

RSL Alto Sax Graded Certificates – Technical Exercises Requirements

For each grade, all exercises must be performed as indicated below, in the order shown, as set out in the relevant Grade Book.

Group A and B items should be performed to a click, commencing after a 4-click count-in. Group C should be performed without a click.

Grade 1

Group A: Scales

Tempo: ♩ = 50

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed straight, using two articulations: (i) tongued and (ii) slurred (6 scales in all)

G major, 1 octave

G dorian, 1 octave

G minor pentatonic, 1 octave

Group B: Arpeggios

Tempo: ♩ = 50

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed straight, using two articulations: (i) tongued and (ii) slurred (4 arpeggios in all)

G major, 1 octave

G minor, 1 octave

Group C: Technical Studies

All three to be played, as notated in the Grade Book:

Study 1: Dynamics, articulation and phrasing

Study 2: Modes and stylistic techniques

Study 3: Intervals and intonation

Grade 2

Group A: Scales

Tempo: ♩ = 55

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed straight, using two articulations: (i) tongued and (ii) slurred (6 scales in all)

D major, 2 octaves
D dorian, 2 octaves
D minor pentatonic, 2 octaves

Group B: Arpeggios

Tempo: ♩ = 55

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed straight, using two articulations: (i) tongued and (ii) slurred (4 arpeggios in all)

D major, 2 octaves
D minor, 2 octaves

Group C: Technical Studies

All three to be played, as notated in the Grade Book:

Study 1: Dynamics, articulation and phrasing

Study 2: Modes and stylistic techniques

Study 3: Intervals and intonation

Grade 3

Group A: Scales

Tempo: ♩ = 60

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed straight, using two articulations: (i) tongued and (ii) slurred (12 scales in all)

Bb major, 1 octave
A major, over a twelfth
A dorian, over a twelfth
A minor pentatonic, over a twelfth
A blues, over a twelfth
G chromatic, 1 octave

Group B: Arpeggios

Tempo: ♩ = 60

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed straight, using two articulations: (i) tongued and (ii) slurred (8 arpeggios in all)

Bb major, 1 octave
A major, 1 octave
Bb minor, 1 octave
A minor, 1 octave

Group C: Technical Studies

All three to be played, as notated in the Grade Book:

Study 1: Dynamics, articulation and phrasing

Study 2: Modes and stylistic techniques

Study 3: Intervals and intonation

Grade 4

Group A: Scales

Tempo: ♩ = 70

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed straight using three articulations: (i) tongued, (ii) slurred, (iii) off-beat quaver swing tonguing (30 scales in all)

C major, 2 octaves

G major, over a twelfth

C dorian, over a twelfth

G dorian, over a twelfth

C minor pentatonic, 2 octaves

G minor pentatonic, 2 octaves

C mixolydian, 2 octaves

G mixolydian, 2 octaves

C blues, 2 octaves

C chromatic, 2 octaves

Group B: Arpeggios

Tempo: ♩ = 60

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed straight using three articulations: (i) tongued, (ii) slurred, (iii) off-beat quaver swing tonguing (18 arpeggios in all)

D major 7th, 1 octave

D minor 7th, 1 octave

D dominant 7th, 1 octave

G major 7th, 1 octave

G minor 7th, 1 octave

G dominant 7th, 1 octave

Group C: Technical Studies

All three to be played, as notated in the Grade Book:

Study 1: Dynamics, articulation and phrasing

Study 2: Modes and stylistic techniques

Study 3: Intervals and intonation

Grade 5

Group A: Scales

Tempo: ♩ = 80

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed using three articulations: (i) tongued, (ii) slurred, (iii) off-beat quaver swing tonguing (33 scales in all)

E major, 2 octaves

F major, over a twelfth

E dorian, 2 octaves

F dorian, over a twelfth

E mixolydian, 2 octaves

F mixolydian, over a twelfth

E minor pentatonic, 2 octaves

F minor pentatonic, over a twelfth

E blues, 2 octaves

F blues, over a twelfth

E chromatic, 2 octaves

Group B: Arpeggios

Tempo: ♩ = 70

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed using three articulations: (i) tongued, (ii) slurred, (iii) off-beat quaver swing tonguing (24 arpeggios in all)

E major 7th, 2 octaves

F major 7th, over a twelfth

E minor 7th, 2 octaves

F minor 7th, over a twelfth

E dominant 7th, 2 octaves

F dominant 7th, over a twelfth

E diminished 7th, 2 octaves

F diminished 7th, over a twelfth

Group C: Technical Studies

All three to be played, as notated in the Grade Book:

Study 1: Dynamics, articulation and phrasing

Study 2: Modes and stylistic techniques

Study 3: Intervals and intonation

Grade 6

Group A: Scales

Tempo: ♩ = 90

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed *twice* in contrasting articulations, using a roughly equal mixture of the following: (i) tongued, (ii) slurred, (iii) off-beat quaver swing tonguing (30 scales in all)

G major, over a twelfth

A major, over a twelfth

D dorian, 2 octaves

Bb dorian, 2 octaves

D minor pentatonic, 2 octaves

Bb minor pentatonic, 2 octaves

D mixolydian, 2 octaves

Bb mixolydian, 2 octaves

D blues, 2 octaves

Bb blues, 2 octaves

D chromatic, 2 octaves

Bb chromatic, 2 octaves

F# phrygian dominant, 1 octave

D phrygian dominant, 1 octave

G major exercise in broken thirds, over a twelfth

Group B: Arpeggios

Tempo: ♩ = 80

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed using three articulations: (i) tongued, (ii) slurred, (iii) off-beat quaver swing tonguing (15 arpeggios in all)

G major 7th, over a twelfth

G minor 7th, over a twelfth

G dominant 7th, over a twelfth

D diminished 7th, 2 octaves

Bb diminished 7th, 2 octaves

Group C: Technical Studies

All three to be played, as notated in the Grade Book:

Study 1: Dynamics, articulation and phrasing

Study 2: Modes and stylistic techniques

Study 3: Intervals and intonation

Grade 7

Group A: Scales

Tempo: ♩ = 110

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed *twice* in contrasting articulations, using a roughly equal mixture of the following: (i) tongued, (ii) slurred, (iii) off-beat quaver swing tonguing (38 scales in all)

Ab major, over a twelfth

C dorian, 2 octaves

Eb dorian, 2 octaves

B dorian, 2 octaves

C minor pentatonic, 2 octaves

Eb minor pentatonic, 2 octaves

B minor pentatonic, 2 octaves

C mixolydian, 2 octaves

Eb mixolydian, 2 octaves

B mixolydian, 2 octaves

C blues, 2 octaves

Eb blues, 2 octaves

B blues, 2 octaves

C chromatic, 2 octaves

Eb chromatic, 2 octaves

B chromatic, 2 octaves

F phrygian dominant, 1 octave

C phrygian dominant, 1 octave

D major exercise in broken thirds, 2 octaves

Group B: Arpeggios

Tempo: ♩ = 100

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed using three articulations: (i) tongued, (ii) slurred, (iii) off-beat quaver swing tonguing (15 arpeggios in all)

Ab major 7th, over a twelfth

Ab minor 7th, over a twelfth

Ab dominant 7th, over a twelfth

C diminished 7th, 2 octaves

B diminished 7th, 2 octaves

Group C: Technical Studies

All three to be played, as notated in the Grade Book:

Study 1: Dynamics, articulation & phrasing

Study 2: Intervals and intonation

Study 3: Modes and stylistic techniques

Grade 8

Group A: Scales

Tempo: ♩ = 125

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed *twice* in contrasting articulations, using a roughly equal mixture of the following: (i) tongued, (ii) slurred, (iii) off-beat quaver swing tonguing (30 scales in all)

D major, over a twelfth

Bb major, over a twelfth

Eb major, over a twelfth

F# dorian, over a twelfth

C# minor pentatonic, 2 octaves

E minor pentatonic, 2 octaves

C# mixolydian, 2 octaves

E mixolydian, 2 octaves

C# blues, 2 octaves

C# chromatic, 2 octaves

E chromatic, 2 octaves

C# phrygian dominant, 1 octave

G# phrygian dominant, 1 octave

Eb major exercise in broken thirds, 2 octaves

Bb major exercise in broken thirds, 2 octaves

Group B: Arpeggios

Tempo: ♩ = 110

Ascending and descending

Each to be performed *twice* in contrasting articulations, using a roughly equal mixture of the following: (i) tongued, (ii) slurred, (iii) off-beat quaver swing tonguing (20 arpeggios in all)

D major 7th, over a twelfth

Bb major 7th, over a twelfth

Eb major 7th, over a twelfth

D minor 7th, over a twelfth

Bb minor 7th, over a twelfth

Eb minor 7th, over a twelfth

D dominant 7th, over a twelfth
Bb dominant 7th, over a twelfth
Eb dominant 7th, over a twelfth
C# diminished 7th, 2 octaves

Group C: Technical Studies

Any two of the following to be played, as notated in the Grade Book:

Study 1: Intervals and intonation

Study 2: Modes and stylistic techniques

Study 3: Dynamics, articulation and phrasing