the upper of two notes - Root D being the lower note, and the upper note being any note from the major Diatonic Scale of D, as played **twice** by the Examiner.

3) to repeat on their instrument a 2-bar phrase in 4/4 time in the key of D major with use of ornamentation, as played **three times** by the Examiner.

■ Research Project, Discussion & Repertoire (20 marks):

■ Research Project

The Research Project at Grade 6 level should be a biography-type essay of approximately 750 words about a prominent traditional musician (local, national or international), which displays evidence of original research (e.g. field interview, visits to regional or national archives) and musical analysis. All audio, video and written (including online) sources utilised must be acknowledged. (see also page 9)

■ Discussion

The Research Project will be discussed with the candidate during the examination, with an ability to recall and discuss relevant information being of critical importance. Candidates will also be expected to display awareness about musical activity in their local area including a detailed knowledge of local musicians and their stylistic traits.

■ Repertoire

Candidates are required to present a **Repertoire List**, comprising a suggested minimum of **40 tunes** (containing at least 7 different tune types), not including tunes already played in Performance section.

Candidates should be able to play short phrases from any tune featured on Repertoire List, and discuss the various tune types found on the list.

■ Literacy (10 marks):

Candidates should be able play the Scales of D major, G major, A major and C major, one octave up and down, on their instrument. Also to play the Dorian Mode (Ray Mode) in D i.e. E, F#, G, A, B, C#, D', E'.

Candidates will be asked to play a 4-bar sight-reading test in 6/8, 3/4, 4/4 using minims, crotchets, quavers and dotted crotchets in the key of D major, G major or A major. Candidates will be asked to identify time signature of sight-reading test as either 6/8, 4/4, or 3/4, which will not be indicated on the score written in staff notation. e.g.

