

Introduction

The Bhaskar Sangeet Visharad examination, conducted by various music institutions in India, is one of the most respected certifications for students of Indian classical music. The Final Year (Level 3) represents the culmination of years of disciplined learning, focusing on both vocal and instrumental streams. This stage is not only an academic milestone but also a professional benchmark, as students are expected to demonstrate advanced skills, deep theoretical knowledge, and refined artistry in their performances.

In this blog, we break down the syllabus structure, theoretical framework, and practical expectations for the *Bhaskar Vocal & Instrumental – 3 (Final Year)* exam.

1. Theoretical Component

The theory portion tests a student's understanding of the science of music (sangeet shastra), the evolution of Indian classical traditions, and the detailed study of ragas, talas, and compositions.

Key Areas of Theory:

- **History of Indian Classical Music**
 - Evolution of Hindustani music.
 - Development of gharanas (vocal & instrumental).
 - Contributions of legendary maestros (Tansen, Pt. Vishnu Digambar Paluskar, Pt. Bhatkhande, Ustad Bismillah Khan, etc.).
- **Raga Theory**
 - Detailed study of prescribed ragas.

- Time theory of ragas (samay chakra).
 - Classification of ragas under *Thaats*.
 - Vadi, Samvadi, Pakad, Chalan, and Lakshana of ragas.
 - **Taal & Laya**
 - Structure of advanced taals (Teen Taal, Jhaptaal, Ektaal, Rupak, Deepchandi, etc.).
 - Layakari (dugun, tigon, chaugun, aad, kuad).
 - The role of theka and upaj in performance.
 - **Compositional Knowledge**
 - Types of bandish (Vilambit, Drut, Tarana, Dhrupad, Dhamar, Khayal).
 - Importance of taal in khayal and instrumental presentation.
 - **Notation Systems**
 - Pt. Vishnu Digambar Paluskar & Pt. Bhatkhande's notation systems.
 - Ability to write and read notations of bandishes and gats.
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2. Practical Component

The practical exam evaluates performance skills, i.e., the student's ability to sing/play with accuracy, emotion, and command over rhythm.

Vocal Stream (Bhaskar Vocal – Final Year)

Students must prepare:

1. Raga Performance – 3 to 4 advanced ragas from the syllabus. Each raga to be presented in Vilambit Khayal (slow tempo) and Drut Khayal (fast tempo).
2. Dhrupad or Dhamar – in one prescribed raga.
3. Tarana – in medium or fast laya.
4. Light Classical Piece – e.g., Thumri, Dadra, Bhajan, or Ghazal.
5. Alaap, Taan, Boltaan & Sargam demonstration in each raga.

Instrumental Stream (Bhaskar Instrumental – Final Year)

Students must prepare:

1. Raga Alap & Jod – Detailed alap in at least two ragas.
2. Gat Presentation – Vilambit & Drut gat in teentaal/jhaptaal.
3. Upaj & Layakari – Demonstration of improvisation in different speeds.
4. Composition in Dhrupad/Dhamar Style – On the instrument.
5. Light Music Composition – Dhun or bhajan on the instrument.

3. Prescribed Ragas (Indicative List)

- Major Ragas: Yaman, Bhairav, Malkauns, Darbari Kanada, Bageshree, Marwa, Todi, Multani, Kedar.
- Other Important Ragas: Desh, Hamsadhwani, Jaunpuri, Tilak Kamod, Patdeep.

(Note: Exact list may vary slightly depending on the university/board conducting the exam.)

4. Taal Section

- **Teen Taal (16 matras) – with variations.**
- **Ek Taal (12 matras) – vilambit & drut laya.**
- **Jhaptaal (10 matras) – with kayada, rela, tukda.**
- **Rupak (7 matras) – variations & tihai.**
- **Deepchandi/Chautaal (14 matras) – for dhrupad/dhamar presentation.**

Students must demonstrate theka recitation (padhant) with hand claps and also show practical layakari.

5. Evaluation Parameters

Examiners generally assess students based on:

- **Accuracy of raga rendering.**
 - **Depth of voice training or instrumental tone.**
 - **Command over taal and layakari.**
 - **Quality of improvisation (alaap, taan, sargam, bol patterns).**
 - **Stage presentation and confidence.**
 - **Theoretical knowledge application.**
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6. Importance of This Level

The Final Year Bhaskar exam is considered the stepping stone toward Sangeet Visharad (Graduate Level), which opens professional

opportunities in teaching, stage performance, and advanced research in music. Successfully completing this exam proves a student's:

- **Mastery in both practical artistry and theoretical grounding.**
 - **Ability to perform solo concerts with confidence.**
 - **Readiness for further specialization or academic contribution.**
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Conclusion

The Bhaskar Vocal & Instrumental – 3 (Final Year) syllabus is designed to bring out the best in a student—combining technical knowledge, spiritual depth, and creative expression. By the end of this stage, a learner is not just an examinee but an artist, ready to carry forward the heritage of Indian classical music.

✦✦ **Preparing thoroughly with discipline, regular riyaz, and guidance from gurus ensures success—not just in exams but in the lifelong journey of music.**
