

A Guide to the LCM Singing Exams (Grades & Diplomas)

Leisure Play (no UCAS points at any level)

These grades probably best suit singers who are not Music or Musical Theatre Strand and singers who don't play any instruments. Candidates are assessed on their singing only - there is no theory, aural or discussion. **The singing is assessed to the same level as the other grades** so you'll have a certificate to say your singing is Grade 8 (or whichever) standard. As these grades are less involved, no UCAS points are awarded.

Music Theatre (UCAS points from Grade 6 upwards)

These grades probably best suit Musical Theatre Strand singers or singers with an interest in and knowledge of musical theatre. There is no music theory or aural test but there is discussion with the examiner regarding context, history, character etc. Songs have to be chosen from various set categories.

Popular Music Vocals (UCAS points from Grade 6 upwards)

These grades probably best suit Music Strand singers or singers who also play instruments. There is a completely free choice of songs (including originals) as long as they are the right level of difficulty for the grade. There is some music theory involved, along with aural tests - which might be a struggle for non-musicians.

Diploma - Popular Music Vocals or Music Theatre

These exams probably best suit students who have achieved Grade 8 in 'Music' or 'Music Theatre'. They are equivalent to a first year university undergraduate module (QCF Level 4) and are similar to the two grades directly above but more involved and a higher standard is required. There is no 'Leisure Play' at this level.