

rockschool[®]

UKULELE

SYLLABUS SPECIFICATION

2017 Edition



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Syllabus Specification

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Acknowledgements

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GRADED EXAMINATIONS IN UKULELE

Qualification Title	Total No. of Units	Guided Learning Hours	Credit Value	Total Qualification Time
Entry Level Award in Popular Music Performance: Entry 3	1	8	4	40
Level 1 Award in Popular Music Performance: Grade 1	1	12	6	60
Level 1 Award in Popular Music Performance: Grade 2	1	18	9	90
Level 1 Award in Popular Music Performance: Grade 3	1	18	12	120

ASSESSMENT

Form of Assessment	All assessments are carried out by external examiners. Candidates are required to carry out a combination of practical tasks and underpinning theoretical assessment.
Unit Format	Unit specifications contain the Title, Unit Code, Credit Level, Credit Value, Learning Outcomes, Assessment Criteria, Grade Descriptor, and types of evidence required for the unit.
Bands of Assessment	There are four bands of assessment (Distinction, Merit, Pass and Unclassified) for the qualification as a whole.
Quality Assurance	Quality Assurance ensures that all assessments are carried out to the same standard by objective sampling and re-assessment of candidates' work. A team of external examiners is appointed, trained and standardised by RSL.

Introduction

Welcome to the Rockschool Syllabus Specification for Ukulele.

This specification is designed to accompany the relevant grade book and give teachers and students clear information relating to the requirements of each graded music examination offered by Rockschool. The Rockschool website www.rslawards.com contains further guidance, together with audio examples, to help students become familiar with the types of material used in the examinations.

All candidates are required to read the Rockschool Exam Regulations before entering for a Rockschool exam, which can be found via the following link: www.rslawards.com/about-us/policies-and-regulations.

THE VALUE OF RSL QUALIFICATIONS

RSL advocates an open access approach to qualifications, providing a range of syllabi, designed to accommodate a wide variety of candidates of different ages, experience and levels of achievement. RSL qualifications are listed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) in England and Northern Ireland by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). RSL is committed to maintaining and improving its reputation for excellence by providing high quality education and training through its syllabi, examinations, music and resources.

RSL AND UCAS

For students applying for work or University, many potential employers see graded music exams in a very positive way. Recognised qualifications demonstrate an ability to dedicate commitment to extra-curricular activities, providing evidence of versatility which many students find beneficial within UCAS (Universities & Colleges Admissions Service) applications and for University entrance interviews.

Our qualifications carry allocated points on the UCAS tariff. For full details relating to the allocation of UCAS points please see: www.rslawards.com/about-us/ucas-points.

PERIOD OF OPERATION

This Syllabus Specification covers Ukulele Grade Examinations and Performance Certificates from January 2017.

EXAMINATIONS STRUCTURE

Rockschool offers two types of graded music examination; Grade Examinations and Performance Certificates. Rockschool's Ukulele Syllabus is available at two levels, in line with Ofqual's Regulated Qualifications structure:

- Entry Level – Entry 3 "Debut"
- Level 1 – Grades 1, 2, & 3

GUIDANCE FOR GRADE EXAMINATIONS

Ukulele Grade Examinations are available from Debut to Grade 3 and consist of the following elements:

- 3 Performance Pieces – these account for 60% of the exam marks
- Technical Exercises – these account for 15% of the exam marks
- Sight Reading OR Improvisation & Interpretation - these account for 10% of the exam marks
- 2 Ear Tests- these account for 10% of the exam marks
- 5 General Musicianship Questions- these account for 5% of the exam marks

These elements fall into **two** categories: Prepared work and Unprepared work.

Prepared work consists of the three pieces and technical exercises.

Unprepared work consists of Sight Reading or Improvisation & Interpretation, Ear Tests and General Musicianship Questions.

Performance Pieces

The pieces from the grade book have been created to allow demonstration of suitable technical and performance elements appropriate for the level of qualification.

Musical Interpretation is assessed at all grades in both the Grade Exam and Performance Certificate. Rockscool encourages individual musicality, articulation, expression and use of dynamics when performing. This applies anywhere in the exam other than the technical exercises where articulation when specified must be observed. Candidates are reminded that all musical interpretation should be stylistically appropriate.

Technical Exercises

There are three types of technical exercises in Rockscool's Ukulele grade examinations:

Group A – scales

Group B – arpeggios

Group C – chord voicings

Groups A and B need to be played to a compulsory metronome click. The Examiner will ask for two demonstrations from each group, unless otherwise stated in the grade book. The book can be used in the exam for Groups A and B for all Ukulele grades.

Group C does not require a metronome and can be played at a tempo of the candidate's choice. For Group C, candidates will be required to close their grade books, or ensure the information on any electronic device is out of view, and play from memory.

Note: the use of any notes or any reading from the grade book when performing Group C will impact on the marks awarded for this element.

Sight Reading

Candidates will be presented with a sight reading piece by the Examiner. Candidates have practice time allocated and the Examiner will play the backing track twice. The first play through is for practise purposes and the second play through is for examination purposes, during which time candidates should perform the final version. For each play through, the backing track will begin with a count in. During the practise time, candidates will be given the option of a metronome click throughout or a count in at the beginning. The backing track is continuous so once the first playthrough has finished, the count in for the second play through will begin immediately.

Note: it is acceptable for candidates to also ask for additional playing(s) of the backing track during the practice time allocated.

Improvisation & Interpretation

Candidates will be presented with a piece from the Examiner. Candidates have practice time allocated and the Examiner will play the backing track twice. The first play through is for practise purposes and the second play through is for examination purposes, during which time candidates should perform the final version. During the practise time, candidates will be given the option of a metronome click throughout or a count in at the beginning. The backing track is continuous so once the first playthrough has finished, the count in for the second play through will begin immediately.

Note: it is acceptable for candidates to also ask for additional playing(s) of the backing track during the practice time allocated.

Ear Tests

Candidates need to complete two aural tests. Examples can be found in the grade book.

General Musicianship Questions

Candidates will be asked five questions, one from each of the following groups:

- One question relating to harmony
- One question relating to melody
- One question relating to rhythms
- One question relating to technical requirements
- One question relating to genre

Candidates can choose the piece on which basis the questions will be asked. It must be one of the pieces performed in the examination. The exact bars or phrases will be chosen by the examiner.

GUIDANCE FOR PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES

Ukulele Performance Certificates are available from Debut to Grade 3 and consist of the following elements:

- 5 Performance Pieces only (there is no other prepared or unprepared content)

MARKING SCHEMES

The following table details the allocation of marks for each element of the examination across each band of attainment.

GRADE EXAMS: DEBUT – GRADE 3			
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	9–10 out of 15	11–12 out of 15	13+ out of 15
Ear Tests	6 out of 10	7–8 out of 10	9+ out of 10
Sight Reading OR Improvisation & Interpretation	6 out of 10	7–8 out of 10	9+ out of 10
General Musicianship Questions	3 out of 5	4 out of 5	5 out of 5
Total Marks	60%+	74%+	90%+

PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES: DEBUT – GRADE 3			
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
Performance Piece 4	12–14 out of 20	15–17 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Performance Piece 5	12–14 out of 20	15–17 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Total Marks	60%+	75%+	90%+

EXAMINATION TIMINGS

Grade Exams

- Debut: 15 minutes
- Grade 1: 20 minutes
- Grade 2: 20 minutes
- Grade 3: 25 minutes

Performance Certificates

- Debut: 15 minutes
- Grade 1: 20 minutes
- Grade 2: 20 minutes
- Grade 3: 25 minutes

GENERAL NOTES

At the beginning of a Grade Examination, the Examiner will ask the candidate if they wish to begin with Performance Pieces or Technical Exercises. In a Performance Certificate, candidates may present their Performance Pieces in any order of their choice.

Prior to the start of the Performance Pieces, the Examiner will conduct a sound check by asking the candidate to play the first few bars of the first chosen piece. This will set the levels for the exam and will take place alongside the backing track. Once the level has been established, the Examiner will then commence with the first piece in full. Note: the sound check is undertaken for the first Performance Piece only.

Candidates may perform any or all of their pieces from memory. This is not compulsory at any level and no additional marks are given for this. With the exception of certain Technical Exercises where memory requirements apply, it is permitted to use grade books which contain notes made during the course of a candidate's study.

Note: It is not permitted to make any notes at any time during the exam.

For General Musicianship Questions, the Examiner may use his or her version of the selected piece as the basis to ask the questions if such notes contained on the candidate's version are deemed sufficiently extensive or might assist the candidate when answering the questions.

The Examiner will not facilitate page turning for candidates. Candidates are allowed to photocopy relevant sheet music as necessary to alleviate page turns but all copied materials must be handed into the Examiner at the end of the examination.

All tempo markings are to be observed unless otherwise stated. Each piece is designed carefully to achieve a number of outcomes appropriate for the grade.

SELECTING FREE CHOICE PIECES

For all examinations, candidates are able to play a number of free choice pieces:

- **Grade Examinations: Two free choice pieces** (a minimum of one piece must be from the Ukulele grade book)
- **Performance Certificates: Three free choice pieces** (a minimum of two pieces must be from the Ukulele grade book)

Free choice pieces must demonstrate a comparable level of technical and musical demand to the pieces given in the set selections in the grade books which can be referred to as an indication of appropriate level.

Free choice pieces must be in a modern popular genre such as Pop; Rock; Jazz; Country; Blues; Soul; Reggae, Film and Musical Theatre. Own compositions are also acceptable. Pieces should be selected carefully to ensure that they provide suitable opportunity for candidates to demonstrate the relevant assessment criteria. Candidates are reminded that if a chosen Free Choice Piece does not meet these requirements this may impact on the level of achievement possible within the examination.

All pieces must be performed to a backing track (without the examined part on the track) except in cases where a piece has been selected from previous Rockschooll syllabi and does not have a backing track or has been specifically arranged by Rockschooll as a solo piece.

Level	Minimum time limit for FCP	Maximum time limit for FCP
Debut	45 sec.	3 min.
Grade 1	1 min.	3 min.
Grade 2	1 min.	3 min.
Grade 2	1.5 min.	4 min.

Candidates are reminded that RSL examination regulations state that pieces must be performed to the exact requirements as detailed in the relevant syllabus guide. If a performance piece over runs, the examiner can halt the performance and grade material demonstrated until that point only. Candidate mark sheets in this instance will automatically be referred to the Head of Assessment at RSL and may be returned to the candidate with accompanying notes.

Free Choice Pieces must be available in fully notated sheet music. Candidates need to bring a copy of the sheet music for the examiner to refer to during the examination. It is acceptable for candidates to refer to their own duplicate copy during the performance. Candidates are reminded that both copies need to fully reflect the interpretation and intended performance of the piece. Examiners will retain all photocopied materials from the exam session.

If there is any doubt about the appropriateness of the chosen piece, please contact freechoicepieces@rslawards.com.

INSTRUMENT SPECIFICATION

Candidates are reminded that it is their responsibility to select and provide an appropriate musical instrument for each syllabus to allow demonstration of the relevant stylistic and technical skills within their performance.

At all levels of examination, if any outcomes or assessed criteria cannot be demonstrated or are demonstrated less securely as a result of the equipment, this may be reflected in the marks awarded.

Debut

The Debut Ukulele exam is for candidates who have been learning a short time and have developed elementary skills, techniques, co-ordination and musical understanding. There is also an opportunity for basic improvisation.

There are two types of exam available at Debut, either a **Grade Exam** or **Performance Certificate**. (Refer to the Introduction for an explanation of the differences).

Debut

Title	RSL Entry Level Award in Popular Music Performance: Entry 3
Qualification No.	501/0370/2
Level	Entry
Credit Value	4
Guided Learning Hours	8
Total Qualification Time	40

GRADE EXAM

PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces and Technical Exercises which cover scales, arpeggios and chord voicings.

UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to complete either a Sight Reading **OR** Improvisation & Interpretation test and **two** Ear Tests that begin to develop melodic recall and chord recognition.

The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore simple harmony, melody, rhythmic, technical and stylistic knowledge.

EXAM STRUCTURE

The Debut exam lasts **15 minutes** and is taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces***
- **Technical Exercises ***
- **Sight Reading OR Improvisation & Interpretation:** Candidates are given an unseen test to prepare and perform.
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is harmonic.
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on one of the pieces performed.

**These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request*

PERFORMANCE PIECES

The pieces in the grade book can be used for both the Grade Exam and Performance Certificate. At Debut they are short, typically up to one minute in duration. The expectation and length of pieces are designed so candidates can concentrate on the requirements of notation accuracy, values, evenness of sound, tone quality/consistency, technical control and sync at a beginner level.

TECHNICAL EXERCISES

At Debut there are three groups of prepared technical exercises: a) Scales, b) Arpeggios and c) Chord Voicings. These are explained in detail in the relevant grade book.

SIGHT READING / IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION

At Debut, candidates will be offered the choice between Sight Reading or Improvisation & Interpretation. Both are previously unseen and an example of each is shown in the grade book.

SIGHT READING

The Examiner will provide a 4-6 bar melody in the key of C major. Candidates will be given **90** seconds to practise.

IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION

The Examiner will provide a 4-6 bar chord progression in the key of C major. Candidates will be given **90** seconds to practise.

EAR TESTS

At Debut there are **two** ear tests: Melodic Recall and Chord Recognition. Both are previously unseen and an example of each is shown in the grade book.

MELODIC RECALL

The Examiner will play two consecutive notes. Candidates will need to identify whether the last note is higher or lower than the first.

CHORD RECOGNITION

The Examiner will play a sequence of chords, each with a C root note. Candidates will need to identify which chord played was major and which chord was minor.

GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

For the General Musicianship Questions, the Examiner may use his or her version of the selected piece as the basis to ask the questions if such notes contained on the candidate's version are deemed sufficiently extensive or might assist the candidate when answering the questions.

At debut candidates will be asked **five** questions, one from each of the following groups:

- One question relating to harmony
- One question relating to melody
- One question relating to rhythm
- One question relating to technical requirements
- One question relating to genre

Candidates can choose the piece on which basis the questions will be asked. It must be one of the pieces performed in the exam. The exact bars or phrases will be chosen by the examiner. Please see the grade book for full details.

PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

The candidate plays **five** pieces in their preferred chosen order. The exam will last **15 minutes**.

GRADED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

DEBUT : PERFORMANCE PIECES

Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0–11	12–14	15–17	18–20
Grade Descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Insecure basic techniques ■ Inconsistent awareness of timing/pulse ■ Inconsistent use of rhythm, duration and phrasing ■ Insecure sync/continuity ■ Insecure use of articulation, expression and dynamics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Secure basic techniques some of the time ■ Awareness of timing/pulse some of the time ■ Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately some of the time ■ Use of basic sync/continuity some of the time ■ Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics some of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mostly secure basic techniques ■ Awareness of timing/pulse most of the time ■ Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately most of the time ■ Use of basic sync/continuity most of the time ■ Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics most of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consistently secure basic techniques ■ Awareness of timing/pulse throughout ■ Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately throughout ■ Use of basic sync/continuity throughout ■ Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics throughout

DEBUT : TECHNICAL EXERCISES (SCALES, ARPEGGIOS, CHORD VOICINGS)

Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0–8	9–10	11–12	13–15
Grade Descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inability to maintain pulse or tempo accurately ■ Inability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases accurately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo some of the time ■ Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases some of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo most of the time ■ Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases most of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo consistently ■ Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases consistently

DEBUT: SIGHT READING / IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION

Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0–5	6	7–8	9–10
Grade Descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Insecure ability to read basic notation OR inability to improvise rhythm, harmony and melody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Secure ability to read basic rhythmic, harmonic and melodic notation some of the time OR Secure ability to improvise basic rhythm, harmony and melody some of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mostly secure ability to read basic rhythmic, harmonic and melodic notation OR Mostly secure ability to improvise basic rhythm, harmony and melody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consistently secure ability to read basic rhythmic, harmonic and melodic notation OR Consistently secure ability to improvise basic rhythm, harmony and melody

DEBUT : EAR TESTS				
Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0-5	6	7-8	9-10
Grade Descriptor	■ Incorrect responses	■ Some correct responses	■ Mostly correct responses	■ Consistently correct responses

DEBUT : GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS				
Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0-2 correct responses	3 correct responses	4 correct responses	5 correct responses

Grade 1

The Grade 1 Ukulele exam is for candidates who have been typically learning for six months to one year. They have mastered the key basic debut level skills and have since acquired greater use of technique, rhythm, co-ordination and musical understanding. There is also the continuing opportunity to develop improvisation skills

There are two types of exam available at Grade 1, either a **Grade Exam** or **Performance Certificate**. (Refer to the Introduction for an explanation of the differences).

Grade 1

Title	RSL Level 1 Award in Popular Music Performance: Grade 1
Qualification No.	501/0391/X
Level	1
Credit Value	6
Guided Learning Hours	12
Total Qualification Time	60

GRADE EXAM

PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces and Technical Exercises which cover scales, arpeggios and chord voicings.

UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to complete either a Sight Reading or Improvisation & Interpretation test and **two** Ear Tests that begin to develop melodic recall and chord recognition.

The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore simple harmony, melody, rhythmic, technical and stylistic knowledge.

EXAM STRUCTURE

The Grade 1 exam lasts **20 minutes** and is taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces***
- **Technical Exercises ***
- **Sight Reading OR Improvisation & Interpretation:** Candidates are given an unseen test to prepare and perform.
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is harmonic.
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on one of the pieces performed.

**These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request*

PERFORMANCE PIECES

The pieces in the grade book can be used for both the Grade Exam and Performance Certificate. At Grade 1 they are short, typically one to one and a half minutes in duration. The expectation and length of pieces are designed so candidates can concentrate on the requirements of notation accuracy, values, evenness of sound, tone quality/consistency, technical control and sync at a beginner level.

TECHNICAL EXERCISES

At Grade 1 there are three groups of prepared technical exercises: a) Scales, b) Arpeggios and c) Chord Voicings. These are explained in detail in the relevant grade book.

SIGHT READING / IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION

At Grade 1, candidates will be offered the choice between Sight Reading or Improvisation & Interpretation. Both are previously unseen and examples of each are given in the grade book.

SIGHT READING

The Examiner will provide a 4-6 bar melody in the key of F major or G major. Candidates will be given **90** seconds to practise.

IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION

The Examiner will provide a 4-6 bar chord progression in the key of F major or G major. Candidates will be given **90** seconds to practise.

EAR TESTS

At Grade 1 there are **two** ear tests: Melodic Recall and Chord Recognition. Both are previously unseen and an example of each is shown in the grade book.

MELODIC RECALL

The Examiner will play three consecutive notes. Candidates will need to identify whether the last two notes are higher or lower in sequence.

CHORD RECOGNITION

The Examiner will play a sequence of chords, each with a C root note. Candidates will need to identify the chord quality of each chord, from a choice of major, minor, diminished and augmented.

GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

For General Musicianship Questions, the Examiner may use his or her version of the selected piece as the basis to ask the questions if such notes contained on the candidate's version are deemed sufficiently extensive or might assist the candidate when answering the questions.

At Grade 1 candidates will be asked five questions, one from each of the following groups

- One question relating to harmony
- One question relating to melody
- One question relating to rhythm
- One question relating to technical requirements
- One question relating to genre

Candidates can choose the piece on which basis the questions will be asked. It must be one of the pieces performed in the exam. The exact bars or phrases will be chosen by the examiner. Please see the grade book for full details.

PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

The candidate plays **five** pieces in their preferred chosen order. The exam will last **20 minutes**.

GRADED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

GRADE 1 : PERFORMANCE PIECES

Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0–11	12–14	15–17	18–20
Grade Descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Insecure basic techniques ■ Inconsistent awareness of timing/pulse ■ Inconsistent use of rhythm, duration and phrasing ■ Insecure sync/continuity ■ Insecure use of articulation, expression and dynamics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Secure basic techniques some of the time ■ Awareness of timing/pulse some of the time ■ Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately some of the time ■ Use of basic sync/continuity some of the time ■ Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics some of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mostly secure basic techniques ■ Awareness of timing/pulse most of the time ■ Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately most of the time ■ Use of basic sync/continuity most of the time ■ Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics most of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consistently secure basic techniques ■ Awareness of timing/pulse throughout ■ Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately throughout ■ Use of basic sync/continuity throughout ■ Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics throughout

GRADE 1 : TECHNICAL EXERCISES (SCALES, ARPEGGIOS, CHORD VOICINGS)

Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0–8	9–10	11–12	13–15
Grade Descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inability to maintain pulse or tempo accurately ■ Inability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases accurately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo some of the time ■ Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases some of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo most of the time ■ Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases most of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo consistently ■ Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases consistently

GRADE 1 : SIGHT READING / IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION

Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0–5	6	7–8	9–10
Grade Descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Insecure ability to read basic notation OR inability to improvise rhythm, harmony and melody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Secure ability to read basic rhythmic, harmonic and melodic notation some of the time OR Secure ability to improvise basic rhythm, harmony and melody some of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mostly secure ability to read basic rhythmic, harmonic and melodic notation OR Mostly secure ability to improvise basic rhythm, harmony and melody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consistently secure ability to read basic rhythmic, harmonic and melodic notation OR Consistently secure ability to improvise basic rhythm, harmony and melody

GRADE 1 : EAR TESTS				
Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0-5	6	7-8	9-10
Grade Descriptor	■ Incorrect responses	■ Some correct responses	■ Mostly correct responses	■ Consistently correct responses

GRADE 1 : GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS				
Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0-2 correct responses	3 correct responses	4 correct responses	5 correct responses

Grade 2

The Grade 2 Ukulele exam is for candidates who have been typically learning for one year to eighteen months. They have mastered the key basic skills up to Grade 1 and since acquired greater use of technique, rhythms, co-ordination and musical understanding. There is also the continuing opportunity to develop improvisation skills.

There are two types of exam available at Grade 2, either a **Grade Exam** or **Performance Certificate**. (Refer to the Introduction for an explanation of the differences).

Grade 2

Title	RSL Level 1 Award in Popular Music Performance: Grade 2
Qualification No.	501/0646/6
Level	1
Credit Value	9
Guided Learning Hours	18
Total Qualification Time	90

GRADE EXAM

PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play **three** Performance Pieces and Technical Exercises which cover scales, arpeggios and chord voicings.

UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play either a Sight Reading **OR** Improvisation & Interpretation test and **two** Ear Tests that continue to develop melodic recall and chord recognition. The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore growing harmony, melody, rhythmic, technical and stylistic knowledge.

EXAM STRUCTURE

The Grade 2 exam lasts **20 minutes** and will be taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces***
- **Technical Exercises ***
- **Sight Reading OR Improvisation & Interpretation:** Candidates are given an unseen test to prepare and perform.
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is harmonic.
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on one of the pieces performed.

**These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request*

PERFORMANCE PIECES

The pieces in the grade book can be used for both the Grade Exam and Performance Certificate. At Grade 2 they become longer, typically one to two minutes in duration. The expectation and length of pieces are designed so candidates can increase their understanding and execution of notation accuracy, values, evenness of sound, tone quality/consistency, technical control, articulation, expression and sync at a beginner level.

TECHNICAL EXERCISES

At Grade 2 there are three groups of technical work: a) Scales, b) Arpeggios and c) Chord Voicings. These are explained in detail in the relevant grade book.

SIGHT READING / IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION

At Grade 2 candidates will be offered the choice between Sight Reading or Improvisation & Interpretation. Both are previously unseen and examples of each are given in the grade book.

SIGHT READING

The Examiner will provide a 4–6 bar melody in the key of Bb major or D major. Candidates will be given 90 seconds to practise.

IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION

The Examiner will provide a 4–6 bar chord progression in the key of Bb major or D major. Candidates will be given 90 seconds to practise.

EAR TESTS

At Grade 2 there are **two** ear tests: Melodic Recall and Chord Recognition. Both are previously unseen and an example of each is shown in the grade book.

MELODIC RECALL

The Examiner will play a 2 bar diatonic melody in the key of C major with a range up to a fourth. The first note will be the root note. Candidates will need to play the melody to the click.

CHORD RECOGNITION

The Examiner will play a sequence of chords, each with a C root note. Candidates will need to identify the chord quality of each chord, from a choice of major, minor, diminished, augmented and dominant 7th.

GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

For the General Musicianship Questions, the Examiner may use his or her version of the selected piece as the basis to ask the questions if such notes contained on the candidate's version are deemed sufficiently extensive or might assist the candidate when answering the questions.

At Grade 2 candidates will be asked five questions, one from each of the following groups:

- One question relating to harmony
- One question relating to melody
- One question relating to rhythm
- One question relating to technical requirements
- One question relating to genre

Candidates can choose the piece on which basis the questions will be asked. It must be one of the pieces performed in the exam. The exact bars or phrases will be chosen by the examiner. Please see the grade book for full details.

PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

The candidate plays **five** pieces in their preferred chosen order. The exam will last **20 minutes**.

GRADED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

GRADE 2 : PERFORMANCE PIECES

Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0–11	12–14	15–17	18–20
Grade Descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Insecure basic techniques ■ Inconsistent awareness of timing/pulse ■ Inconsistent use of rhythm, duration and phrasing ■ Insecure sync/continuity ■ Insecure use of articulation, expression and dynamics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Secure basic techniques some of the time ■ Awareness of timing/pulse some of the time ■ Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately some of the time ■ Use of basic sync/continuity some of the time ■ Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics some of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mostly secure basic techniques ■ Awareness of timing/pulse most of the time ■ Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately most of the time ■ Use of basic sync/continuity most of the time ■ Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics most of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consistently secure basic techniques ■ Awareness of timing/pulse throughout ■ Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately throughout ■ Use of basic sync/continuity throughout ■ Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics throughout

GRADE 2 : TECHNICAL EXERCISES (SCALES, ARPEGGIOS, CHORD VOICINGS)

Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0–8	9–10	11–12	13–15
Grade Descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inability to maintain pulse or tempo accurately ■ Inability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases accurately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo some of the time ■ Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases some of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo most of the time ■ Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases most of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo consistently ■ Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases consistently

GRADE 2 : SIGHT READING / IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION

Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0–5	6	7–8	9–10
Grade Descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Insecure ability to read basic notation OR inability to improvise rhythm, harmony and melody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Secure ability to read basic rhythmic, harmonic and melodic notation some of the time OR Secure ability to improvise basic rhythm, harmony and melody some of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mostly secure ability to read basic rhythmic, harmonic and melodic notation OR Mostly secure ability to improvise basic rhythm, harmony and melody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consistently secure ability to read basic rhythmic, harmonic and melodic notation OR Consistently secure ability to improvise basic rhythm, harmony and melody

GRADE 2 : EAR TESTS				
Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0-5	6	7-8	9-10
Grade Descriptor	■ Incorrect responses	■ Some correct responses	■ Mostly correct responses	■ Consistently correct responses

GRADE 2 : GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS				
Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0-2 correct responses	3 correct responses	4 correct responses	5 correct responses

Grade 3

The Grade 3 Ukulele exam is for candidates who have been typically learning for eighteen months to two years and who are ready to consolidate their final stage as a beginner player. They have mastered the key skills up to Grade 2 and since acquired greater use of technique, rhythms, co-ordination and musical understanding. Improvisation phrasing is now confident and articulate and candidates have started to develop the beginnings of stylistic awareness.

There are two types of exam available at Grade 3, either a **Grade Exam** or **Performance Certificate**. (Refer to the Introduction for an explanation of the differences).

Grade 3

Title	RSL Level 1 Award in Popular Music Performance: Grade 3
Qualification No.	501/0647/8
Level	1
Credit Value	12
Guided Learning Hours	18
Total Qualification Time	120

GRADE EXAM

PREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play three Performance Pieces and Technical Exercises which cover scales, arpeggios and chord voicings.

UNPREPARED WORK

Candidates are required to play either a Sight Reading or Improvisation & Interpretation test and **two** Ear Tests that continue to develop melodic recall and chord recognition. The final part of the exam comprises **five** questions which are designed to explore harmony, melody, rhythmic, technical and stylistic knowledge at Grade 3 level.

EXAM STRUCTURE

The Grade 3 exam lasts **25 minutes** and will be taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces***
- **Technical Exercises ***
- **Sight Reading OR Improvisation & Interpretation:** Candidates are given an unseen test to prepare and perform.
- **Ear Tests:** Candidates respond to two aural tests. One is melodic and one is harmonic.
- **General Musicianship Questions:** Candidates answer five questions based on one of the pieces performed.

**These elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request*

PERFORMANCE PIECES

The pieces in the grade book can be used for both the Grade Exam and Performance Certificate. At Grade 3 they are becoming longer, typically in the region of two minutes in duration. The expectation and length of pieces are designed so candidates can continue their understanding and execution of notation accuracy, values, evenness of sound, tone quality/consistency, technical control, expression, articulation and sync at a high beginner level. At Grade 3, pieces also introduce the need for stylistic awareness as part of the assessment.

TECHNICAL EXERCISES

At Grade 3 there are three groups of technical work: a) Scales, b) Arpeggios and c) Chord Voicings. These are explained in detail in the relevant grade book.

SIGHT READING / IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION

At Grade 3 candidates will be offered the choice between Sight Reading or Improvisation & Interpretation. Both are previously unseen and examples of each are given in the grade book.

SIGHT READING

The Examiner will provide a 4-8 bar melody in the key of Eb major or A major. Candidates will first be given 90 seconds to practise.

IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION

The Examiner will provide a 4-8 bar chord progression in the key of Eb major or A major. Candidates will be given 90 seconds to practise.

EAR TESTS

At Grade 3 there are **two** ear tests: Melodic Recall and Chord Recognition. Both are previously unseen and an example of each is shown in the grade book.

MELODIC RECALL

The Examiner will play a 2 bar diatonic melody in the key of C major with a range up to a fifth. The first note will be the root note. Candidates will need to play the melody to the click.

CHORD RECOGNITION

The Examiner will play a sequence of chords, each with a C root note. Candidates will need to identify the chord quality of two of the chords, from a choice of major, minor, diminished, augmented, dominant 7th and major 7th.

GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS

For the General Musicianship Questions, the Examiner may use his or her version of the selected piece as the basis to ask the questions if such notes contained on the candidate's version are deemed sufficiently extensive or might assist the candidate when answering the questions.

At Grade 3 candidates will be asked five questions, one from each of the following groups:

- One question relating to harmony
- One question relating to melody
- One question relating to rhythm
- One question relating to technical requirements
- One question relating to genre

Candidates can choose the piece on which basis the questions will be asked. It must be one of the pieces performed in the exam. The exact bars or phrases will be chosen by the examiner. Please see the grade book for full details.

PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

The candidate plays **five** pieces in their preferred chosen order. The exam will last **25 minutes**.

GRADED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

GRADE 3 : PERFORMANCE PIECES

Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0–11	12–14	15–17	18–20
Grade Descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Insecure basic techniques ■ Inconsistent awareness of timing/pulse ■ Inconsistent use of rhythm, duration and phrasing ■ Insecure sync/continuity ■ Insecure use of articulation, expression and dynamics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Secure basic techniques some of the time ■ Awareness of timing/pulse some of the time ■ Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately some of the time ■ Use of basic sync/continuity some of the time ■ Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics some of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mostly secure basic techniques ■ Awareness of timing/pulse most of the time ■ Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately most of the time ■ Use of basic sync/continuity most of the time ■ Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics most of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consistently secure basic techniques ■ Awareness of timing/pulse throughout ■ Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately throughout ■ Use of basic sync/continuity throughout ■ Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics throughout

GRADE 3 : TECHNICAL EXERCISES (SCALES, ARPEGGIOS, CHORD VOICINGS)

Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0–8	9–10	11–12	13–15
Grade Descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inability to maintain pulse or tempo accurately ■ Inability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases accurately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo some of the time ■ Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases some of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo most of the time ■ Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases most of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo consistently ■ Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases consistently

GRADE 3 : SIGHT READING / IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION

Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0–5	6	7–8	9–10
Grade Descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Insecure ability to read basic notation OR inability to improvise rhythm, harmony and melody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Secure ability to read basic rhythmic, harmonic and melodic notation some of the time OR Secure ability to improvise basic rhythm, harmony and melody some of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mostly secure ability to read basic rhythmic, harmonic and melodic notation OR Mostly secure ability to improvise basic rhythm, harmony and melody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consistently secure ability to read basic rhythmic, harmonic and melodic notation OR Consistently secure ability to improvise basic rhythm, harmony and melody

GRADE 3 : EAR TESTS				
Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0-5	6	7-8	9-10
Grade Descriptor	■ Incorrect responses	■ Some correct responses	■ Mostly correct responses	■ Consistently correct responses

GRADE 3 : GENERAL MUSICIANSHIP QUESTIONS				
Attainment Band	Assessment Criteria not met	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Mark Range	0-2 correct responses	3 correct responses	4 correct responses	5 correct responses