

An overview of external tests suitable for primary school pupils learning guitar, ukulele or mandolin

Exam	Guitar	Ukulele	Mandolin	Teacher-administered
<i>ABRSM Music Medals</i>	x			x
<i>ABRSM Grade tests</i>	x			
<i>MTB (Music Teachers Board)</i>	x	x		x
<i>Nationwide Music Exams</i>	x	x		x
<i>Victoria College of Music</i>	x	x	x	

If a test is marked as teacher-administered, it can be carried out during normal music lesson time. The test is recorded and sent off to the examining board. I think this style of test is an excellent, low-cost and low-hassle solution for the early levels and I use these a lot.

In general however, a music grade test is carried out by an external examiner, at a venue and on a date announced by the exam board. For the early grades, I think it is important to choose an exam board which has big numbers and which can therefore offer plenty of dates and venues. The Associated Board is by far the easiest choice from this point of view.

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