

# Self-Assessment I: Teaching Advanced Students

How ready are you to teach advancing students? To get an idea of where you're at, give yourself a rating from one to five for the statements in the following self-assessment, where one means 'not accurate about me at all' and five means 'accurately describes me.' Once you've rated yourself for each statement, total up your scores, then use the answer key to determine your next steps.

Advancing Students Check-In Statements	Self-Rating (1-5)
I have played a lot of advanced repertoire in the past.	
I am currently studying with a master teacher or have taken lessons with a master teacher in the recent past.	
I generally understand what skills and knowledge a student should have upon exiting the intermediate level.	
I understand sonata-allegro form.	
I can realize ornaments from the Baroque period, or I have resources to help me figure out the correct realization.	
I have a variety of practice techniques that I encourage students to use to tackle technical troubles in a piece.	
I have a variety of practice techniques to guide that I encourage students in the best way to use to learn longer, more complex pieces.	
I feel confident in helping a student prepare for a university/conservatory audition or diploma level performance exam.	
I have some time to devote to my own study of repertoire that my advancing students are playing.	
I enjoy exploring new repertoire and finding pieces that are appropriately challenging for my students and yet within their technical capabilities.	
I like to learn new things and am not afraid to ask for help or consult reliable resources.	
I have a mentor who I look to for guidance for local performance opportunities for my students (such as exams, competitions, and festivals).	
I feel comfortable performing advanced repertoire.	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

# What Your Score Means

## Score: 0–30

### Start exploring more advanced repertoire yourself

If your score landed here, you're probably in one of three camps: 1. You may have never considered teaching advanced students; 2. You may not want to teach advanced students!; or 3. you may be keen to expand your teaching but you're not ready...yet! At this stage, passing your advancing students onto another teacher is likely to be the best thing to do - for you and your students.

However, if you do want to progress to teaching advancing students, what you're missing is playing experience at this level. To be a good teacher of advancing students, you'll need experience with this repertoire, so that's the best place to start. The main goal is to continue your own study to increase your pianistic skill and musical knowledge and to gain more confidence.

Choose some exciting early advanced pieces you've always wanted to play (and that aren't too difficult!) and find a master teacher in your local area or online who will help you learn and polish them. Look for a teacher who will help you with developing your own technique as well as help you understand the historical style in the repertoire pieces you choose.

As you teach your intermediate students, be sure to access our Piece By Piece series to consider stylistic concerns and technical difficulties. Consider teaching some intermediate pieces by the same composer as an advanced piece you want to study to get to know the stylistic concerns involved.

## Score: 31–39

### Make the jump from playing to teaching

If your score landed here, it's likely that you've already played some advanced repertoire yourself in the past (and maybe even performed or studied at a high level), but haven't had much teaching experience at this level yet. The great news is that you're probably closer than you think to being ready to tackle advanced pieces with students. Be sure to complete the TopMusicPro Advancing Pianists Course to gain foundational knowledge and practice some of the pieces highlighted in the course. Head to [topmusicpro.com](https://topmusicpro.com) for more information.

TopMusic has several other resources to help you enlarge your knowledge of advanced level repertoire and performance topics. Over on YouTube, check out [Tim's Top 5 Classical Piano Books video here](#) to get inspiration from some of the world's most acclaimed pianists. YouTube is an excellent resource for tutorials from experienced teachers on advanced repertoire. For example, if you're keen to teach Chopin's Fantasia Impromptu in C# min for the first time and having trouble teaching the 4v3 polyrhythms, there are a variety of approaches demonstrated by teachers that you'll quickly find in the top of the search rankings.

Inside our TMP membership, our course [Technique Foundations and Transformations](#) has advice regarding technique that is applicable to all levels. We also offer a discount on Tonebase membership, which is an enormous library full of advanced teaching tutorials from the world's greatest pianists. [Members can preview a lesson here](#) and access discount access through the code in our Academy.

# What Your Score Means

## Score: 31–39

### Make the jump from playing to teaching

As you continue your own study, try getting advice on specific advanced repertoire that you've learnt and that you'd like to teach from more experienced teachers. Consider observing a master teacher working with their advanced students to get acquainted with teaching topics for even more repertoire. The goal is to get more confidence making the leap from performer to teacher. While never as good as a 1-on-1 lesson, if you're interested to learn online, check out [Josh Wright's extensive catalogue of helpful courses](#) on most of the popular advanced classical repertoire. [Piano Skills and Magic](#) is another resource that may be of interest.

Provided you know the repertoire and you feel ready, try teaching one early advanced piece to one student, with the ongoing support of your master teacher mentor. Get advice along the way if you hit any teaching roadblocks and make sure your student plays for your master teacher when ready for further advice.

## Score: 40+

### You're ready!

Provided you have the right student who is keen and ready, it's time for you to give this a go! With some support and additional information, you're ready to help more students work on advanced repertoire and prepare for performances. With the support of the TopMusicPro community and what you've learnt in the Advancing Pianists Course, you'll be well placed to give advanced teaching a go.

Always keep connected to teaching mentors and have your student play for other teachers, preferably with you watching on and learning. Masterclasses will be vital learning experiences for both you and your student at this stage. As you expand your teaching repertoire, continue exploring performances and tutorials on YouTube and/or the many online courses available.

Don't forget that one of the best things you can do is practise your own repertoire and study with a good teacher so your technique and interpretation skills remain strong. Good luck!