

PDMC Performance Assessments

What are PDMC Performance Assessments?

These are introductory grade assessments similar to exams offered by official music exam boards. They are offered by PDMC as an affordable and accessible in-house alternative.

Who is the Performance Assessment for?

This is aimed at young string players, who are in their early years of learning violin, viola or cello.

Why should pupils take Performance Assessments?

Experience shows that graded music assessments offer a significant motivation for pupils. With sufficient preparation from everyone involved (teacher, pupil, parents/carers) the Assessments will lead to a greater satisfaction in playing and higher technical accomplishments.

What will the Assessments consist of?

The **Introductory Assessment** will consist of two pieces from the PDMC syllabus, two scales, and a short sightreading test (playing a simple piece of unknown music presented by the examiner). This is similar to official exam board Initial Grade requirements.

The **Level 1 Assessment** will consist of three pieces from the PDMC syllabus, three scales and an appropriate sightreading test. This is similar to official exam board Grade 1 requirements.

All pupils will receive written feedback on their performance and successful candidates will receive a PDMC Certificate of Achievement.

For further details, including latest information about assessment dates and requirements, please visit our PDMC Performance Assessments webpage www.pdmc.org.uk/events/assessments

Who will assess the pupils?

The assessor will be a string teacher, known to PDMC, with years of experience of working with pupils in the region and will be fully DBS checked.

When and where will Performance Assessments for take place?

The first Performance Assessments will be on Saturday 5th July 2025, at a venue TBC in Buxton.

Can there be special arrangements for pupils who may need them?

We may be able to adjust the assessment procedure in special cases. Please speak initially to your child's string teacher if you think this may be appropriate.

How to apply?

After consultation with and recommendation by the pupil's teacher, please apply using our online form accessed using this link <https://forms.gle/jAvFdWsrjWYfGkgj7> or by scanning this QR code



If you are unable to complete the online form please contact admin@pdmc.org.uk

How much do PDMC Performance Assessments cost?

We are able to offer our assessments at £15 per child per assessment, which includes the cost of an accompanist - considerably cheaper than an official exam board fee.

If paying the assessment fee may be difficult for your family, please contact admin@pdmc.org.uk to enquire in confidence about a Bursary.

Who to contact with any questions

For further information please contact your string teacher or Marion Redman, PDMC Administrator, at admin@pdmc.org.uk

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