



GRADED CERTIFICATES

MARKING SCHEMES & GRADING CRITERIA

APRIL 2020

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MARKING SCHEMES

Graded Certificates: Debut – Grade 5			
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.

GRADING DESCRIPTORS

ELECTRIC GUITAR | BASS GUITAR | DRUMS ACOUSTIC GUITAR (2019 SYLLABUS)

DEBUT – GRADE 2

Performance Pieces & Technical Work

Bands of Attainment/Marks

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	6–11	0–5
Grading Criteria	Consistent and secure basic techniques	Secure basic techniques overall	Basic techniques evident	Basic techniques not shown	Incomplete performance No attempt
	Consistent rhythm / pulse	Secure rhythm / pulse overall	Rhythm / pulse evident	Rhythm/pulse largely inaccurate	
	Notation accuracy detailed throughout	Notation accuracy observed overall	Notation accuracy evident	Notation accuracy largely inaccurate	
	Consistent sync	Mainly synchronised	Sync evident	Sync not achieved	
	Highly confident and assured presentation	Confident presentation overall	Some confidence in presentation	Unsure in presentation	

GRADES 3–5

Performance Pieces & Technical Work

Bands of Attainment/Marks

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass 1	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	6–11	0–5
Grading Criteria	Consistent and secure techniques	Secure techniques overall	Some secure techniques evident	Techniques hesitant and/or incorrect	Incomplete performance No attempt
	Consistent rhythm / pulse	Secure rhythm / pulse overall	Generally secure rhythm / pulse	Rhythm/pulse mostly inaccurate	
	Notation / harmonic accuracy detailed throughout	Notation / harmonic accuracy observed overall	Some notation / harmonic accuracy evident	Notation/harmonic work hesitant and/or incorrect	
	Stylistic direction detailed throughout	Stylistic direction observed overall	Some stylistic direction evident	Stylistic direction hesitant and/or incorrect	
	Convincing and stylistic solo/improv	Stylistic solo / improv overall	Adequate solo / improv	Solo/improv limited in stylistic understanding	
	Consistent sync	Mainly synchronised	Sync evident	Sync largely not achieved	
	Highly confident and assured stylistic performance	A sense of stylistic performance overall	Some sense of stylistic performance	Sense of stylistic performance not achieved	

PIANO 2019 SYLLABUS KEYS 2019 SYLLABUS

DEBUT				
Performance Pieces				
Bands of Attainment/Marks				
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grading Criteria	Consistently secure basic techniques	Mostly secure basic techniques	Secure basic techniques some of the time	Insecure basic techniques
	Awareness of timing / pulse throughout	Awareness of timing/ pulse most of the time	Awareness of timing/ pulse some of the time	Inconsistent awareness of timing/pulse
	Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately throughout	Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately most of the time	Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately some of the time	Inconsistent use of rhythm, duration and phrasing
	Use of basic sync/ continuity throughout	Use of basic sync/ continuity most of the time	Use of basic sync/ continuity some of the time	Insecure sync/continuity
Technical Exercises				
Bands of Attainment/Marks				
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grading Criteria	Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo consistently	Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo most of the time	Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo some of the time	Inability to maintain pulse or tempo accurately
	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases consistently	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases most of the time	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases some of the time	Inability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases accurately

(Piano & Keys 2019 continued)

GRADES 1–3				
Performance Pieces				
Bands of Attainment/Marks				
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grading Criteria	Consistently secure basic techniques	Mostly secure basic techniques	Secure basic techniques some of the time	Insecure basic techniques
	Awareness of timing / pulse throughout	Awareness of timing/ pulse most of the time	Awareness of timing/ pulse some of the time	Inconsistent awareness of timing/pulse
	Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately throughout	Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately most of the time	Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately some of the time	Inconsistent use of rhythm, duration and phrasing
	Use of basic sync/ continuity throughout	Use of basic sync/ continuity most of the time	Use of basic sync/ continuity some of the time	Insecure sync/continuity
	Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics throughout	Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics most of the time	Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics some of the time	Insecure use of articulation, expression and dynamics
Technical Exercises				
Bands of Attainment/Marks				
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grading Criteria	Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo consistently	Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo most of the time	Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo some of the time	Inability to maintain pulse or tempo accurately
	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases consistently	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases most of the time	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases some of the time	Inability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases accurately

(Piano & Keys 2019 continued)

GRADES 4–5				
Performance Pieces				
Bands of Attainment/Marks				
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grading Criteria	Consistently secure physical techniques	Mostly secure physical techniques	Secure physical techniques some of the time	Insecure physical techniques
	Consistently secure expressive techniques	Mostly secure expressive techniques	Secure expressive techniques some of the time	Insecure expressive techniques
	Secure use of rhythm, duration and phrasing throughout	Secure use of rhythm, duration and phrasing most of the time	Secure use of rhythm, duration and phrasing some of the time	Insecure use of rhythm, duration and phrasing
	Secure use of timing/pulse throughout	Secure use of timing/pulse most of the time	Secure use of timing/pulse some of the time	Insecure use of timing/pulse
	Strong stylistic awareness throughout	Strong stylistic awareness most of the time	Strong stylistic awareness some of the time	Inconsistent stylistic awareness
	Secure use of sync/continuity throughout	Secure use of sync/continuity most of the time	Secure use of sync/continuity some of the time	Insecure sync/continuity
	Secure use of articulation, expression and dynamics throughout	Secure use of articulation, expression and dynamics most of the time	Secure use of articulation, expression and dynamics some of the time	Insecure use of articulation, expression and dynamics

Technical Exercises				
Bands of Attainment/Marks				
Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grading Criteria	Ability to maintain pulse and tempo consistently	Ability to maintain pulse and tempo most of the time	Ability to maintain pulse and tempo some of the time	Inability to maintain pulse or tempo accurately
	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases consistently	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases most of the time	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases some of the time	Inability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases accurately
	Secure physical techniques shown all of the time	Secure physical techniques shown most of the time	Secure physical techniques shown some of the time	Secure physical techniques not shown
	Accuracy of notation shown all of the time	Accuracy of notation shown most of the time	Accuracy of notation shown some of the time	Accuracy of notation not shown

VOCALS

DEBUT – GRADE 3

Performance Pieces

Bands of Attainment/Marks

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grading Criteria	Consistently secure basic techniques	Mostly secure basic techniques	Secure basic techniques some of the time	Insecure basic techniques
	Awareness of rhythm/pulse throughout	Awareness of rhythm/pulse most of the time	Awareness of rhythm/pulse some of the time	Inconsistent awareness of rhythm/pulse
	Basic ability to maintain pitch and intonation accurately throughout	Basic ability to maintain pitch and intonation accurately most of the time	Basic ability to maintain pitch and intonation accurately some of the time	Inability to maintain pitch and intonation accurately
	Basic ability to use diction, articulation and phrasing throughout	Basic ability to use diction, articulation and phrasing most of the time	Basic ability to use diction, articulation and phrasing some of the time	Insecure use of diction, articulation and phrasing

Technical Exercises

Bands of Attainment/Marks

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grading Criteria	Basic ability to sing with accuracy, pitch, rhythm and pulse consistently	Basic ability to sing with accuracy, pitch, rhythm and pulse most of the time	Basic ability to sing with accuracy, pitch, rhythm and pulse some of the time	Inability to maintain pitch, pulse or rhythm accurately
	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases consistently	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases most of the time	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases some of the time	Inability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases accurately

GRADES 4–5

Performance Pieces

Bands of Attainment/Marks

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grade Descriptor	Consistently secure physical techniques	Mostly secure physical techniques	Secure physical techniques some of the time	Insecure physical techniques
	Consistently secure expressive techniques	Mostly secure expressive techniques	Generally secure expressive techniques	Insecure expressive techniques
	Secure use of rhythm throughout	Secure use of rhythm most of the time	Secure use of rhythm some of the time	Insecure use of rhythm
	Secure use of pitch and intonation throughout	Secure use of pitch and intonation most of the time	Secure use of pitch and intonation some of the time	Insecure use of pitch and intonation
	Strong stylistic awareness throughout	Strong stylistic awareness most of the time	Strong stylistic awareness some of the time	Inability to demonstrate stylistic awareness
	Secure use of diction, articulation and phrasing throughout	Secure use of diction, articulation and phrasing most of the time	Secure use of diction, articulation and phrasing some of the time	Inability to use diction, articulation and phrasing

Technical Exercises

Bands of Attainment/Marks

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grading Criteria	Ability to sing with accuracy, pitch, rhythm and pulse consistently	Ability to sing with accuracy, pitch, rhythm and pulse most of the time	Ability to sing with accuracy, pitch, rhythm and pulse some of the time	Inability to maintain pitch, pulse or rhythm accurately
	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases consistently	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases most of the time	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases some of the time	Inability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases accurately

UKULELE 2020

DEBUT-GRADE 5

Performance Pieces

Bands of Attainment/Marks

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	Constantly 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 maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	All of 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 demonstrated Understanding of musical structures 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 convincingly projected	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

Technical Exercises

Bands of Attainment / Marks

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	Constantly 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 maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	All of 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 demonstrated. Understanding of musical structures not evidenced.	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

UKULELE 2017

DEBUT – GRADE 3 (only)

Performance Pieces

Bands of Attainment / Marks

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grade Descriptor	Consistently secure basic techniques	Mostly secure basic techniques	Secure basic techniques some of the time	Insecure basic techniques
	Awareness of timing / pulse throughout	Awareness of timing/ pulse most of the time	Awareness of timing/ pulse some of the time	Inconsistent awareness of timing/ pulse
	Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately throughout	Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately most of the time	Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately some of the time	Inconsistent use of rhythm, duration and phrasing
	Use of basic sync/ continuity throughout	Use of basic sync/ continuity most of the time	Use of basic sync/ continuity some of the time	Insecure sync/ continuity
	Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics throughout	Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics most of the time	Basic ability to use articulation, expression and dynamics some of the time	Insecure use of articulation, expression and dynamics

Technical Exercises

Bands of Attainment / Marks

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grade Descriptor	Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo consistently	Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo most of the time	Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo some of the time	Inability to maintain pulse or tempo accurately
	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases consistently	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases most of the time	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases some of the time	Inability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases accurately

ACOUSTIC 2016 SYLLABUS

DEBUT – GRADE 3

Performance Pieces

Bands of Attainment / Marks

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grade Descriptor	Consistently secure basic techniques	Mostly secure basic techniques	Secure basic techniques some of the time	Insecure basic techniques
	Awareness of timing / pulse throughout	Awareness of timing / pulse most of the time	Awareness of timing / pulse some of the time	Inconsistent awareness of timing / pulse
	Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately throughout	Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately most of the time	Basic ability to use rhythm, duration and phrasing accurately some of the time	Inconsistent use of rhythm, duration and phrasing

Technical Exercises

Bands of Attainment / Marks

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	0–11
Grade Descriptor	Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo consistently	Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo most of the time	Basic ability to maintain pulse and tempo some of the time	Inability to maintain pulse or tempo accurately
	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases consistently	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases most of the time	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases some of the time	Inability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases accurately

GRADES 4-5

Performance Pieces

Bands of Attainment / Marks

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18-20	15-17	12-14	0-11
Grade Descriptor	Consistently secure physical techniques	Mostly secure physical techniques	Generally secure physical techniques	Insecure physical technique
	Consistently secure expressive techniques	Mostly secure expressive techniques	Generally secure expressive techniques	Insecure expressive techniques
	Secure use of rhythm throughout	Secure use of rhythm most of the time	Secure use of rhythm some of the time	Inconsistent use of rhythm
	Strong sense of pitch and pulse throughout	Strong sense of pitch and pulse most of the time	Strong sense of pitch and pulse some of the time	Inability to maintain pitch and/or pulse accurately
	A sense of sync and security throughout	A sense of sync and security most of the time	A sense of sync and security some of the time	Inconsistent sync
	Strong stylistic awareness throughout	Strong stylistic awareness most of the time	Strong stylistic awareness some of the time	Inability to demonstrate stylistic awareness

Technical Exercises

Bands of Attainment / Marks

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Assessment Criteria Not Met
Mark Range	18-20	15-17	12-14	0-11
Grade Descriptor	Ability to play with accuracy, pitch, rhythm and pulse consistently	Ability to play with accuracy, pitch, rhythm and pulse most of the time	Ability to play with accuracy, pitch, rhythm and pulse some of the time	Inability to maintain pitch, pulse or rhythm accurately
	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases consistently	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases most of the time	Ability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases some of the time	Inability to recall musical and rhythmic phrases accurately
	Ability to play stipulated chord voicings from memory consistently	Ability to play stipulated chord voicings from memory most of the time	Ability to play stipulated chord voicings from memory some of the time	Inability to play stipulated chord voicings from memory