



We find ourselves in the midst of a global pandemic that has brought significant changes to our daily lives. Self-isolation, social distancing, frequent handwashing, and stocking up on household supplies have all become “the new normal.”

This new reality has given us the opportunity to think creatively and broaden horizons in our personal and professional lives. Many of us have turned to online platforms such as Skype, Facetime, and Zoom to keep in touch with friends and family, but also to offer lessons to our students. At this stressful time of crisis, continuing with music lessons can be especially beneficial to our students, providing a point of focus, a calming influence, and – as always – a sense of accomplishment and joy.

For those students who have been working all year to prepare for RCM History examinations, the prospect of being unable to complete this goal due to current restrictions on public gatherings might be quite discouraging. Fortunately, we have a solution in place that will allow students preparing for ARCT History exams in the May session to reach their goals and earn their certificates. Students who had registered for in-person examinations will be provided with an online examination.

Those of you who are not yet familiar with the online history exams may have some questions. The points below will provide some ideas on how you can best support your students in their transition from preparing for a written in-person history exam, to preparing for an online history exam using a computer or iPad.

As someone who has taught in-person history classes for many years, I encourage you to explore and embrace this solution with an open mind – particularly at this challenging time, when the digital world is providing an opportunity to stay connected and move forward with teaching and learning. In this ever-evolving world around us, the ability to be flexible and adapt to new circumstances is paramount.

Additional information about instructional webinars to introduce you and your students to the online exams will follow shortly. Please be sure to join us for these important sessions.

Wishing you good health and safety in the weeks ahead,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Lopinski". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Janet Lopinski
Senior Director, Academic Programs

What you need to know about the Online History Exam

- ARCT History students will be provided with an examination online.
- ARCT History students will not have an online course / study guide available for preparation, as this course is not yet available.
- For this reason, the ARCT History Online exam will not include a listening test component

The chart below shows similarities and difference between the written and online examinations:

| ARCT HISTORY | WRITTEN EXAMINATION | ONLINE EXAMINATION |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Short Answer Questions | <p>Question types include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matching columns - Multiple choice - True or false - Fill in the blanks | <p>Question types include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple choice: click on the correct answer - Choose the correct answer from a drop-down menu - Short answers are worth 40% of the online exam |
| Identification of Score Excerpts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visual identification of score excerpts from required works sometimes included - Students identify the title and composer, and answer a series of short questions about the excerpt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visual identification of score excerpts will be included - Students identify the title and composer of a musical excerpt, and answer short questions about the excerpt - All score excerpts are drawn from Celebrate Theory, ARCT History - Score identification is worth 20% of the online exam <p>NOTE: There is no listening test component on the ARCT History exam</p> |
| Short Essays | <p>Question types include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe the musical style and contributions of required composers - Describe required works in detail - Trace the development of specific musical genres - Compare the musicals style of two eras <p>*Word count not specified</p> | <p>Question types include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compare aspects of two composers' lives or musical style - Compare aspects of two required works, genres, or musical trends <p>*300 – 500 words for short essay</p> <p>Short Essays are worth 20% of the exam</p> |
| Independent Study Essay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independent Study essay, hand written "closed book" on the exam - Worth 20% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independent Study essay, typed into the field provided – "closed book" on the exam - Worth 20% |
| Time Allotted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 180 minutes (3 hours) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 150 minutes (2.5 hours) |