

## NEWS 2026

### SYLLABUSES

#### Free 2026 syllabus downloads

For the first time, digital editions of all 2026 AMEB syllabuses will be available to download free of charge at [ameb.edu.au/syllabuses](http://ameb.edu.au/syllabuses). This includes individual instrument syllabuses, syllabuses grouped by instrument family, and the complete 2026 *Manual of Syllabuses* (digital edition). This exciting new initiative reflects AMEB's ongoing commitment to accessibility and support for teachers and candidates throughout Australia.

The printed edition of the 2026 *Manual of Syllabuses* will continue to be available for purchase from [ameb.edu.au/shop](http://ameb.edu.au/shop) and from leading music retailers.

#### Regulations: 21.3 Practical Gradings and Descriptors

The *Practical Gradings and Descriptors* (Section 21.3 of the AMEB Regulations, located in the front section of the *Manual of Syllabuses* and in all downloadable syllabuses) have been refined to improve clarity and ensure greater consistency in interpretation.

#### Piano Series 19

AMEB is proud to announce the launch of Piano Series 19 – a full suite of grade books, handbooks and recordings (Preliminary to Grade 8) available as an additional resource for users of the current Piano syllabus. Series 19 includes exciting and challenging repertoire across a variety of styles, representing a wealth of new options for candidates and their teachers.

The works featured in Piano Series 19 have been added to the Piano syllabus in the 2026 *Manual of Syllabuses* and downloadable digital syllabuses. Where these works previously appeared in the Manual Lists, they have been moved to the relevant grade book listings.

Beyond this update there has been no alteration to the Manual Lists in the Piano syllabus, and no grade book series has been withdrawn as a result of Series 19 being added.

There are also no changes to the technical work requirements in the current syllabus, which continue to be outlined in the *Piano Technical Work* Level 1 and Level 2 books (2018).

The following publications, available from December 2025, may be used with the existing syllabus:

- Piano Series 19 – Preliminary to Grade 8 (2025)*
- Piano Series 19 Handbook – Level 1 (2025, hardcopy edition)*
- Piano Series 19 Handbook – Level 2 (2025, hardcopy edition)*
- Piano Series 19 Handbooks – Preliminary to Grade 8 (2025, digital editions)*

Additionally, the following resources will be available in 2026:

*Piano Series 19 Recordings – Preliminary to Grade 8* (available to download from [ameb.edu.au](http://ameb.edu.au) and from music streaming platforms).

#### Teaching Skills Videos

AMEB is also proud to have launched a new resource to support studio teachers as well as candidates for AMEB's Teaching syllabuses: AMEB Teaching Skills Videos. This is a series of on-demand professional development videos that cover core aspects of music teaching, featuring leading music pedagogy researchers and practitioners. The videos are being released progressively, with each addressing one or more chapters from the AMEB Teaching Companion text (2023).

The first video, *Music Teaching Foundations* with Dr Jennifer Blackwell, is available now, exploring theories of learning, their application to music, and evidence-based teaching practices.

The videos are available for purchase and access through AMEB's online platform, SCORE – [score.ameb.edu.au](http://score.ameb.edu.au).

### Syllabus developments

#### Syllabus reviews

A review of the following syllabuses is currently underway:

- Cello
- Singing for Leisure

#### Notice of withdrawal from examination

From 1 January 2026 the following syllabus will no longer be available for examination:

- Viola (old syllabus), last published in the 2023 *Manual of Syllabuses*.

From 1 January 2027 the following syllabus will no longer be available for examination:

- Rockschool Piano (old syllabus)

From 1 January 2030 the following syllabus will no longer be available for examination:

- CTMusA, ATMusA and LTMusA (Teaching – old syllabus), last published in the 2023 *Manual of Syllabuses*. Please note: these are currently available only to candidates already enrolled and completing awards under the old syllabus.

### AMEB AWARD

The AMEB Award is a development program that supports and acknowledges the efforts of developing performers of all ages and stages. Participants expand their creative horizons and ultimately grow as a performer by undertaking three main Award requirements: an AMEB Qualification, Performances, and Contribution Activities. Since 2023, many AMEB candidates have demonstrated a commitment to the performing arts by completing their Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards.

The AMEB Award is available in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory, and Victoria. For more information about the AMEB Award visit [ameb.edu.au/award](http://ameb.edu.au/award).

To enrol visit SCORE – [score.ameb.edu.au](http://score.ameb.edu.au)

If you are based in Western Australia, you can participate in the SCSA endorsed WA AMEB Award. For more information please visit the AMEB WA website – [uwa.edu.au/ameb/wa-award-program](http://uwa.edu.au/ameb/wa-award-program).

### ROCKSCHOOL, PAA AND CREATIVE QUALIFICATIONS UPDATES

Performance Arts Awards (PAA) have been rebranded to Stageschool. Stageschool syllabuses include Musical Theatre, Jazz Dance, Street Dance, Acting, Screen Acting and Public Speaking. A new piano syllabus has been introduced in 2025 with a one-year overlap with the old syllabus. New grade books are available containing new technical work. Rockschool Performance Diplomas have been reviewed and new syllabuses are now available.

### ONLINE

#### AMEB Federal Office website

The AMEB Federal Office website showcases all we have to offer across music, speech & drama, performing arts and more. Visit us online to buy AMEB publications, access tips, information and videos, or browse our exam page, to find an exam or syllabus to suit you. Visit [ameb.edu.au](http://ameb.edu.au).

#### AMEB Online Shop

All AMEB publications are available for purchase from the AMEB Online Shop. In addition, a number of past exam papers, and study resources including Recorded Accompaniments are available for purchase as digital downloads from [ameb.edu.au/shop](http://ameb.edu.au/shop).

#### AMEB eNews

AMEB Federal Office publishes a regular e-Newsletter with updates and articles on topics of interest to teachers, students and parents. Subscribe to the eNews at [ameb.edu.au](http://ameb.edu.au).