



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

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CLASSICAL INDIAN VOCAL & INSTRUMENTS GRADE EXAMINATIONS

Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory



Carnatic Vocal

Carnatic Violin

Carnatic Veena

Carnatic Keyboard

Carnatic
Jalatharangam

Carnatic Flute

Carnatic Guitar

Carnatic Saxophone

Carnatic Nadaswaram





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GRADE PROGRAMME IN CLASSICAL INDIAN VOCAL & INSTRUMENTS

Grade programme in Classical Indian Vocal & Instruments

(Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory)

Number of Pages 23 Pages

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Welcome

Griffin College London is a leading Exam board and independent education non-profit organisation has been providing assessments since 2010 with the vision to support Communities and encourage social cohesion in Academic, Language and Performing Arts Sector. Griffin has grown to become one of the leading institutions of its kind; widening participation to include anyone with a desire for education in Academics, Language and Performing Arts. Since becoming established in 2010 our experience, knowledge and skills have enabled us to build a reputation for reliably high standards in Academic Language and Performing Arts Sector.

Griffin College London is also leading UK based Higher Education College and Examination Board, by leading awarding body in UK.

Griffin College London qualifications are specifically designed to help students progress. Examiners are trained and tested every year to ensure they mark exam papers precisely and reliably. Before they mark any 'live' papers, examiners must pass 'standardisation' tests to ensure they can apply the mark scheme precisely, consistently.

Griffin College London offers Performing Arts examinations and qualifications for learners of all ages and abilities. These examinations are offered through the provision of syllabi in multiple genres and are taught by qualified teachers to enter candidates for examination. The syllabi are themselves developed by the Faculty Board Officer through 16 Faculties.

The administration of examination sessions from the point of receiving applications from the teacher / Centres through to booking the examiner, processing timetables, handling the processing of results and dispatching certificates and awards.

The constant monitoring of all examination processes to ensure standards of examinations are consistent. Ensuring all candidates are properly registered, checking and recording all examination results and monitoring all examiners' training and standards to ensure all candidates receive fair and equal assessment and all equal opportunities are met. It is also necessary for the organisation to ensure



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it meets the standards required by the awarding body authorities to retain the accreditation and recognition of its qualifications.

The Organisation seeks to maintain and develop standards of teaching through provision of appropriate courses and training opportunities. Furthermore, the Organisation provides a range of events and activities to ensure that the learners, teachers and examiners are kept up-to-date with developments in Performing Arts Qualification

At Griffin we pride ourselves on offering a quality learning background. We aim to design assessments that have a positive impact on student learning, engagement and achievement. We encourage candidates to bring their own choices and interests into our exams – this motivates students and makes the assessment more relevant and enjoyable. Our flexible exams give candidates the opportunity to perform to their strengths and interest. Our qualifications are accessible to candidates of all ages and from all cultures. Our highly qualified and friendly examiners are trained to put candidates at their ease and provide maximum encouragement.



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Foreword : Mrs Padma Rahulan MA (Hons)

Founder / Chair – Griffin College London

Griffin College London's vision is to provide entrée to all students intellectually demanding gratifying qualifications, which they can use to forward their academic studies and provide benchmarks to demonstrate their level of proficiency.

We recognise that students have different reasons for learning Fine Arts. We provide different pathways for Graded and Vocational training desire through:

Grade 1 to Master's Degree in the following Fine Arts Subjects

- Classical Indian Dance Bharatanatyam • Classical Indian Dance Kathak • Carnatic Vocal
- Carnatic Veena • Carnatic Violin • Carnatic Keyboard • Carnatic Guitar
- Carnatic Morsing, • Carnatic Flute • Carnatic Tabla • Carnatic Miruthangam
- Carnatic Kanjeera, • Carnatic Nadaswaram, • Carnatic Jalatharangam.
- Carnatic Thavil

Our team is a blend of exceptional talent and diverse cultures who take a creative and enthusiastic approach to the work that we do and we like seeing the same passion in all of our staff.

Griffin College London Fine Arts Qualification certificates for candidates provide the benchmark across the world.

We hope you enjoy using our material and taking our qualifications.



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CERTIFICATE COURSE LEVELS AND GUIDED LEARNING HOURS

Griffin Foundation Graded Examination in Vocal and Instruments

Beginner Level

GRADE 1, 2, 3

Maximum Guided Learning hrs. 60

- Theory Exam
- Practical Demonstration
- Exercise

Griffin Foundation Graded Examination in Vocal and Instruments

Preliminary Level

GRADE 4 & 5

Maximum Guided Learning hrs. 75

- Theory Exam
- Practical Demonstration
- Exercise



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Griffin Certificate in Graded Examination in Vocal and Instruments

Grade 6 Intermediate

Maximum Guided Learning hrs. 90

- Theory Exam
- Practical Demonstration
- Exercise

Griffin Certificate in Graded Examination in Vocal and Instruments

Grade 7 Intermediate

Maximum Guided Learning hrs. 90

- Theory Exam
- Practical Demonstration
- Presentation of File (containing record of musical notations, Candidates should research and to collect a selection of subsidiary material).



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Griffin Certificate in Graded Examination in Vocal and Instruments

Grade 8

Advanced

Higher Level Guided Learning hrs. 120

- Theory Exam
- Practical Demonstration
- Presentation of File (containing record of musical notations, Candidates should research and to collect a selection of subsidiary material).



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GRADE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN

CARNATIC CLASSICAL INDIAN VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTS

(Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory)

Carnatic Vocal, Carnatic Violin, Carnatic Veena, Carnatic Keyboard,
Carnatic Guitar, Carnatic Saxophone, Carnatic Flute,
Carnatic Jalatharangam and Carnatic Nadaswaram

GRADE I Level 1 – Beginner

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory orally
- Candidates should be learnt in Three Speeds with Thalam

Paper 1 - Technical Skills and Performance

	Item	Counts
1.	Sarali Varisaigal	12
2.	Janta Varisaigal	06
3.	Mel (Upper) Stayi Varisaigal	04
4.	Thattu Varisaigal	02
5.	Thevaram to be sung with Sruthi	01

Paper 2 – Oral

1	Knowledge on Abyasa Ganangal
2	Knowledge on Thala Angas
3	Name of the Seven Swaras
4	Name of the Seven Talas



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5 Names of the poets sung Thevaram

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GRADE 2 Level 1 – Beginner

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory orally.
- In addition to Grade 1 syllabus, both Oral and Practical questions on Grade 2 will be examined.

Practical – 1

	Item	Counts	Speeds
1	Alankarams	7	3 Speeds
2	Sanchari Geetham)	4	2 Speeds
3	Thivyanama Keerthanam	1	-
4	Thevaram to be sung with Sruthi	2	-
5	Thirupugazh	1	-

Paper 2 – Oral

1	Names of Thriangams
2	Names of the Sthayis and their notations
3	Tamil names of Saptha Swaras
4	Names of the Five Jathis



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5	Explanation of Arokanam and Avarokanam
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GRADE 3 Level 1 – Beginner

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory writing.
- In addition to Grade 1 syllabus, both Oral and Practical questions on Grade 2 and Grade 3 will be examined.

Paper 1 - Practical

	Item	Counts	Speeds
1	Sanchari Geetham	6	2
2	Lakshana Geetham	1	1
3	Jathiswaram	1	1
4	Swarajathi	1	1
5	Thirupugazh	2	1
6	Nattar Padal / Kavadi Chindhu	1	1



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Paper 2 – Theory

1	Prakruthi, Vikruthi Swaras.
2	12 notes in the Octave and their names and symbols.
3	Komala and Theevira Swaras
4	Knowledge on notation used in Sangeetham
5	Explanation of Avarthanam
6	Raga Lakshanam Sankarabaranam ,Mayamalavagowla, Kalyani
7	Tala Eduppu (Graham))



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GRADE 4 Level 2 –Preliminary

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory writing.
- In addition to Grade 1 syllabus, both Oral and Practical questions on Grade 2 and Grade 3 and Grade 4 will be examined

Paper 1 - Practical

	Item	Counts	Speeds
1	Adi Talam Varnam	3	2
2	Mathima Kala Keerthanai (Adi, Rupaka and Chapu Thalam)	4	-
3	Venba (Nalvazhi, Moothurai)	1	-
4	Thiruvagasam	1	-
5	Mellisai paadal (Songs on Bharathiyar, Bharathidasan)	1	-



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Paper 2 - Theory

1	Explanation on Janaka and Janya Ragams.
2	Types of Janya Raga and also Panchamathanthiya, Theivathanthiya and Nishathanthiya Raga with examples.
3	Structure of Geetham and Jathiswaram
4	Explanation on Types of Thalas
5	Life History of Thiyagaraja Swamy
6	The Scheme of 35 Thalas
7	Raga Lakshanam : Mohanam, Bilhari, Hamsadhvini, Malahari, Mathyamavathi , Suddhasaveri



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GRADE 5 (Level 2 –Intermediate)

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory writing.
- In addition to Grade 1 syllabus, both Oral and Practical questions on Grade 2, Grade 3 Grade 4 and Grade 5 will be examined.

Paper 1 - Practical

	Item	Counts	Speeds
1	Adi Thala Varnam	5	2
2	Navaragamalika Varnam	1	2
3	Mathimakala keerthanai	6	-
4	Kalpana Swaram for 1 Roopaka Tala Kriti.	1	-
5	Chowka Kala keerthanai	1	-



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6	Thiruvisaipa	1	-
7	Sight Singing -All candidates should be able to Sing the given Swaras, Korvai.	1	

Paper 2 - Theory

1	Knowledge on 72 Melakartha Ragams
2	Life history of the Composers Shiyama Sastrigal, Muthuswamy Dikshitar Purandaradasar
3	Explanation on Musical Instruments along with their Pictures Veenai Flute
4	Structure of Swarajathi, Varnam and Keerthanam
5	Raga Lakshanam for - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thodi• Harikambogi• Karaharapriya• Vasantha• Hindolam• Kambodhi



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GRADE 6 (Level 3 –Intermediate)

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory writing.
- In addition to Grade 1 syllabus, both Oral and Practical questions on Grade 2, Grade 3 Grade 4, Grade 5 and Grade 6 will be examined.

- **Paper 1 - Practical**

	Item	Counts	Speeds
1	Ada Thala Varnam	2	2
2	Jampai Thala Varnam	1	2
3	Mathimakala Krithi ,Raga Alapana	10	2
4	Chowka Kala Krithi	2	
5	Thirupallandu	1	



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Paper 2 - Theory

1	Explanation on Musical Instruments along with their Pictures, Violin and Miruthangam
2	Gamakas and their types
3	Life History of Papanasam Sivam, Gopalakrishna Bharati
4	Knowledge on Varnam and Swarjathi
5	Manotharma Sangeetham
6	Names of the Ragas in Pannisai Mayamalava Gowlai Bairavi Kethara Gowlai Sankarabaranam Mathyamavathi Kambothi Panthuvarali Kambeeranattai
7	Raga Lakshanam Arabi Kamas Abogi Bairavi Panthuvarali Kethara Gowlai



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GRADE 7 (Level 3 –Intermediate)

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory writing.
- In addition to Grade 1 syllabus, both Oral and Practical questions on Grade 2, Grade 3 Grade 4, Grade 5, Grade 6 and Grade 7 will be examined.
- **Paper 1 - Practical**

	Item	Counts	Speeds
1	Ada Tala Varnam	3	2
2	Pancharatna Kriti	1	
3	Ragamalika Keerthanai	1	
4	Mathima Kala Keerthanai	15	
5	Thillana	2	
6	Chowka Kala Keerthanai	3	
7	Patham	1	



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8	Raga Alapana, Niraval, Kalpana Swaram	1	
9	Thirupuranam	1	

Paper 2 - Theory

1	Brief Explanation on Manotharma Sangeetham
2	Life History of Muthuthandavar Arunachalakavirayar Swati ThirunnaI
3	Brief Knowledge on the below Folk genre. Thalattu Kummi Kolattam Harvest Pannisai
4	Raga Lakshanam Kannada Shanmugapriya Saveri Nattai Sriragam Varali Gowlai
5	Explanation on Musical Instruments along with their Pictures Thavil Nadaswaram



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GRADE 8

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory writing.
- In addition to Grade 1 syllabus, both Oral and Practical questions on Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 7 and Grade 8 will be examined.

Paper 1 - Practical	Item	Counts	Speeds
1	Pancharatna Kriti	2	
2	Patha Varnam	1	
3	Ragamalika Keerthanai	2	
4	Virutham	1	
5	Ashtapathi / Javali	1	
6	Thillana	3	



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7	Patham	2	
8	Ragam, Thanam, Pallavi , Niraval, Kalpana Swaram	1	
9	Method of Teaching (Candidate should be able to demonstrate his/her ability in the Method of Teaching)		
10	Ability to teach Student on Geetham or Jathiswaram		

Paper 2 - Theory

1	History of Carnatic Music
2	Basic knowledge on Western Music
3	Comparison of Indian Music with Western Music
4	Knowledge on Hindustani Music
5	Concert format in Carnatic Music
6	Art of Teaching and Conduct a Music lesson for a 1 hour



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Book References

1. South Indian Music (Books 1 to 6) by Prof. P Sambamurthy
2. Dictionary of South Indian Music (3 Volumes) by Prof. P Sambamurthy
3. A practical Course in Carnatic Music - Books 1-3 by Prof. P Sambamurthy
4. Aids to the Teaching of Music by Prof. P Sambamurthy
5. Pictures of famous Composers, Musicians by Prof. P Sambamurthy
6. Great Musicians by Prof. P Sambamurthy
7. Great Composers by Prof. P Sambamurthy
8. Other publications by Prof. P Sambamurthy (Books in Tamil):
9. Keerthana Sagaram
10. Karnataka Sangeetham (Books 1-3)
11. Sri A S Panchapakesaiyer's Books:
12. Ganamrutha Bodhini
13. Karnataka Sangeetha Saastiram
14. Sangeetha Santhirikai by Manikka Mudaliyar, Selam.
15. Ragas in Carnatic Music by Dr. S Bhagyalekshmy
16. Sri Thyagaraja Swamy Charitham by P K Moorthy
17. Bharathiya Isai Iyal Payirchchi Nool by Dr S V Leela
18. Muthuswamy Dikshitarin Varalaaru
19. Keerthana Maalai (2 Volumes) by Papanasam Sivan
20. Studies in Indian Music by T V Subba Rao
21. Sri Subramaniya Baharathiyar songs
22. Kalaik Kalanjiam
23. Thennaka Isai Iyal by Dr S S Sellaturai
24. Sangeetha Saasthiram by K Velayuthapillai
25. Vaageyakararkalin Sarithiram by Sundharam Iyer
26. Karnamirtha Saagaram by Abraham Pandithar
27. Thamizhisai Theebam by Satchithanathan Sri Kantha
28. Sangeetha Saaram by R V Krishnan (3 Volumes)