

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
VEDIC CULTURAL STUDIES
Syllabus for
Beginners Grade
(Minimum age - 5 - 6 years)

Practical

1. Vedic chanting

Shanti mantra - Om badram no apivaatayamanaha

2. Slokas

- **On waking** - KaraagrevasateLakshmihi
- **When lighting a lamp** - Dipajyotirparabrahma
- **Ganesha** - Shuklaambaradharam
- **Guru** - Guru Brahma
- **Sarasavathi** - Sarasvathinamasthubhyam
- **Mahavishnu** - Namassamastabhutaanaam
- **Maha Lakshmi** - NamastestuMahaamaaye

3. Bhagavad Gita Verse – Chapter 18 –Verse 66 - sarvadharmaan

Oral Theory:

- Identify the pictures of Deities - Ganesha, ShivaandParvathi, Vishnu and Lakshmi,and Subhramanya.
- Identify the weapon's for the following Gods: : Shiva, Vishnuand Subhramanya

NOTE: There is no written examination for Beginners Grade
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ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
VEDIC CULTURAL STUDIES
Syllabus for
Grade I
(Minimum ages 6 - 7 years)

Practical

1. **Vedic chanting**

Shantimantra's

- Sahanavavatu
- Poornamada

2. **Slokas**

- **Ganesha** - Vakratunda
- **Guru** - Guravesarvalokaanaam
- **Shiva** - VaamadevamMahaadevam
- **Shiva and Parvathi** - Maata Cha Paarvati Devi
- **Surya** - Namah SuryayaShaanthaaya
- **Maha Vishnu** - KaayenaVaachaa
- **Before eating to Goddess Annapurna** - annapoornesadaapoorne

3 **Bhagavad Gita**

- **Gita verse before eating** - ahamvaishvaanarobhoothva

Oral Theory:

1. **Identify the pictures of Deities** (Ganesha, Shiva and Parvati, Vishnu and Lakshmi, and Sarasvati).
2. **Name the Vaahanaas of the following Deities:** Ganesha, Shiva, Vishnu and Sarasvati.
3. **Sanskrit** – alphabets (Vowels) and Diphthongs

NOTE:1.Previous Level syllabus should be covered when sitting for this grade.
2. There is no written examination for Grade 1

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
VEDIC CULTURAL STUDIES
Syllabus for
Grade 2
(Minimum ages 6 - 7 years)

Practical oral examination only

1. **Vedic chanting**
Ganesha dyana mantra – Ganaanaan tva
Shanti mantra - SarveBhavantu

2. **Slokas**
On stepping on the floorafterawakening - Samudra-vasanedevi
Before a bath - Gange ca yamune caiva
Whilelighting a lamp - Shubhamkarotikalyaanam
Ganesha- Agajaanapadmaarkam*
Parvathi- Sarvamangalamaagalye
Durga - Yaadevisarvabhuteshu
Rama - RaamaayaRaamabhadraaya
Krishna - KrishnaayaVaasudevaaya
Krishna - Vasudevasutam*
Hanuman - Manojavammaarutha
Adi Shankara - ShankaramShankaraacaaryam
Vyasaachariya and Adi Shankara - Shruthismrithipuraanaanaam
Surya - Aadideva namastubhyamprasiida

3. **Bhagavad Gita Verses**
Gita Dyaana Shloka – Yam brahmaa
Chapter 1 – verse 1 - Dharmakshetre kurukshetre
Before Eating–Chapter 4 – verse 24 - Brahmaarpanam

Theory: (written only)

1. **Ramayana** chapter on Baalakaandam
2. **Identify the pictures of deities and describe their significance** (Durga, Rama and Sita, Krishna, Subhramanya and Hanumaan).
3. **Name the vaahanas of the following deities:** Ganesha, Shiva, Vishnu, Durga, Sarasvati, Subhramanya.
4. **Associate festivals with the following deities –** Ganesh, Krishna, Rama, Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati,
5. **Sanskrit –** alphabet (Consonants and vowels)

<p>Notes 1. Previous Level syllabus should be covered when sitting for this grade. 2. A written theory examination will be conducted for this grade for 60 minutes</p>

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
Vedic Cultural studies
Syllabus for Vedic studies
Grade 3
(Minimum age to sit for exam – 7- 8 years)

Practical:

1. Vedic Chanting:

Pavamaana mantra from Brihadaranyaka Upanishad - Asatomaasadgamaya
Svasti mantra - Svastiprajaabhya,
Svasti mantra - Kale varshatuparjanyaha
Aarhi mantra - Raajaadhiraajaayaprasahyasaahine
Shanthy Mantra - Shanno mitra shamvarunaha

2. Slokas & Stothras

Sloka's

Mahavishnu Dyana sloka – Shaantaakaarambhujagasayanam
Sarasvatisloka–yaakundendutushaarahaaradhavala
Smartha Gayathri –yo deva savitaasmaakamdhiodharmadi
Adi Shankara - Sadaashivasamaarambhaam

Stotra's

Gurustrotram – 3 verses (1st 2nd and last verse)
Siva Panchaksharastotra by Aadi Sankara – 2 verses
Ganesha pancharatnam by Aadi Shankara – 2 verses

3. Bhagavad gita –

Any 3 of the following selected verses from chapter two: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 21, 23, 24, 25, 29, 36, 37, 47, 55, 59, 70, 72.

Note: Students must be able to read the rest of the verses of chants, slokas and Stotras not memorised in this syllabus.

Theory:

Written examinations for 90 minutes will be held for the following:

- Ramayana** – Ayodhayakandam.
- Festivals** – Describe the following festivals. Maha Shivarathri and Deepavali
- Describe in brief the following **stories from Bhagavatapuram-** Dhruva, Prahlada, and from Shiva puranam–Markandeya story.
- Sanskrit** –Joining consonants and vowels, Conjunct consonants. Reading simple words (2-3 syllable words)

Notes 1. Previous Level syllabus should be covered when sitting for this grade.
2. A written theory examination will be conducted for this grade for 90 minutes

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
Vedic Cultural Studies
Syllabus for
Diploma Year 1 (Grade 4)
(Minimum age to sit for exam – 8-9 years)

Practical:

1. Vedic Chanting:

- **Gaayatri** – Bhurbhuva
- **Other Gayatri Mantra's** on Durga, Lakshmi, Sarasvati, Rudra, Narayana, Subhramaniya and Surya
- **Aarti mantra -Natatra sutyobhatinachandrataarakam**
- **Maha Mruthyunjaya mantra**
- **Dasa Shanthi Patas**

2. Sloka and Stotras

Sloka's

- **Aksharaforgiveness** - Yadhakshara-padabhraishtam
 - **Forgivancechantingof mantras:** Mantra-heenam
 - **Pradkshinasloka** - YaaniKaani ca
 - **Surya narayanavandana-** namasavitredhyesavitrumanadalam
- Stotra's**
- **Lingaashtakam**– by Adi Shankara - verses 3 Verses
 - **Mahalakshmistotraby Indra-** Mahaalakshmistotra - 4 Verses
 - **NavagrahasotrabyVyasachaariyar-** 4 Verses
 - **SubhramanyaPancharatnambyAdishankara-** 3 Verses
 - **LalithaPancharathnam-** byAdishankara - 3 Verses

3. BhagavadGita – Thefollowingselected verses from

Chapter III: - Verses: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 - Any 3 verses

ChapterIV: 1, 2, 16, 17, 18, 34, 36,38 - Any 3 verses

(Be able read and recite the others)

Note: Students must be able to read the rest of the verses of chants, slokas and Stotras not memorised in this syllabus.

Theory:

Written examinations for 90 minutes will be held on the following topics:

1. Meanings of the Level 1 to 3 practical lessons
2. **Ramayana** – Aranya kaandamand KishkindhaKaandam will be examined.
3. **Avatars-** Matsya, Kurma, Varaaha, Vaamana, Narasimha, Rama and Krishna
4. **Krishna story** – Birth to Dwaraka
5. **Life history** of Adi Shankara and Vyasacharya.
6. **Sanskrit** – vocabulary – seasons, months of the year, fruits, flowers, writing and reading of words and small sentences.

NOTES:

1. A written theory examination will be conducted for this grade for 90 minutes.
2. Previous Grades' syllabuses should be covered when sitting for this grade.

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
Vedic Studies
Syllabus for Vedic studies
Diploma Year 2 (Grade 5)
(Minimum age to sit for exam –9 -10 years)

Practical:

1. Vedic Chanting:

- **Medha suktam** – Mantras 1 – 3
- **Durga Suktam**– Mantras 1 -3
- **Mantra Pushpam** – Mantras 1 - 3
- **Upanishad - Mantras** from:
 - **Ishavasya Upanishad** – Mantra 1 and 2

2. Sloka and Stotra

Sloka

Dwadasajyotirlingasmaranam

Yama vandanam – Yamaayadharamaraajaya

Lalitha sahasranaamam – Verses 1 to 2

Stotra- encouraged to memorise the whole stotra

Shaaradhastotram - verses 1-4

Madhuraashtakam – Verses 1-3

Maargabandhustotra - Verses 1 to3

Raamastotra– Verses 1 to 4

Aadithya hridayam – verses 1 to 10

Annapurna stotra – Verses 1 to 3

3. Bhagavad Gita

Chapter 5: Verses – 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 13 (Any 2 verses)

Chapter 6: Verses – 3, 5, 11, 12,13, 14, 25 (Any 2 verses)

Chapter 7: Verses – 6, 7, 16, 18 (Any 2 verses)

4. Works of Adi shankara:

BhajaGovindam – 5 verses and be able to read the rest of the 5 verses given in the syllabus book

- 5. Dwadasanamavali** - Any one of the following -12 names of a.Ganesha, b.Shiva and c.Paarvati

Note: Students must be able to read the rest of the verses of chants, slokas and Stotras not memorised in this syllabus

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)

PUBLIC EXAMINATION

in

Vedic Cultural Studies

Syllabus for

Diploma Year 2 (Grade 5)

(Minimum age to sit for exam – 9 -10 years)

Diploma Year 2 (contd.)

Theory:

Written examinations for two hours will be held for the following:

- 1. Meaning of grade 1 to 5 practical lessons and significance of the chants and verses**
- 2. Raamaayana- Sundara Kaanda and Yudhak!aanda will be examined.**
- 3. Sri Krishna storyfrom Bhagavethapuranam– Reunion with Vasudeva and Dewaki, Krishna and Balarama's brahmacharyam with Guru Sandeepany, Krishna visits Akroora in Hastinapura, Jarasandha and the rise of Dwaraka, Muchukunda, Rukmani Haranam, The jewel syamantaka, Mura and Narakasura slaying, Jarasandha vadham, The Rajasuya yagya, Sudama, Subhadra haranam.**
- 4. Maha Bhaaratha – Story of :
Shakuntalaa, King Shaantanu, Bhima, Amba, Ambalika and Ambika story, Dhritaraashtra, Paandu,Paandava's and Kaurava's, Karnaa, Dronaa and Kripaachaarya
Short notes on: Yama and Niyamas**
- 5. Short Notes for the following:
1st - 3 chapters of Gita based on the important verses in the syllabus**
- 6. Sanskrit – vocabulary –Names of Vegetables and Names of Birds.**

NOTES:

- 1. A written theory examination will be conducted for this grade for 120 minutes.**
- 2. Previous Grades' syllabuses should be covered when sitting for this grade.**
- 3. Journal to be presented on Ramayana**
- 4. Sanskrit Grade 1 – encouraged to completed Grade 1 sanskrit for this grade**

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
Vedic Cultural Studies
Syllabus for Vedic studies
Diploma Year 3 (Grade 6)
(Minimum age to sit for exam – 10 -11 years)
(Encouraged to complete grade 1 sanskrit examination)

Practical:

1. Vedic Chanting:

- **Sri suktham** – 1- 4Mantras
- **Medha suktam** – all Mantras
- **Durga Suktam** – all Mantras
- **Rudram** – Anuvaka 1
- **Mantra Pushpam** – allMantras
- **Isavasya Upanishad** – Mantra 15-18
- **Kena Upanishad** – First Kanda – Mantra 1 and 2
- **Mundaka Upanishad** – First Kanda – Mantra 1 and 2

2 Sloka and Stotra:

Sloka's

- **Lalitha Sahasranama** - Dyana slokas – all Verses
- **Vishnu sahasranama** - - Dyana slokas – all Verses

Stotra's (Encouraged to memorise the whole stotra)

- **Dakshinamurthystotra** – verses 1-4
- **Nirvaanashathakam** – Verses 1-4
- **Achyutaashtakam** – Verses – 1 to 4
- **Subhramaniya Bhujangam** – Verses 1 to 5

2. Works of Adi shankara:

Sadhana Panchakam – verses 1&2

3. Bhagavad Gita (Any two verses per chapter)

Chapter 8: Verses – 2, 8, 14 (Any 2 Verses)

Chapter 9: Verses – 2, 4, 5, 18, 22, 26(Any 2 verses)

Chapter 10: Verse – 41

Chapter 11: Verses – 18, 19, 32, 33, 43, 48 (Any 2 verses)

4. Dwadasanamavali/Sahasranama's

Any one of the following –Dwadasanamavali: 12 names of a.Vishnu, b. Lakshmiandc.surya

Sahasranama –Vishnu sahsranamam – Verses 1 to 10

Lalitha sahasranamam- Verses 1 to 10

Note: Students must be able to read the rest of the verses of chants, slokas and Stotras not given in this syllabus and are encouraged to memorise the whole stotra's.

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
Vedic Cultural Studies
Syllabus for
Diploma Year 3(Grade 6)
(Minimum age to sit for exam – 10 - 11 years)
(Encouraged to complete grade 1 sanskrit examination)

Diploma Yearl 3 (contd)

Theory:

Written examinations for two and half hours will be held for the following:

1. Meaning of practical lessons from Grade 1 to Diploma year 3 and significance of the chants and verses
2. **Krishna Story from Bhagavatha Puranam** –Dwaraka toMahabharatha war, Avadhuta, YadhukulaSamhara
3. **Maha Bharata stories**–Kuruksheetra war
4. **Samskaaras** – 15 disciplines prescribed from the vedic tradition from conception to Marriage
5. **Important pilgrimage sites and background significance of:**
 - Himalaya Chardham
 - Vishnu Chardham
 - DwadasaJotir Linga
6. **Short Notes on the followingUpanishads**
 - Isavasya Upanishad :
7. **Short Notes on Adi shankara's works- BhajaGovindam**
Short Notes on summaries of Bhagavad Gita - Chapters 4 to 6
8. **Life history of**
 - **Sapta Rishi's** - Atri, Gautama, and Bharadwaja
 - **Ramana Maharishi,**
 - **Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa**

NOTES:

1. **All students sitting for the practical exams should submit a list of all what is learnt or covered for the grade and for the previous grades.**
3. **At the practical exam, students will have to chant or recite what is chosen by the examiner(s) from the list submitted by the student.**
4. **Previous Grades' syllabuses should be covered when sitting for this grade.**
5. **Sight reading will be given by the examiner to read Sanskrit transcription of chants and Stotras.**
6. **Prepare and submit a Journal (scrapbook) at the exam. Marks will be allocated for the Journal which should be hand written.**

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
Vedic Cultural Studies
Syllabus for
Diploma Year 4 (Grade 7)
(Minimum age to sit for exam – 11-12 years)
(Encouraged to complete grade 2 sanskrit examination)

Practical:

1. Vedic Chanting:

Navagraha Gayatri

Nakarmana

Rudram – Anuvaka 1 to 3

Purusha suktham – 1- 4mantras

Kato Upanishad – 1st chapter – Mantra 1 and 2

Prashna Upanishad – Mantras 1 and 2

Aitreya Upanishad – Mantras 1 and 2

2. Sloka and Stotra:

Sloka:

Ganesh - Prathamamvakrathundam

Hanuman - Bhudirbalam

Panchamaatuhastuthi

Subhramaniyastuthi

Stotras:(Encouraged to memorise the whole stotra's)

Guru stotras: Thotakaashtakam - verses 1- 4 or

Guru ashtakam - verses 1- 4

Ganesh: Ganeshashtakam (alsoknown as Gananaayakaashtakam-ekadantam)

Shiva stotras: Shivashtakam – verse 1- 4 or

Kala Bhairavastotra – verses 1 – 4 or

Vaidyanatha ashtakam Verses 1 to 4

Devi stotras: Mahishasura mardhinistotra – verses 1-4 or

Ashtalakshmistotra – verses – 1 to 4 or

Ganga stotra – verses 1 – 4

Krishna: - Krishnaashtakam – Verses 1 to 4

3. Dwaadasanaamavali, ashtotra and sahasranaama

Dwaadasanaamavali: Subhramaniya, Durga or Saraswathy (Learn to read the other 2)

Ashtotra – any one of the following – Ganesh, Shiva or Parvathi

Sahsranamam–Vishnu dyana slokas – all and Vishnu sahasranama – verses 11-30

Lalitha Sahasranama – verses 11-30

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
Vedic Cultural Studies
Syllabus for
Diploma year 4 (Grade 7)
(Minimum age to sit for exam – 11-12 years)
(Encouraged to complete grade 2sanskrit examination)

Diploma (contd.)

4. Works of Adi shankara:

Sadhana Panchakam – verses 1 to 5
Soundarya lahari –verse 1, 27and 66

5. Bhagavad Gita

Chapter 12 – Verses - 1, 2

Chapter 13: Verses - 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23 (Any 3 verses)

Chapter 14: Verses – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 (any 3 verses)

6. Shiva maanasa pooja

Note: Students must be able to read the rest of the verses of chants, slokas and Stotras not memorised in this syllabus.

Audio- Visual Examination

There will be a half to an hour Audio-Visual examination, to be held after the Theory exam. Audio-Visual marks will be awarded as a bonus only to candidates who pass the Theory exam.

Theory:

Written examinations for two and half hours will be held for the following:

- 1. Meaning of practical lessons of grade 7 and significance of the chants and verses.**
- 2. Significance of Bhairava, Dhanavantari, Veerabhadra and Hayagriva**
- 3. Short notes onUpa Vedas (Ayur veda, Stapasthaveda, gandharvaveda,) and their significance in vedic philosophy**
- 4. Important pilgrimage sites and background significance of:**
 - Shakti Pithas
 - Kailash
 - Manasarova
- 5. Importance of following samaskaras in daily life. 15 samskaras from Marriage to death**

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
Vedic Cultural Studies
Syllabus for
Diploma Year 4 (Grade 7)
(Minimum age to sit for exam – 11-12 years)
(Encouraged to complete grade 2sanskrit examination)

Diploma (contd.)

6. Short Notes on the following:

Upanishads:Kena and Mundaka

Adi Shankara's works: Soundarya lahari verses 1, 27 and 66.

Sadhana Panchakam – Verses 1 to 5

7. Different types of vedic meters

8. Vratas and upasanas followed in daily life – Chaturthi, Ekadasi, Prathosha and Pournami

9. Shivapurana Stories – Rudra samhitha – Parvathi Episode –Birth of Parvathi, Kamadeva's story, Testing of Parvathi by the saptha rishi's, Lord shiva and Parvathi's marriage, Birth of ganesha, Brahma confers boons on Demon's Tripurashura's, Lord Shiva tests Parvathi,Tarakasuravadanam

10.Life History of Saints of recent times:

- Swami Vivekanadha
- Tulsidas

11.Vedic disciplines followed with daily activities: Essential disciplines that need to be followed by an individual – on Waking, Bathing, Eating, before studies, sleeping, talking, attitudes towards - parents, teachers and elders.

12.Short Notes on Bhagavad Gita summaries on Chapter 7 to 12

NOTES:

1. All students sitting for the practical exams should submit a list of all what is learnt or covered for the grade and for the previous grades.
3. At the practical exam, students will have to chant or recite what is chosen by the examiner(s) from the list submitted by the student.
4. Previous Grades' syllabuses should be covered when sitting for this grade.
5. Sight reading will be given by the examiner to read Sanskrit transcription of chants and Stotras.
6. Prepare and submit a Journal (scrapbook) at the exam. Marks will be allocated for the Journal which should be hand written.
7. Encouraged to complete Sanskrit Grade 2

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
Vedic Cultural Studies
Syllabus for
Diploma (Grade 8)
(Minimum age to sit for exam – 12-13 years)
(Encouraged to complete grade 3sanskrit examination)

Practical:

1. Vedic Chanting:

- Gayathri – Shiva, Parvathi, Hanuman, Rama, Krishna and Narasimha**
Rudram – Anuvaka 4 to7
Chamakam – Anuvakam 1 to 2
Ganesha Atharvashirsha – 1- 3 mantra
Isavasya Upanishad – Mantra 3 to 6 and able to read all the verses
Narasimha mantra - Ugramveeram Maha vishnum

2. Sloka and Stotra:

Sloka's

- Thulasi prayer**
Eka slokiBhagavatham
Pancha kanyaastuthi – ahalyaadroupadeeseetaa
Pancha devi stuthi- Uma usha cha vaidaehee
Vande umapathim

Stotra's

- Guru Paadukastotram – Verses 1 to 4**
Ganeshasankatanaashanastotram
Shiva stotra - kaasiVishvantashtakam – Verses 1 to 4 or
Bilvashtakam– Verses 1 to 4
Devi stotras: Devi Mahatmiyam – Devi Kavacham or Katgalastotram or
Kanagadaarastotra– verses 1- 4 or
Rajarajeshwari ashtakam– Verses 1 to 4
Vishnu – Govindashtakam 1 to 4 or
Venkatesha suprabhaatham – verses 1 to 4 or
Sri Rama Pancharathnam -1 to 3
Subhramaniya Bhujanga stotram – Verses 1 to 4
Suryashtakam – Verses 1 to 4
- 3. Works of Adi shankara:**
Matru Panchakam – 2 verses
Manisha Panchakam – 2 verses
Shivaanandhalahari – Verse 7 and Verse 33
- 4. Bhagavad Gita**
Chapter 15: Verses – 19
Chapter 16: Verses - 1, 2, 3, 4, 15, 5 (Any 2 verses)
Chapter 17: Verses – 7
Chapter 18: Verses - 11, 63, 64, 65, 66, 73, 78 (Any 2 verses)

**ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION**

in

Vedic Cultural Studies

Syllabus for

Diploma (Grade 8)

(Minimum age to sit for exam – 12-13 years)

(Encouraged to complete grade 3sanskrit examination)

Diploma (contd.)

5. **21 Names from Ashtotra, &Sahasranamam
Vishnu, Mahalakshmi orSurya – 21 names
Sahasranamam - Vishnu sahasranamam – verses 31-60
Lalitha Sahasranamam – verses 31-60**
6. **Shodasaupachara pooja for Ganesha**

Note: Students must be able to read the rest of the verses of chants, slokas and Stotras not memorised in this syllabus.

Audio- Visual Examination

There will be a half to an hour Audio-Visual examination, to be held after the Theory exam. Audio-Visual marks will be awarded as a bonus only to candidates who pass the Theory exam.

Theory:

Written examinations for two and half hours will be held for the following:

1. **Meaning of practical lessons of grade 8 and significance of the chants and verses.**
2. **Short notes on Ramayanam and Mahabharatha stories and their application to daily life**
3. **Shiva Purana stories: - Shatarudracompendiyam – Ardhanarishwara, Incarnation of Nandhishwara, Grihpati, as hanuman, Achaleshwara, Avadbuteshwara, Krishnadarshana
KotirudraCompendiyam– Jyotirlinga stories
Uma compendium – Diverse manifestations of Goddess Uma, Incarnation of durga
Kailasha Compendium – What does Om signify**
4. **Basic Astrology in Vedic philosophy relevant to daily observances.
Rasi, Lagna, paksha, thithi and Nakshatra's**
5. **Summary of Teachings from Isavasya Upanishad**

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
Vedic Cultural Studies
Syllabus for
Diploma (Grade 8)
(Minimum age to sit for exam – 12-13 years)
(Encouraged to complete grade 3sanskrit examination)

Diploma (contd.)

6. **Short Notes on:** a. Shadaanagas of veda
b. yama, niyama, asana, pranayama, pratyahara, dharana, dyana and Samadhi
c. ShodashaUpachaara Pooja
d. Hatha yoga, Raja Yoga, Dyana Yoga, Bhakthi Yoga
7. **Prayarschita karmas and other essential karmas**
8. **Short Notes on Works of Adi shankara:**
Sadhana Panchakam
BhajaGovindham
Soundarya lahari
9. **Vrata's and Upasana's followed** – for Chathurthi, Shashti, Sapthami, Ashtami, Navami, Ekadasi, Dwadasi, Chathurdasi, Amavasya and Pournami.
10. **Brief Life history of** – Madhavachariyar, Ramanujachariyar, Kabir, Tukaram, and Meerabhai
11. **Short Notes on Bhagavad Gita summaries on Chapter 13 to 18**

NOTES:

1. All students sitting for the practical exams should submit a list of all what is learnt or covered for the grade and for the previous grades.
2. At the practical exam, students will have to chant or recite what is chosen by the examiner(s) from the list submitted by the student.
3. Previous Grades' syllabuses should be covered when sitting for this grade.
4. Sight reading will be given by the examiner to read Sanskrit transcription of chants and Stotras.
5. Prepare and submit a Journal (scrapbook) at the exam. Marks will be allocated for the Journal which should be hand written.

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (LONDON)
PUBLIC EXAMINATION
in
Vedic Cultural Studies
Syllabus for
Final year leading to – Teacher’s Diploma
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Practical:

Part 1 – (Concert equivalent) for 90 minutes

ShodashaUpachara pooja

- **25-50 observers (No small children will be allowed below 9 years and children allowed will need to be supervised to maintain silence for the exam conditions and all visitors will need to be approved by the Academy)**
- **Pooja for 5 deities**
- Gayathri for the 5 deities
- Appropriate Vedic mantras learnt from grade 1 to 8 (Diploma) with abhishekham.
- Alankaram of the deities to be completed for the 5 deities.
- 2 slokas and 2 stotras for each of the 5 deities.
- 1 to 21 names for archana for the 4 deities from the respective ashtothra and ashtothra for the main deity
- Aarti mantras
- Swasthi mantras,
- Forgivance mantras
- Mangala slokas.
- **An invitation and program sheet will need to be submitted 6 weeks prior to the examination**

Part 2:

1. Vedic Chanting - Any 5 of the following:

- **Narayana suktam** – verses Mantra’s 1 to 5
- **Chaturveda mantras** – selected mantras
- **TaitriyaSishyaanushaasanam** – Selected 4 verses
- **Isavasya Upanishad** – All verses
- **Sri Rudram** –5thto 11thanuvaka
- **Chamakam**–3rd and11thanuvaka
- **Navagraha suktam**– towards any 3 planets
- **Bhagya suktam**– 5 verses

2. Sloka (any 5) and Stotra (any 10):

Sloka’s

- Ganesha shodhashaaninaamani
- Hakaaradhapanchadaevastuthi – Harim haram harishchandram
- Ashwathavrikshastuthi – moolatobrahmaroopaaya
- Punya smaranam – kapilamkaamdaenumcha
- Rishi smaranam- brighu Vasishta kratuangirashcha

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Sloka’s contd

- Suprabathaslokani- Sanatkumarahsanakahsanadhanaha

Stotra:

1. Any one of the following Ganesha stotras

- Ganesha bhujangaprayatham
- Ganapathi stotra by Adi shankara - Suvarna varna Sundaram
- Runahara Ganesha stotram

2. Any one of the following stotra for Lord Shiva:

- Chandrashekarashtakam
- Shiva thandavastotra
- Bilvashtakam
- Mrithyunjayayastotra
- Ardhanareeshvastotra
- Daridra dahana shiva stotra
- Shiva bhujangam – Verses 1 to 10
- Mrityunjeevanistotra
- Shiva shadaksharastotra

Any one of the Devi stotra’s

- Durga ashtakam
- Nava Durga stotra
- Kadgamalastotra
- Bavani ashtakam
- Devi Kavacham
- Soundarya lahari – Any new 4 verses

Any one of the Vishnu stotra’s

- Narayana Stotra
- Balamukundashtakam
- Shrihari charanshtakam
- Shri Lakshmi Narasimha stotra
- Lakshmi Narasimha Karavalambhastotram by Adi shankara
- Sri sudharshanashtakam

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Any one of the Subramanya stotras’s

- Subramanya ashtakam
- SubhramniyaBhujangam – all verses

Any one of the following stotra’s

- Roganivaaranistotra
- Hanuman Chalisa
- Hayagreevastotra
- Sri Indrakshi stotra

3. Sahasranama

- **Vishnu sahasranama**– Verses 60 - end
- **Lalitha Sahasranama**- Verses 61- 100 (**Need to be able to read the rest of the sahasranamam**)

4. Works of Adi shankara:

Atma bhoda –selected 5 verses
Tatvabhoda- selected 3 verses

5. Upasana - Sandya vandana mantras (Males only)

6. Bhagavad Gita– Choose any new 10 verses out of the 108 important verses covered from Chapter 1 to 18 not submitted previously.

7. Selected 3 verses from Brahma sutra

Teaching

A student will be given for a Teaching session which will be observed by the examiners for 25 minutes. Prior to the examinations sixGita slokas will be requested to be prepared and any two to three will be selected by the main examiner to be taught to the students provided.

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Sight reading of Bhagavad Gita verses will be given.

A journal will need to be submitted at the practical examination.

Theory

Part 1 topics

1. Meaning of practical lessons and significance of the chants and verses from grade 1 to Teachers Diploma.
2. **Short notes on**
 - a. Upadeshasaaram
 - b. Panchadasi
 - c. Brahma sutra
 - d. Viveka chudamani
 - e. Atma bhoda
 - f. Tatvabhoda
3. **Essence of the 10 major Upanishads.**
4. **Conduct of a pooja for any deity –**
5. **Summary off Bhagavat Gita teachings**
6. **Shada-angavedictraining**
7. **Significance of Navagraha devatha, Sashta, and all the deities covered from Grade 1 to Diploma**
8. **Valmiki Ramayana and other versions of Ramayana and what they convey to life in the 21st century.**
9. **Selected Maha Bharatha Stories and the applications of its teachings towards daily life**
10. **Importance of visiting pilgrimage sites based on the deities covered in your Diploma grades (DwadasaJyotirlingas, Shakthi Peetas, Subhramaniyakshetras, Ganesha kshetras, 108 Divya deshas of Vishnu, other deities)**
11. **Great Hindu saints of the past from your Grade 3 to Diploma.**
12. **Significance of deities studied from Grade 1 to Diploma**
13. **Importance of following observances of vratas, special days and festivals covered from Grade 2 to Diploma**
14. **Short Notes on the 18 Major puranas. Write on any 3 mahapurana’s teachings and their relevant teachings for our life**

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Part 2 topics

1. Astrology and its applications in temple worship and daily life.
2. Rig, Yajur Sama and Atharva veda and importance of it in vedic traditional learning
3. Homa vidhana steps and essentials
4. Yagya vidhi's and important steps.
5. Temple rituals and its significance.
6. Vedic teaching via internet, CD's and modern facilities.
7. Stapaatha Veda and the philosophy from the Vedas.
8. Therapeutic aspects of Gandharva veda.
9. Modern medicine and Ayur veda comparisons
10. Classification of the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas and itihasa's.
11. Science and Vedantha
12. Shada dharshana philosophies
13. Importance of Veda patasala and Gurukula system
14. Vedic philosophy Gandharva veda, samaveda and its contribution to classical Indian music
15. Research in vedic studies
16. Sthapastaveda and sculptures and its applications to modern times.
17. Importance of vedic texts and its usage in the 21st century.
18. Advaita, Dwaita and visishtadvaita philosophies
19. Relationship between ishvara and jeevaa
20. Short notes on Vedic Mathematics
21. Short notes on Purushartha

NOTES:

1. Previous Grades' syllabuses should be covered when sitting for this grade.
2. Prepare and submit a Journal (scrap book) at the exam. Marks will be allocated for the journal.
3. Theory Part one will be for 3 hours on topics given on vedic heritage topics and Part two for 3 hours will be on Core Vedic related topics given. Selected topics will be given for both parts to prepare 12 weeks prior to the theory examination.
4. **A sub- category of Sanskrit or Yoga will be tested at grade 3 level or should have been completed when applying for this grade.**