

Voice for Life Singing Awards - Online Exams Guide from 2027

This is a short guide to preparing and taking our online awards examinations using the Revised 2027 Syllabus.

Introduction

Online examinations are available for the Singing Certificate, Bronze, Silver and Gold Level awards.

As much as possible of the exams is the same as the live person-to-person exams but there are some necessary changes. These are indicated in red type.

General points

1. Facilities/equipment needed

- a. Candidates will need a quiet location where interruption is unlikely.
- b. A good, reliable internet connection is essential.
- c. A computer, tablet or mobile phone which is capable of running Zoom **(please make sure you have installed the latest version of the Zoom app.)** Devices with larger screens are preferable as some parts of the test will rely on candidates answering questions to be shown on the screen.
- d. Please enable ORIGINAL SOUND on Zoom. For instructions on how to do this, [follow this link](#).
- e. A suitable way of supporting the device (a small stand, table etc.) so that the view and audibility of the candidate is guaranteed.
- f. An accompanist, or pre-recorded accompaniment.
- g. Either a piano or electronic keyboard, or a means of playing back a pre-recorded accompaniment over a loudspeaker.

2. The exam experience

- a. Exams will be conducted using Zoom.
- b. Exam appointments will be booked by the RSCM and the exams will be monitored and recorded to ensure safeguarding at all times.
- c. All the usual terms and conditions apply in the normal way.



Notes for all levels

Pre	The candidate should join the Zoom meeting about 5 minutes ahead of their allotted time. When the examiner is ready, the candidate will be admitted from the waiting room and their identity and programme confirmed.	
	At the very start of the exam candidates may be asked to try out singing so that the examiner can check the sound level and balance.	
1	Prepared sung items	These are sung by the candidate exactly as would be the case for an 'in person' exam .
5	Sight-Reading	A test will be shared online via a screen-share on Zoom. NB PRINTING OUT OF THE TESTS IS NO LONGER PERMITTED. The examiner will play through the test (approximately half of the test at Gold level) for the candidate, and they will have half a minute (1 minute for candidates requiring extra time) preparation time, as in the normal exam. The examiner will give them the key chord, starting note and the count-in, but the test will then be unaccompanied.
6	Technical Questions	The questions for this will be drawn from the sight-reading, which will remain on the screen share. At Gold Level, the examiner will scroll to the correct page for the candidate as necessary.
7	Aural Tests (Bronze and Silver)	Tests will consist of the same three elements. All tests will be delivered in the normal way from the examiner to the candidate via Zoom. Examiners will be aware that there will be a slight pause between elements of the echo test, owing to latency, and will warn the candidates about this.
8	Choir in Context	Questions will be asked in the normal way via Zoom. At Silver/Gold Level, the unfamiliar reading will be done with a screen share.