

# PAA Musical Theatre Recorded Video Exams

## Guidance for schools/venues

During the current Covid-19 crisis, RSL Awards is wholly committed to helping schools/venues to continue to offer their students the opportunity to achieve PAA qualifications where safely possible, including Musical Theatre, Jazz Dance and Street Dance graded exams.

RSL Awards is delighted to announce that PAA Musical Theatre exams (all grades) can be assessed through Recorded Video Exams, effective immediately.

Two types of Recorded Video Exams (RVE) are offered:

1. RVE@School
2. RVE@Home

### 1. RVE@School: Candidates take their Recorded Video Exam at the school/venue

**NB. By submitting your entry you agree to abide by the RSL Terms and Conditions for Video Exams.**

Schools/venues are responsible for ensuring the welfare of candidates throughout the video examination. Measures must be taken to ensure:

- candidates have an adequately sized space for the examination/recording to take place safely, with plenty of room for all dance movements
- a well-lit performance space, with no outside distractions or background noise
- flooring which is safe for dancing on, clean and free from debris, spillages, and any other hazards
- a chaperone to be present throughout the recording of the video, responsible for ensuring the physical and mental wellbeing of the candidates
- all relevant safeguarding procedures are adhered to

**RSL Awards assumes no liability for damage to property or injury sustained by any candidate or staff member while participating in Recorded Video Examinations.**

Additional regulations as follows:

The whole exam must be videoed continuously in one take, as if it was a live exam, with no editing permitted.

The Group Performance must adhere to the maximum duration indicated in the syllabus at the relevant grade.

There must be a maximum of eight candidates on screen at any one time and schools/venues must ensure that all candidates are fully visible.

The video should capture the entire performance space from the front, as if from the vantage point of the examiner. Different camera angles, close-ups etc. should not be used.

The music operator or Principal will undertake the running of the exam, including introducing the exam session at the start (centre name, date, candidate names and numbers) and introducing each exam component (Group Performance, Technical Skills Demonstration, and Understanding & Reflection). RSL has provided an example script to assist when conducting a Musical Theatre video examination.

Centres should ensure that the music, and the music operator's voice, are clearly audible on the video.

The music operator and chaperone must be visible on the video. They must not be positioned out of shot.

For dancing, teachers should ensure that the candidates' whole body is clearly visible.

For singing, candidates should have a phrase of solo singing each, either within the performance, or within a repeat of the song after the performance. Below are the minimum durations:

	Indicative Content		
GRADE	NUMBER OF SOLO LINES	BARS IN MUSIC	TIME IN SECONDS
Premiere/Debut	1	2-4 bars	5-10
Grade 1-3	2	4-8 bars	10-20
Grades 4-5	4	8-12 bars	20-30
Grades 6-7	6	16-20 bars	40-50
Grade 8	7	20-28 bars	50-70

**Note that the examiner will contact the principal or venue representative by email approximately 7 days before the day that the Technical Skills Demonstrations are due to be filmed, to introduce themselves and confirm information specific to the exam**

#### Technical Skills Demonstration:

- If Acting is chosen for the Technical Skills Demonstration (at grades 1-5 only), the teacher should put the candidates into pairs and each pair should demonstrate **all** of the scenarios for two candidates at the relevant grade. If there is an odd number of candidates, another student should partner that candidate (this student would not be assessed). The examiner will select at random **one** of the scenarios to watch and assess.
- If Acting is chosen for the Technical Skills Demonstration at grades 4 or 5, the examiner will send the previously unknown extra element on the day of the exam. Therefore, it is important that RSL are informed **at least one month in advance** of the date that the Technical Skills Demonstrations are due to be filmed.
- Debut candidates should be organised into groups of no more than 8, and, in these groups, they should demonstrate **all four** characters (Lion, Witch, Monkey, Clown) to the set music. The examiner will select at random **one** of the demonstrations to watch and assess.
- If Singing is chosen (Grades 1-8 only), candidates should sing solo. Please refer to the minimum durations above.

### Understanding and Reflection:

- Each candidate must respond to **all** of the given topics for the relevant grade, in the form of a short verbal presentation. For example, the topics at Grade 3 are:
  - The character's feelings
  - Character relationships
  - The context of the performance
  - Challenges of the performance

The Grade 3 candidate would present an overview of their knowledge and personal thoughts relating to the above topics to the camera.

The minimum and maximum durations for these presentations are below:

Premiere/Debut:	30-60 seconds
Grade 1-3:	1-2 minutes
Grades 4-5:	2-3 minutes
Grades 6-8:	3-4 minutes

To support teachers, RSL has provided a video outlining the topics for grades Premiere to 5, which can be found [here](#)

The video should be submitted as soon as practically possible after the date of the video examination.

## 2. RVE@Home: Candidates take their RVE from their home/residential setting

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For the Group Performance component, candidates record their individual parts at home and submit the unedited footage to the school/venue, who then edit the footage to create the final Group Performance.

**Editing must be only be used to put the relevant footage together to form a coherent performance, and must not obscure the candidates' original performance skills, or diminish the candidates' opportunity to meet the relevant assessment criteria for the grade.**

**The original, unedited, footage of the individual candidates' performances (recorded at home) must be retained and made available to RSL at the request of the examiner.** Note that examiners will normally request to see, and refer to, approximately 25% of this footage, in addition to the edited performance video, when assessing the candidates. However, venues should be prepared to make available any selection and number of candidates' individual performances on request.

There must be a maximum of eight candidates on screen at any one time and schools/venues must ensure that all candidates are fully visible.

The Group Performance, after editing, must adhere to the maximum duration indicated in the syllabus at the relevant grade.

For dancing, teachers should ensure that the candidates' whole body is clearly visible.

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Grade 8	7	20-28 bars	50-70

### Technical Skills Demonstration:

- If Acting is chosen for the Technical Skills Demonstration (at grades 1-5 only), the teacher should put the candidates into pairs on Zoom (or similar) and each pair should demonstrate **all** of the scenarios for two candidates at the relevant grade from their home, which should be recorded. If there is an odd number of candidates, another student should partner that candidate (this student would not be assessed). The examiner will select at random **one** of the scenarios to watch and assess.
- If Acting is chosen for the Technical Skills Demonstration at grades 4 or 5, the examiner will send the previously unknown extra element on the day of the exam. Therefore, it is important that RSL are informed **at least one month** in advance of the date that the Technical Skills Demonstrations are due to be filmed.
- Debut candidates should be organised into groups of no more than 8, on Zoom (or similar) and, in these groups, they should demonstrate **all four** characters (Lion, Witch, Monkey, Clown) to the set music. The examiner will select at random **one** of the demonstrations to watch and assess.
- If Singing is chosen (Grades 1-8 only), candidates should sing solo. Please refer to the minimum durations above.

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**The school/venue should compile and submit the following:**

- Edited video of the Group Performance
- Unedited video of the candidates' Technical Skills Demonstrations and Understanding & Reflection presentations
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**The videos should be submitted as soon as practically possible after all footage has been filmed, collated and edited.**

**Once the video has been received by RSL, schools will be informed within 48 hours of the selection of individual candidates' performances required by the examiner. This original and unedited footage must be submitted to RSL within 48 hours of it being requested.**

**Schools should also refer to the PAA Recorded Video Exams guide, for general and technical guidance on how to run PAA Recorded Video exams.**

*July 2021*