

Penn State University School of Music

TECHNIQUE EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

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All major-level pianists (“performance” or “primary”) will be required to pass certain technical exams before completion of Keyboard 370J or 380J.

There are three levels of exams on technique. Level I and II must be completed by all, whether “performance” or “primary.” Level III must be completed by performance majors.

Technique exams will be administered during the December jury, though they may be administered by faculty or student request at other times in addition.

Every student (except one transferring into the program at 300 level or above) must pass at least two technique exams.

Transfer students will be subject to the highest applicable requirement.

Requirements for each level: (all with hands together, four octaves)

Level I

- All major and harmonic minor scales, white and black, quarter = 88 in 16th notes (for scales).
- All triad arpeggios on white keys, root position, quarter = 72 in 16th notes (for arpeggios).

Level II

- All major, harmonic, and melodic minor scales, white and black.
- White key scales at third or tenth in addition, quarter = 100.
- All triad arpeggios in all positions, quarter = 80 in 16th notes.
- Diminished seventh arpeggios beginning on any given note.
- An etude comparable to Clementi, [Gradus ad Parnassum](#), #1 or #2

Level III

- Fluent performances (circa quarter = 120) of all major, harmonic, and melodic minor scales in octaves, thirds, and sixths.
- Major scales in contrary motion (two octaves “out” and “back”)
- All major, minor, diminished and dominant seventh arpeggios in all positions, quarter = 80 to 100.
- An etude comparable to Chopin, Op. 10 #3, or #9.

over, please

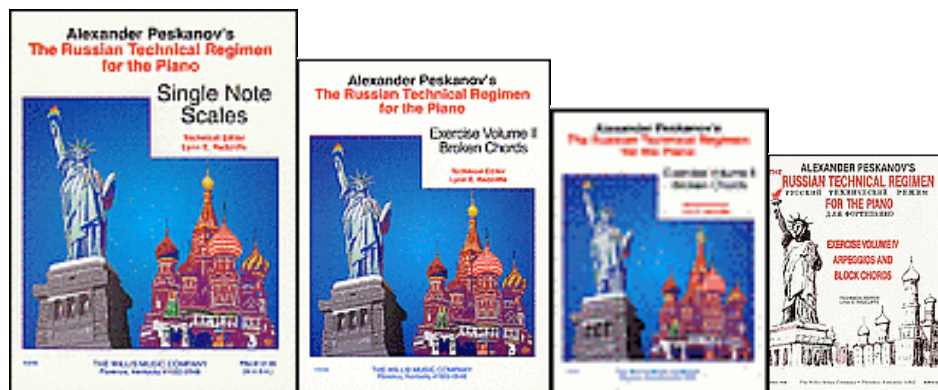
Note: You should be able to click on the hyperlinks below in order to find more information.

Recommended books on scales ad arpeggios:

[Russian Technical Regimen - Vol. 1](#)

[Vol. 2](#), [Vol.3](#), and [Vol. 4](#)

By Alexander Peskanov



[Online metronome](#) (check the required speed for scales and arpeggios)