ABSKM SITAR SYLLABUS

SITAR — 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 3 onward, 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, intonation, mizrab control, meend, 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 sitar parts, main strings, sympathetic strings, frets, taraf, tumba and tuning pegs. • Correct sitting posture and safe instrument holding position.
• Basic mizrab fitting and right-hand stroke practice.
• Open-string exercises for tone production and stroke control.
• Introduction to left-hand fingering and accurate basic swara placement.
• Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Dha Ni Sa and simple alankars.
• Simple rhythm/counting exercises and easy melodies.
• Two short prepared pieces with steady tone and rhythm.

Assessment

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

LEVEL 2 — ऋषभा (Second Year)

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Strengthening posture, left-hand placement and mizrab control. •
Accurate swara placement on selected frets.
• Basic alankar and scale patterns in suitable saptaks.
• Da-ra and simple right-hand stroke combinations.
• Simple sargam and melody playing.
• Introduction to controlled meend.
• 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 sitar in Indian music.
• Strings, tuning, swara, saptak and basic intonation.
• Introduction to raga, aroha, avaroha and pakad.
• Basic mizrab, meend and tala terminology.
• Instrument maintenance and performance etiquette.

VIVA

• Identify sitar parts, strings, mizrab and tuning concepts.
• Demonstrate selected alankars, strokes and meend.
• Identify basic swara, saptak, raga and tala terms.
• Explain posture, intonation and right/left-hand technique.
• Oral identification from short played phrases.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Systematic swara exercises with improved intonation.
• Selected scales and alankar patterns.
• Controlled mizrab strokes and rhythmic combinations.
• Introduction to position movement where appropriate.
• Selected ragas such as Yaman, Bhupali and Kafi through simple phrases.
• Basic meend, kan swar and expressive ornamentation.
• 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, swara, intonation and fret/position work.
• Raga structure and essential terminology.
• Mizrab techniques and rhythmic cycles.
• Basics of recital structure and repertoire selection. • Practice methods for tone and accuracy.

VIVA

• Identify scales, ragas, talas and mizrab techniques.
• Explain intonation, meend and position work.
• Describe raga structure, aroha, avaroha and pakad.
• Explain composition, alap and basic improvisation. • Oral identification from played phrases.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Advanced swarawork and controlled movement across the fretboard.
• Selected raga-based alankar and melodic patterns.
• Improved intonation, tone quality and mizrab control.
• Da-ra, dir-dir and other suitable stroke combinations.
• Detailed study of selected ragas and characteristic phrases.
• Meend, kan swar, murki and suitable expressive ornamentation.
• Composition playing with accurate laya and phrasing.
• 4–6 minute prepared sitar performance.

Assessment

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

LEVEL 5 — पंचमा (प्रथम) (Fifth Year)

THEORY

• Advancedsitar technique and intonation.

• Raga development and stylistic identity.
• Mizrab 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, alankar and mizrab patterns.
• Explain ornamentation and its appropriate use on sitar.
• Discuss intonation, accompaniment and recital structure.
• Identify raga/technique through played examples.
• Explain practice and repertoire choices.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Advanced swara, alankar and fretwork exercises.
• Improved mizrab control, dynamics, articulation and phrasing.
• Study of selected ragas with characteristic movement.
• Development of alap and composition-based improvisation.
• Advanced meend, kan, murki 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 sitar 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, meend, mizrab control and raga development.
• Identify ragas, talas and characteristic phrases.
• Demonstrate selected ornaments 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: fret security, meend length, mizrab speed and tone.
• Advanced alankar, scale and chromatic exercises where appropriate.
• Detailed study of 5–6 selected ragas and their performance approach.
• Alap, jod-style development and composition presentation.
• Advanced meend, kan, murki, gamak 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 intonation, meend, mizrab and phrasing.
• Demonstrate correction of common beginner errors.
• Discuss recital planning and stage presentation.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Professional-levelrepertoire and refined tone production.
• Advanced fretwork, meend, mizrab control and articulation.
• Performance of selected classical/raga-based repertoire.
• Improvisation, alap, jod/jhala development and composition presentation.
• Solo and accompaniment coordination.
• Stage presentation, microphone awareness and recital discipline.
• Teaching demonstration: posture, mizrab, 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 accompaniment 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, intonation, meend, mizrab and musical expression.
• Discuss ensemble coordination and accompaniment choices.
• Viva based on internship and performance portfolio.

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

• Advanced multi-stylerepertoire with consistent professional technique.
• Advanced accompaniment awareness and ensemble coordination.
• Detailed raga presentation with mature alap, jod/jhala and improvisation.
• Advanced meend, mizrab articulation, dynamics 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 fretwork, meend, mizrab 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**