

Tel. 020 7405 6483

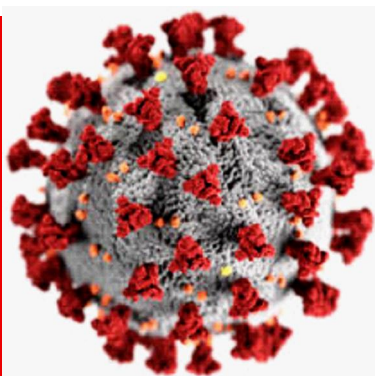
Email: [info@vcmexams.com](mailto:info@vcmexams.com)

*Encouraging performers and  
supporting teachers since 1890*

[www.vcmexams.com](http://www.vcmexams.com)

**LATEST INFORMATION  
SPRING 2021.**

**VCM EXAMS remain  
as flexible as  
possible to  
accommodate  
examination of  
candidates.**



Tel. 020 7405 6483

Email: [info@vcexamams.com](mailto:info@vcexamams.com)

*Encouraging performers and  
supporting teachers since 1890*

[www.vcmexams.com](http://www.vcmexams.com)

## Three flexible options

### Option One - Traditional face-to-face exams

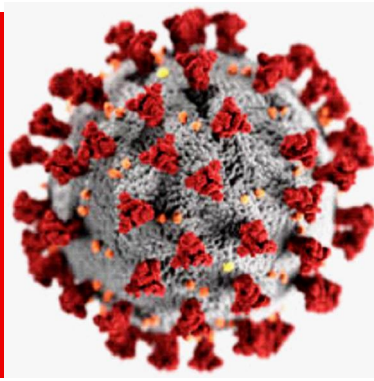
This is the familiar procedure that VCM has offered since it all began back in 1890. Candidates all travel to a central location or teacher's studio on a specified day and a visiting examiner sees each one in turn. Provided official restrictions allow this, we will continue to offer it provided sufficient demand justifies the expense. VCM has been known for conducting small sessions in places other boards will not visit. Common sense precautions will naturally apply.

### Option Two – Exams by video link

We offered exams via Skype, Zoom, Facetime, etc. long before the pandemic hit, mainly for remote candidates or where very small numbers of candidates wanted to enter. A mutually convenient date and time is agreed with an examiner and the whole exam is conducted over a video link. Sight Reading tests are emailed and either printed out or read directly from a device. Popularity for this option has grown hugely while travel restrictions have been imposed.

### Option Three – Exams by video + Recordings

This is the method favoured by some other boards (but VCM does it with less bureaucracy). Candidates email one-take unedited video recordings of themselves performing the main Solo Pieces which are marked by the examiner in advance. Then a short video session takes place between the examiner and the candidate to complete the remaining tests on a mutually agreed date.



Tel. 020 7405 6483

Email: [info@vcmexams.com](mailto:info@vcmexams.com)

*Encouraging performers and  
supporting teachers since 1890*

**[www.vcmexams.com](http://www.vcmexams.com)**

## Teaching and examining in a global pandemic.

Life as we all knew it has changed beyond all expectation and recognition since the beginning of the current decade. Teaching practices and methods of communicating have had to change - and rapidly.

Here at VCM we have been in a good position to adapt to the new normal as we have long believed in the principles of upholding standards and traditions while balancing them with new methods of working.

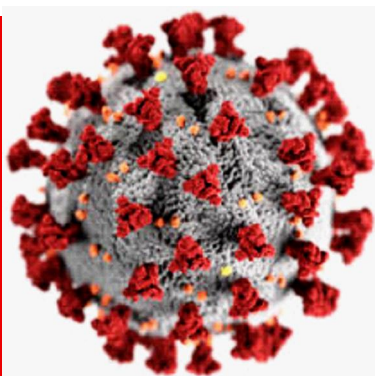
Working-from-home and online communication is nothing new to VCM staff, so we were well-equipped to meet the demands of carrying out our examinations by modern methods.

As always, we have been able to offer a flexible approach and work with teachers, parents, and candidates to provide a solution that suits everyone.

Of course, we will resume face-to-face examination sessions in the traditional format as soon restrictions allow, but the alternatives will remain available for the foreseeable future.

Particularly for nervous candidates or ones with some special needs, exams in familiar surroundings without a stranger present, can produce some very impressive performances.

And, as always, it is the young who adapt to innovative forms of communication quicker than their elders!



Tel. 020 7405 6483

Email: [info@vcmexams.com](mailto:info@vcmexams.com)

*Encouraging performers and  
supporting teachers since 1890*

**[www.vcmexams.com](http://www.vcmexams.com)**

### **Conventional examinations.**

We intend to resume conventional examinations as soon as schools are generally permitted to return to normal classroom lessons, provided suitable premises that conform to regulations are available. We anticipate this being at the end of next term so the closing date for entries will be 10 October, though we realise that anticipated dates may change at short notice. Social Distancing regulations must be followed with each candidate sanitising hands on entry to the examination room. Where Musicianship Tests require the examiner to use the same keyboard as the candidate, the examiner will hand-sanitise before touching the keyboard.

### **Examinations via video link.**

We have traditionally offered one-off examinations via video link to candidates in remote locations of those unable to attend a conventional centre.

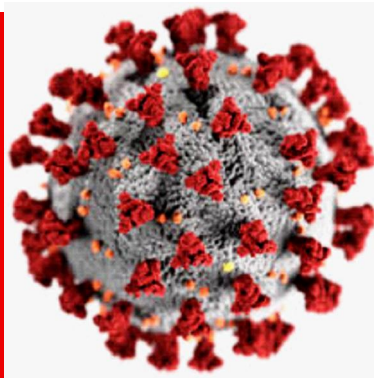
**Sight Reading** tests are emailed on the day of the examination.

### **Individuals and small groups.**

This is achieved by a simple video link e.g. on Skype or Zoom, to an email address or if preferred, via FaceTime. An entry form for this type can be downloaded from [www.vcmexams.com](http://www.vcmexams.com)

**Larger groups of candidates** submitted for examination by a teacher or group of teachers benefit from having a teacher designated as the person in charge, who establishes a video link with the examiner and then invites candidates one-by-one to join the call for the duration of the individual examination.

Solo Singing and Musical Theatre examinations can be carried out provided by video link using pre-recorded accompaniment or backing tracks. undertaken if the participants share



Tel. 020 7405 6483

Email: [info@vcmexams.com](mailto:info@vcmexams.com)

*Encouraging performers and  
supporting teachers since 1890*

**[www.vcmexams.com](http://www.vcmexams.com)**

Conventional examinations have previously only been possible where several candidates are ready for examination on the same day at the same venue. Using video links, it is possible to carry out examinations individually or in much smaller groups on a variety of dates.

Theory examinations can be taken at any time, provided that an approved invigilator other than the candidate's teacher is prepared to sign a declaration that the examination has been done under normal examination conditions, without any reference to text-books, electronic devices, etc.

Where examinations require a paperwork element, these should be submitted in Word or pdf format by email, clearly showing the name of the candidate.

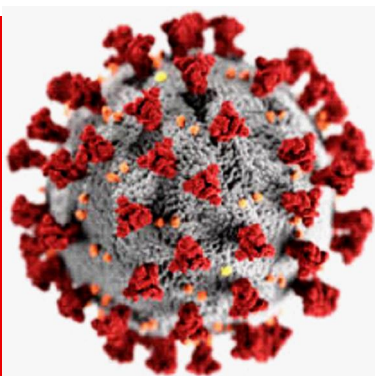
Examination fees are the same, whether done in person or electronically and will be invoiced via PayPal. Candidates who had entered and paid for an examination that was postponed by Lock-down; may re-enter at the next session, or by video link at a zero-transfer fee.

Please let us know which course of action you intend to take.

We wish you every success.







Tel. 020 7405 6483

Email: [info@vcmexams.com](mailto:info@vcmexams.com)

*Encouraging performers and  
supporting teachers since 1890*

**[www.vcmexams.com](http://www.vcmexams.com)**

### **Contacting VCM Exams**

**Until further notice, VCM is operating remotely. This means we do not have access to (snail) mail sent to our London address.**

**Wherever possible, correspondence should be carried out via email. Our email addresses are all working.**

**The preferred method of contact is always email. Email address is [info@vcmexams.com](mailto:info@vcmexams.com)**

**Our phone numbers 020 7405 6483 and 08 0800 EXAMS are also working as normal. If ringing from Irish Republic call free on 1800523 162**

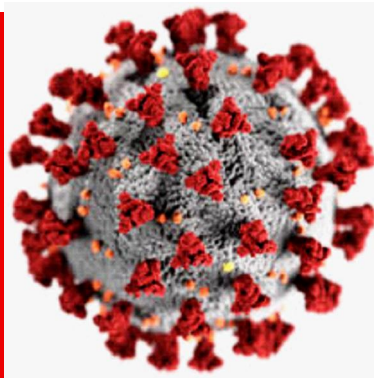
**We are also receiving mail sent to our Freepost address. This is**

### **Freepost VICTORIA COLLEGE EXAMS**

**Do not add anything to this address or put anything else or the envelope. It is available to anyone in the UK. If posting from Irish Republic, the address is Victoria College Exams, Dept.AA1302, PO Box 6151 FEEPOST Dublin 2**

**Please stay calm and safe. If exams are delayed, look upon it as extra time for practice. Playing a musical instrument or reciting literature is particularly good for mental wellbeing.**

**Victoria College Examinations**



Tel. 020 7405 6483

Email: [info@vcmexams.com](mailto:info@vcmexams.com)

*Encouraging performers and  
supporting teachers since 1890*

**[www.vcmexams.com](http://www.vcmexams.com)**

## Latest information on teaching from home 28 April 2021

Current advice is as follows:

### **England, Wales and Northern Ireland**

Face-to-face tuition is permitted in private homes for all children and adults subject to Government COVID-19 safety guidelines.

### **Scotland**

Face-to-face tuition is permitted in private homes is only permitted in Covid protection Level 3 areas