ABSKM GUITAR SYLLABUS
GUITAR — 9-LEVEL FULL SYLLABUS

Practical • Viva • Theory • Internship • Performance

MARKS STRUCTURE

Level	Practical	Viva	Theory	Internship	Total
Level 1	50	—	—	—	50
Level 2	100	—	—	—	100
Level 3	75	35	15	—	125
Level 4	100	35	15	—	150
Level 5	125	50	25	—	200
Level 6	175	50	25	—	250
Level 7	100	35	15	100	250
Level 8	100	35	15	100	250
Level 9	100	35	15	100	250

GENERAL GUIDELINES

• From Level 3onward, Vivacarries substantially more marks than written Theory.
• Viva may include oral identification, short explanations, played examples and technique demonstration.
• Theory focuses only on essential concepts required for the corresponding level.
• Practical assessment covers tone, fingering, picking/strumming, rhythm, coordination, expression, repertoire and stage presentation.
• Levels 7–9 include supervised internship, teaching practice and documentation.

AKHIL BHARTIYA SANGEET KALA MAHAVIDHYALAY

LEVEL 1 षड़जा (First year)

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Introduction to acoustic/classical guitar, body, neck, fretboard, bridge, tuning pegs and strings. • Correct posture, guitar hold and basic right-hand/left-hand position.
• Open-string exercises for tone production and picking control.
• Introduction to finger placement and accurate first-position notes/chords.
• Basic Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Dha Ni Sa and simple note patterns.
• Simple rhythm/counting exercises, strumming and easy melodies.
• Two short prepared pieces with steady rhythm and clean tone.

Assessment

Assessment	Marks
Practical	50
Viva	—
Theory	—
Internship	—
TOTAL	**50**

LEVEL 2 — ऋषभा (Second Year)

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

- Strengthening posture, left-hand placement and right-hand control.
- First-position fingering with improved accuracy and tone.
- Basic major scales and simple arpeggio patterns in suitable keys.
- Downstroke, alternate picking, long/short strumming and simple articulation.
- Simple sargam exercises and melody playing.
- Introduction to controlled slides and expressive techniques.
- Simple devotional, folk or classical-based tunes.
- Short solo presentation with clear beginning and ending.

Assessment

Assessment	Marks
Practical	100
Viva	—
Theory	—
Internship	—
TOTAL	**100**

LEVEL 3 — गंधर्व (Third Year)

THEORY

• History and development of the guitar in Indian and contemporary music.
• Strings, tuning, notes/swars, octaves and basic intonation.
• Introduction to raga, aroha, avaroha and pakad.
• Basic chord, scale, rhythm and picking terminology.
• Instrument maintenance and performance etiquette.

VIVA

• Identify guitar parts, strings, tuning concepts and basic chord shapes.
• Demonstrate selected scales, chords and picking patterns.
• Identify basic swara, saptak, raga and tala terms.
• Explain posture, fingering, rhythm and tone production.
• Oral identification from short played phrases.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Systematic first-position exercises with improved accuracy.
• Major scales and simple arpeggios in selected keys.
• Alternate picking, legato and simple staccato articulation.
• Introduction to position changes under guidance.
• Selected ragas such as Yaman, Bhupali and Kafi through simple phrases. • Basic meend/slide, grace notes and expressive phrasing.
• Simple alap phrases and composition playing.
• Two prepared pieces and one short raga-based presentation.

Assessment

Assessment	Marks
Practical	75
Viva	35
Theory	15
Internship	—
TOTAL	**125**

LEVEL 4 — मध्यमा (Fourth Year)

THEORY

• Scales, intervals, chords, rhythm and position work.
• Raga structure and essential terminology.
• Picking, strumming techniques and rhythmic cycles.
• Basics of recital structure and repertoire selection.
• Practice methods for tone, timing and accuracy.

VIVA

• Identify scales, ragas, talas, chords and picking techniques.
• Explain fingering, picking patterns, chord transitions and position changes.
• Describe raga structure, aroha, avaroha and pakad.
• Explain composition, alap and basic improvisation.
• Oral identification from played phrases.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Advanced first-position work and controlled position changes.
• Selected major/minor scales and arpeggios.
• Improved tone quality, timing, picking and chord transitions.
• Alternate picking, legato, staccato and basic hybrid-picking awareness.
• Detailed study of selected ragas and characteristic phrases.
• Meend/slide, grace notes and suitable expressive ornamentation.
• Composition playing with accurate laya and phrasing.
• 4–6 minute prepared guitar performance.

Assessment

Assessment	Marks
Practical	100
Viva	35
Theory	15
Internship	—
TOTAL	**150**

LEVEL 5 — पंचमा (प्रथम) (Fifth Year)

THEORY

• Advancedguitar technique, scales and chord vocabulary.

• Raga development and stylistic identity.
• Picking control, dynamics and articulation.
• Improvisation, ornamentation and rhythmic structure.
• Performance planning and repertoire selection.

VIVA

• Compare selected ragas and their characteristic movement.
• Identify talas, laya, scales, chords and picking patterns.
• Explain ornamentation and its appropriate use on guitar.
• Discuss fingering, position shifts, accompaniment and recital structure.
• Identify raga/technique through played examples.
• Explain practice and repertoire choices.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Advanced scale, arpeggio and position-shifting exercises.
• Improved picking control, dynamics, articulation and phrasing.
• Study of selected ragas with characteristic movement.
• Development of alap and composition-based improvisation.
• Advanced slides, hammer-ons, pull-offs and expressive ornamentation.
• Controlled fast passages and taan-like patterns.
• Rhythmic work in Teentaal, Ektaal, Jhaptal and Dadra/Keharwa.
• 5–8 minute performance portfolio.

Assessment

Assessment	Marks
Practical	125
Viva	50
Theory	25
Internship	—
TOTAL	**200**

LEVEL 6 — पंचमा (पुर्ण) (Sixth Year)

THEORY

• Advanced guitar technique and recital preparation.
• Raga development and improvisational structure.
• Advanced tala, laya and layakari concepts.
• Ornamentation, phrasing and stylistic presentation.
• Solo and accompanied performance practice.

VIVA

• Explain advanced technique, shifting, picking control and chord voicings.
• Identify ragas, talas and characteristic phrases.
• Demonstrate selected ornaments, scales and rhythmic patterns.
• Discuss recital structure, accompaniment and improvisation.
• Oral analysis of a performed composition.
• Identify technical faults and suggest practice approaches.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Advanced technique: position shifting, fretboard security, picking speed and tone.
• Major/minor scales, arpeggios and chromatic exercises.
• Detailed study of 5–6 selected ragas and their performance approach.
• Alap, jod-style development where appropriate and composition presentation.
• Advanced slides, bends, hammer-ons, pull-offs and expressive phrasing.
• Layakari, taan-like passages and rhythmic precision.
• Teentaal, Ektaal, Jhaptal, Rupak and other suitable talas.
• 8–12 minute recital with stage discipline.

Assessment

Assessment	Marks
Practical	175
Viva	50
Theory	25
Internship	—
TOTAL	**250**

LEVEL 7 — पुर्णा (विशारदा) (Seventh Year)

THEORY

• Pedagogy and graded lesson planning.
• Repertoire selection and performance analysis.
• Professional practice and stage discipline.
• Documentation and reflective practice.
• Basics of teaching assessment.

VIVA

• Professional repertoire, raga and tala identification.
• Explain teaching methodology for beginner and intermediate students.
• Analyze technique, fingering, picking and phrasing.
• Demonstrate how to correct common beginner errors.
• Discuss recital planning and stage presentation.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Professional-level repertoireand refined tone production.
• Advanced position work, shifting, picking control and articulation.
• Performance of selected classical/raga-based repertoire.
• Improvisation, alap, taan-like passages and composition development.
• Solo and ensemble/accompaniment coordination.
• Stage presentation, microphone awareness and recital discipline.
• Teaching demonstration: posture, hand position, fingering and basic exercises.

INTERNSHIP / PERFORMANCE

• 30–45minuteperformance/portfoliowith supervised internship.
• Supervised teaching/performance internship with lesson records, practice observations and documented activities.
• Professional performance portfolio with stage presentation and repertoire documentation.

Assessment

Assessment	Marks
Practical	100
Viva	35
Theory	15
Internship	100
TOTAL	**250**

LEVEL 8 — संगीत संपुर्णा (Eighth Year)

THEORY

• Advanced pedagogy and curriculum planning.
• Performance interpretation and repertoire analysis.
• Ensemble practice and arrangement principles.
• Internship documentation and professional ethics.
• Performance review and self-assessment.

VIVA

• Analyze repertoire, raga, tala and stylistic interpretation.
• Explain advanced pedagogy and lesson sequencing.
• Evaluate tone, fingering, picking, rhythm and musical expression.
• Discuss ensemble coordination and arrangement choices.
• Viva based on internship and performance portfolio.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Advanced multi-stylerepertoire with consistent professional technique.
• Advanced harmony/accompaniment awareness and ensemble coordination.
• Detailed raga presentation with mature alap and improvisation.
• Advanced picking, dynamics, phrasing and expressive control.
• Arrangement/adaptation of repertoire for solo and ensemble performance.
• Teaching demonstration and structured lesson delivery.
• 45–60 minute professional performance portfolio.

INTERNSHIP / PERFORMANCE

• Supervised internshipwithteaching,documentation and performance work.
• Supervised teaching/performance internship with lesson records, practice observations and documented activities.
• Professional performance portfolio with stage presentation and repertoire documentation.

Assessment

Assessment	Marks
Practical	100
Viva	35
Theory	15
Internship	100
TOTAL	**250**

LEVEL 9 — संगीताचार्य (Nineth Year)

THEORY

• Advanced performance interpretation and artistic identity.
• Master-level raga, tala and improvisation concepts.
• Pedagogy, mentoring and assessment.
• Professional portfolio and recital documentation.
• Ethics, stage professionalism and career practice.

VIVA

• Comprehensive viva on technique, repertoire, raga, tala and pedagogy.
• Critical analysis of personal performance and artistic choices.
• Demonstrate advanced correction methods and teaching strategies.
• Discuss professional repertoire planning and concert design.
• Viva based on internship, teaching and final recital portfolio.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Mastery-levelrepertoireand individual artistic interpretation.
• Advanced position shifting, picking technique, tone production and expressive control.
• Complete raga-based recital preparation with mature improvisation.
• Advanced rhythmic interaction, layakari and ensemble leadership.
• Thematic concert/program design and repertoire curation.
• Advanced teaching demonstration and mentoring approach.
• 60–90 minute final recital with professional presentation.

INTERNSHIP / PERFORMANCE

• Professional portfolioincludingteaching, performance and supervised internship documentation.
• Supervised teaching/performance internship with lesson records, practice observations and documented activities.
• Professional performance portfolio with stage presentation and repertoire documentation.

Assessment

Assessment	Marks
Practical	100
Viva	35
Theory	15
Internship	100
TOTAL	**250**