

Group D: Hands and Feet Patterns (sticking shown is optional)

A. Pattern 1

R L R L R L R L R L R L **Fill A** R L R L R L R L R L R L

B. Pattern 2

L R L L R L L R L L R L **Fill B** LR L R L LR L R L

C. Pattern 3

R L R L R L R L **Fill C** R L R L R L R L

D. Pattern 4

R L R L R L R L **Fill D** R L R L R L R L

Group E: Fill

In the exam you will be asked to play the three bar groove shown followed by the second bar of one of the hands and feet patterns (Fills A-D) shown in Group D above chosen by the examiner. The snare is to be played with rim-shots and ghost notes. You will perform this exercise to the backing track on the CD with a repeat. The tempo is ♩ = 80.

♩ = 80 *Rock*

Sight Reading

In this section you have a choice between either a sight reading test or an improvisation & 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 an eight bar groove using the whole kit. At this level there is an element of improvisation. This is in the form of a two bar development. The examiner will allow you 90 seconds to prepare it and will set the tempo for you. The tempo is ♩ = 80-120.

♩ = 90 *Hip Hop*

Musical notation for the first 4 bars of the groove. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5 in the first bar; D5, E5, F5, G5 in the second bar; A5, B5, C6, D6 in the third bar; and E6, F6, G6, A6 in the fourth bar. Above the staff, there are four groups of four 'x' marks, each connected by a horizontal line, indicating a specific drum pattern for each bar.

Develop

Musical notation for the development section, consisting of two bars. The staff is empty, with diagonal slashes indicating that the student should improvise their own melody and drum pattern for these two bars.

(3)

Musical notation for the next 4 bars of the groove. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5 in the first bar; D5, E5, F5, G5 in the second bar; A5, B5, C6, D6 in the third bar; and E6, F6, G6, A6 in the fourth bar. Above the staff, there are four groups of four 'x' marks, each connected by a horizontal line, indicating a specific drum pattern for each bar.

(5)

Musical notation for the final 4 bars of the groove. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5 in the first bar; D5, E5, F5, G5 in the second bar; A5, B5, C6, D6 in the third bar; and E6, F6, G6, A6 in the fourth bar. Above the staff, there are four groups of four 'x' marks, each connected by a horizontal line, indicating a specific drum pattern for each bar.

(7)

Improvisation & Interpretation

You will be asked to play a written two bar groove, vary it in the following four bars and then improvise a two bar solo. The test will be played to a backing track using the bass drum, hi-hat (closed and open), snare drum, ride cymbal and crash cymbal. 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 ♩ = 80-120.

♩ = 90 *Rock*

1 2 3 4

Develop

Solo

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: Fill Playback and Recognition

The examiner will play you a one bar fill in common time played on the snare drum. You will play back the fill on the snare drum. You will then identify the fill from three printed examples shown to you by the examiner. 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. Next you will hear the vocal count in and you will then play the fill to the click. The tempo is $\text{♩} = 70$.

A



B



C



Test 2: Groove Recall

The examiner will play you a two-bar groove played on the bass drum, hi-hat (open and closed), crash cymbal, ride cymbal, bell of ride, cross stick and snare. This is a two bar groove repeated. You will hear the test twice. You will be asked to play the groove back on the drum voices indicated for four bars then identify the style from three choices given by the examiner.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is $\text{♩} = 80-120$.

A: *Rock*

B: *Jazz*

C: *Latin*

$\text{♩} = 90$



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 4 you will be asked:

- Drum voices on the stave
- The meaning of the time signature marking
- The meaning of bpm markings
- Repeat marks, first and second time bars, D.C., D.S., al Coda and al fine markings
- All note values used in the chosen piece
- Equivalent rests
- One type of rudiment that can be used stylistically in the solo or development section of the piece
- Use of drum voices, rhythms and techniques in drum solo sections

Instrument Knowledge

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

In Grade 4 you will be asked to identify/explain:

- Any part of the drum kit and drumstick
- How to tune the drum kit
- Cross stick, choke cymbal, bell of ride and accent

Further Information

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