

## ABRSM accreditation – what’s in it for you?

When candidates pass an ABRSM exam, they will receive a certificate to mark this achievement. The certificate will have the Ofqual logo in the bottom left hand corner; only accredited qualifications are allowed to carry this logo.

Ofqual is the regulatory body in the UK responsible for accrediting qualifications including all UK national school exams such as GCSEs (taken at age 16) and A-levels (taken at age 18).

All accredited qualifications are given a UK National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level. This allows you to compare ABRSM qualifications with other UK accredited qualifications. Qualifications with the same NQF level are similar in terms of the depth of knowledge, skills and understanding required to achieve them.

The NQF levels for ABRSM exams are given in the back of all syllabus booklets. This table shows ABRSM qualifications alongside an example of another UK qualification with the same NQF levels so you can see just how our exams compare to UK school, college and university qualifications.

ABRSM exam	NQF level	Example qualification with the same NQF level
Grades 1–3	1	GCSEs at Grades D–G
Grades 4 and 5	2	GCSEs at Grades A*–C
Grades 6–8	3	A-levels
DipABRSM	4	Certificate of Higher Education
LRSM	6	Bachelors degree, graduate certificate or diploma
FRSM	7	Masters degree, postgraduate certificate or diploma

A candidate who has ABRSM Grade 6, 7 or 8 Practical or Theory may be able to gain points towards entrance to UK universities. All students applying to UK universities apply through UCAS (University and College Admissions Service). Offers of university places usually require students to have a certain number of UCAS points. These points are collected from various qualifications, including ABRSM exams at Grades 6–8. The point recommendations for ABRSM exams are as follows:

	Grade 6			Grade 7			Grade 8		
	Pass	Merit	Distinction	Pass	Merit	Distinction	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<b>Practical</b>	25	40	45	40	55	60	55	70	75
<b>Theory</b>	5	10	15	10	15	20	20	25	30

(these figures can also be found in the *Examination Information and Regulations* booklet, page 34)

Students can claim points for the highest grade they have passed in both Theory and Practical. For comparison, A-levels attract between 40 and 120 points, depending on the grade achieved. IB Diplomas attract between 260 and 720 depending on the number of IB points achieved.