

rockschool[®]

GRADED MUSIC EXAMS

GRADING CRITERIA & DEFINITIONS

MARKING SCHEMES

Graded Certificates: Debut – Grade 8			
Element	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Performance Piece 1	12–14 out of 20	15–17 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Performance Piece 2	12–14 out of 20	15–17 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Performance Piece 3	12–14 out of 20	15–17 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Technical Exercises	12–14 out of 20	15–17 out of 20	18+ out of 20
TOTAL MARKS	60%+	74%+	90%+
Please note: the total mark (out of 80) will be scaled to a final percentage, with the four elements of the exam equally weighted			

GRADED EXAMINATIONS

Performance Pieces					
Bands of Attainment / Mark Range					
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	6–11	0–5
Command of Instrument	Consistently clear production of sound and even tone quality throughout	Mostly clear production of sound and even tone quality overall	Some clear production of sound and generally even tone quality	Sound produced is unclear with uneven quality of tone produced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Sync or Pulse	Performance consistently synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance mostly synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance sometimes synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance not synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse not maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	All of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills not demonstrated Understanding of musical structure not evidenced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Style & Expression	Consistently convincing projection of the music	Mostly convincing projection of the music	Some convincing projection of the music	Music not projected convincingly	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

Technical Exercises					
Bands of Attainment / Mark Range					
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	13–15	11–12	9–10	4–8	0–3
Command of Instrument	Consistently clear production of sound and even tone quality throughout	Mostly clear production of sound and even tone quality overall	Some clear production of sound and generally even tone quality	Sound produced is unclear with uneven quality of tone produced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Sync or Pulse	Performance consistently synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance mostly synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance sometimes synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance not synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse not maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	All of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills not demonstrated Understanding of musical structure not evidenced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

Sight Reading / Improvisation & Interpretation / Quick Study Piece					
Bands of Attainment / Mark Range					
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	9–10	7–8	6	3–5	0–2
Command of Instrument	Consistently clear production of sound and even tone quality throughout	Mostly clear production of sound and even tone quality overall	Some clear production of sound and generally even tone quality	Sound produced is unclear with uneven quality of tone produced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Sync or Pulse	Performance consistently synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance mostly synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance sometimes synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance not synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse not maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	All of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills not demonstrated Understanding of musical structure not evidenced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

Ear Tests					
Bands of Attainment / Mark Range					
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	9–10	7–8	6	3–5	0–2
Accuracy & Understanding	All of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills not demonstrated Understanding of musical structure not evidenced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

General Musicianship Questions (GMQs)					
Bands of Attainment / Mark Range					
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	5 correct responses	4 correct responses	3 correct responses	2 correct responses	0–1 correct responses

PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES

Performance Pieces					
Bands of Attainment / Mark Range					
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	6–11	0–5
Command of Instrument	Consistently clear production of sound and even tone quality throughout	Mostly clear production of sound and even tone quality overall	Some clear production of sound and generally even tone quality	Sound produced is unclear with uneven quality of tone produced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Sync or Pulse	Performance consistently synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance mostly synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance sometimes synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance not synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse not maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	All of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills not demonstrated Understanding of musical structure not evidenced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Style & Expression	Consistently convincing projection of the music	Mostly convincing projection of the music	Some convincing projection of the music	Music not projected convincingly	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

DEFINITIONS

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Command of Instrument	The quality of the sound produced from the instrument, including the consistency of sound/tone, control of sound/tone commensurate with grade.
Sync or Pulse	Alignment of the performance to backing track, metronome or applied to a solo performance, observing notation markings. For unaccompanied pieces candidates should maintain a secure internal pulse and adjust the pulse where instructed within the music.
Accuracy & Understanding	Representing the written notation accurately, except by instruction through performance notes, or interpreting the written part with equivalent skills demonstrated. Secure understanding of musical structure evidenced through transitions of phrases, bars and sections.
Style & Expression	An expressive and commanding performance of the notated material dictated by the demands of the performance piece.