

About the RPT exams...

Registered Piano Technicians are professionals who have committed themselves to the continual pursuit of excellence, both in technical service and ethical conduct. The Piano Technicians Guild grants the Registered Piano Technician (RPT) credential after a series of rigorous examinations that test skill in piano tuning, regulation and repair. Those capable of performing these tasks up to a recognized worldwide standard receive the RPT credential.

No organization has done more to upgrade the profession of the piano technician than PTG. The work done by PTG members in developing the RPT Exams has been a major contribution to the advancement of higher standards in the field. The written, tuning and technical exams are available exclusively to PTG members in good standing.

Written Exam

The written exam has questions covering all phases of piano technology divided into four sections: Tuning, Regulation and Action Function, Repairs and Voicing, and General Information. This 90-minute exam is taken online. Find an RPT in your chapter to help you set up a time to take the exam.

Technical Exam

This exam is in three parts: Grand Regulation, Vertical Regulation, and Repairs. The regulation sections are done on action models testing specific regulation skills. The repair tasks are all common ones routinely performed by the average technician, such as key bushing, hammer shaping, string replacement and splicing, hammershank rebushing/repinning, and vertical shank replacement. This exam takes about 4-5 hours.

Tuning Exam

This exam compares your tuning to a “master tuning” done by a team of examiners on the same piano you will tune. Electronic Tuning Aids are used to measure the master tuning and to measure your tuning for comparison. In Part 1 you aurally tune the middle two octaves, using a non-visual source for A440. In Part 2 you tune the remaining octaves by any method you choose. Part 3 tests unisons and stability. This exam takes about 4-5 hours.

Find Exam Resources at
www.ptg.org/members/certification.

Find an Examiner

Check with your local chapter president or examination committee chair first to see if there are local opportunities. Exam sites include local chapters, Area Examination Boards, regional conferences and the annual PTG Convention & Technical Institute. You can also find contact information for chapter exam sites, and a list of technical and tuning examiners under RPT Certification Exams in the PTG Members area of www.ptg.org.

Purchase an Exam Voucher

You should purchase an exam voucher for the tuning and technical exams at least ten days before taking your exam. Present it to the examiner along with your current PTG membership card.

To purchase an exam voucher:

- Call (913) 432-9975 to order with a credit card.
- Download a PDF or Word form from www.ptg.org to order an exam voucher by mail or fax. See form for payment and transmittal information.
- Find a link to purchase an exam voucher in the online PTG Store under the RPT Exam Voucher category.

Want to take the RPT exams?

Prepare.
Practice.
Pre-screen.
Pass!



Download free study aids from www.ptg.org/members/certification.

Pre-Screening Manual

Produced by the ETS Committee, this free booklet can help you find out if you are ready for the RPT exams. Covers all three exams in a helpful question-and-answer format. Most effective when used in partnership with an RPT helping you prepare for the exams.

Written Exam Study Guide

Includes an overview of the written exam along with a list of topics and sample questions for each topic. Also includes info on signing up for an online exam.

PACE Checklist

Designed to supplement PACE Lesson Plans, this four-page guide includes handy skill and tool checklists to track your progress.

Login to the PTG Members area of www.ptg.org and click on "RPT Certification Exams" to find all exam prep materials.

Attend an Exam Prep Seminar.

Enhance your personal study with an opportunity to receive some individual coaching and feedback. PTG offers 1 and 1-1/2 day classes throughout the year at different locations. Click on Events at www.ptg.org for dates and descriptions.

Some local chapters and regional conferences also offer exam prep seminars and classes. Check with your local chapter or PTG's online events calendar at www.ptg.org for upcoming events.

Use your PTG member discount to purchase study materials from the PTG Store.

PACE Lesson Plans

Five lesson plan booklets cover the essential skills you will need for your RPT exams. Order Tuning 1-12, Tuning 13-26, Repairs, Vertical Regulation, or Grand Regulation. Buy them individually or save when you buy the entire set. Use with the PACE Checklist.

Technical and Tuning Exam Source Books

The best exam-related articles from the Piano Technicians Journal are featured in these books. Recommended for anyone preparing for RPT exams. Each comes in a three-ring binder. Buy them individually or save when you buy the set.

1979-2010 Journal DVD

Complete issues of the Piano Technicians Journal from 1979-2010 on a searchable DVD. Also includes the nine special topic booklets from the Journal CD-ROM Catalog of Reprints. A free Online Searchable Journal Index is also available at www.ptg.org/members/journal-search.

Renner Grand Action Model or Hailun Vertical Action Model

Approved for use in giving the RPT Technical Exam. Excellent for demonstration, practice or training. Your examiner may also use other approved models during your exam. Jigs available for purchase from the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter.

Visit the PTG Store at www.ptg.org. Order online at www.ptg.org or by calling 913-432-9975.

Join an online discussion group at my.ptg.org.

There are dozens of ways to find and share information at my.ptg.org. Every PTG member automatically belongs to a chapter and region discussion group, but you are also eligible to join other general and special interest groups. Topics range from aural tuning to voicing to concert prep. Below are a few you might want to check out:

- Exam Prep For members studying for the RPT exams. Post questions, study tips and exam advice. Certified examiners answer questions and make study suggestions.
- Pianotech General technical issues.
- CAUT A forum for those who work in college or university settings.

Apply for a PTGF convention or leadership scholarship.

The Piano Technicians Guild Foundation (PTGF) offers scholarships to members who want to advance their education in piano technology by attending the PTG Annual Convention & Technical Institute, and advance their careers as technicians by completing the examinations to become a Registered Piano Technician (RPT). This scholarship provides for a convention registration and one examination fee to cover the applicant's choice of either the PTG Technical Examination or the PTG Tuning Examination. A Leadership scholarship is also available to members who serve as chapter leaders and is available year round. It covers the fee for either a tuning or technical exam. Visit ptgfoundation.org/outreach/scholarships to learn more.