

In this section the examiner will ask you to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the four groups shown below. Groups A, B and C contain examples of the scales, arpeggios and chords you can use when playing the pieces. In Group D you will be asked to prepare the riff exercise and play it to the backing track in the exam. You do not need to memorise the exercises (and can use the book in the exam) but the examiner will be looking for the speed of your response. The examiner will also give credit for the level of your musicality.

Groups A and B should be prepared from the starting notes of G, A and B.

Before you start the section you will be asked whether you would like to play the exercises along with the click or hear a single bar of click before you commence the test. The tempo is ♩ = 90.

Group A: Scales

1. Major scale (G major shown)

2. Natural minor scale (A natural minor shown)

3. Minor pentatonic scale (B minor pentatonic shown)

4. Major pentatonic (A major pentatonic shown)

5. Blues scale (G blues scale shown)

Group B: Arpeggios

1. Major arpeggios (G major arpeggio shown)

G

TAB: 3 2 5 5 5 2 3

2. Minor arpeggios (B minor arpeggio shown)

Bm

TAB: 7 10 9 9 9 10 7

Group C: Chords

1. Major and minor barre chords to be played in a continuous sequence

G Am Em Bm C D G

TAB: 3 5 7 7 5 7 3

2. Dominant ⁷ chords: individual chords will be strummed once and then picked (arpeggiated)

A⁷ C⁷ D⁷ E⁷

TAB: 0 2 0 0 0 2 0 0 1 3 1 0 2 1 2 0 0 1 0 0 0 2 0 1 0 0

Group D: Riff

In the exam you will be asked to play the following riff to a backing track. The riff shown in bars 1 and 2 should be played in the same shape in bars 3–8. The root note of the pattern to be played is shown in the music in bars 3, 5 and 7. The tempo is $\text{♩} = 90$.

$\text{♩} = 90$ Rock

Am Dm

Am Dm

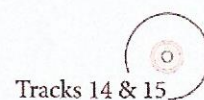
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Sight Reading

In this section you have a choice between either a sight reading test or an improvisation and interpretation test (see facing page). You will be asked to prepare a sight reading test which will be given to you by the examiner. The test is a four bar melody in the key of G major or A minor. The examiner will allow you 90 seconds to prepare it and will set the tempo for you. The tempo is $\text{♩} = 80$.

$\text{♩} = 80$

Improvisation & Interpretation



You will be asked to play an improvised line to a backing track of four bars in the key of G major or A minor. You may choose to play either rhythmic chords (first CD track) or a melodic lead line (second CD track). You have 30 seconds to prepare then you will be allowed to practise during the first playing of the backing track before playing it to the examiner on the second playing of the backing track. This test is continuous with a one bar count-in at the beginning and after the practice session. The tempo is $\text{♩} = 80-90$.

$\text{♩} = 85$ Rock

G Bm C D G

Sabela

There are two ear tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test to you twice. You will find one example of each type of test printed below.

Test 1: Melodic Recall

The examiner will play you a two bar melody with a drum backing using the G minor pentatonic scale. The first note of the melody will be the root note and the first interval will be ascending. You will play the melody back on your instrument. You will hear the test twice.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar count-in. There will be a short gap for you to practise after you have heard the test for the second time. Next you will hear a *vocal* count-in and you will then play the melody to the drum backing. The tempo is ♩ = 85.

♩ = 85

Test 2: Rhythmic Recall

The examiner will play you a two bar rhythm played to a drum backing on the lowest-sounding E string. You will hear the test twice. You will be asked to play the rhythm back. You will then be asked to identify the rhythm from two printed examples shown to you.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar count-in. There will be a short gap for you to practise. Next you will hear a *vocal* count-in and you will then play the rhythm to the drum backing. The tempo is ♩ = 90.

♩ = 90

♩ = 90

General Musicianship Questions

In this part of the exam you will be asked five questions. Four of these questions will be about general music knowledge and the fifth question will be asked about your instrument.

Music Knowledge

The examiner will ask you four music knowledge questions based on a piece of music that you have played in the exam. You will nominate the piece of music about which the questions will be asked.

In Grade 3 you will be asked:

- Names of pitches
- The meaning of the time signature marking
- Whole, half, quarter, eighth note, triplet eighth notes and 16th note values
- Rest values
- The construction of a major or a minor chord

Instrument Knowledge

The examiner will also ask you one question regarding your instrument.

In Grade 3 you will be asked to identify:

- The following parts of your guitar: neck, fretboard, body, tuning-pegs, nut, pick-ups, scratch plate, jack socket and bridge
- The location of the volume and tone controls on your guitar
- The location of the volume/gain controls on the amp

Further Information

Tips on how to approach this part of this exam can be found in the *Syllabus Guide* for guitar, the *Rockschool Guitar Companion Guide* and on the Rockschoool website: www.rockschool.co.uk.