

Technical Requirements & Discussion Questions for Recorded Graded Exams

Please note: The following set of technical work and discussion questions was revised and published on 28th April 2023. Candidates performing the following requirements should state in their recording that they are performing the revised set. The previous requirements will be valid until 1st September 2023.

The following list of technical requirements should be performed to make up the Technical Work and Discussion components of the exam. Where not specified, candidates may choose which scales or arpeggios to perform but should, where possible, select a variety of different keys. Further guidelines on specific requirements for each grade can be found in the relevant LCME syllabus.

All the required material for the exam is contained within the Classical Guitar Handbooks 2022 (LCM).

Classical Guitar

Step 1

Technical Requirements

Candidate to play 5 of the following exercises:

- String Walk
- String Hop
- Every, Brilliant, Guitarist, Deserves, Applause, Eventually
- Frog Hop
- One Banana, Two
- The Bass-ics
- Old Castle Harp
- Pedal Tones
- Sounding Spanish
- Sonar Echoes

Step 2

Technical Requirements

Technical Work and Exercises:

- C major scale: one octave ascending only, *i* and *m*; and E harmonic minor scale: up to 5th, *p* (thumb only); q = 76
- G major: up to a 5th, *l* and *m* C major arpeggio: up to 5th *Pimip*; q=76

Performance of any 6 of the following exercises:

- Tango for Two and Fingers
- Flamenc'ole
- All Fingers and Thumbs
- Pima-licius
- Fever Groove
- Choppy Cs
- Down South
- Bondai James
- At the Carnival
- Staccato Codebreaker

Grade 1

Technical Requirements

Option 1

Scales

C major one octave: *i* and *m*. Crotchet = 80

G major one octave: *i* and *m*. Crotchet = 80

E harmonic minor one octave: using *p*. Crotchet = 80

Arpeggios

G major one octave: *i* and *m* Quaver = 160

A minor on-octave: Thumb only. Quaver = 160

E minor one octave: *pimamip*. Quaver =160

Option 2

Study: C major in three positions (C to C) (Stuart Wheaton)

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the mood of this piece?

- What does the dynamic marking at the beginning of this piece mean?
- Name and point to FOUR different parts of the guitar

Grade 2

Technical Requirements

Option 1

Scales

G major two octaves: *i* and *m*. Crotchet = 84

D major one octave: *i* and *m*. Crotchet = 84

F major one octave: *i* and *m*. Crotchet = 84

A harmonic minor two octave: using *i* and *m*. Crotchet = 84

D harmonic minor one octave: *i* and *m*. Crotchet = 84

Chromatic Scale beginning on G: *i* and *m*. crotchet = 84

Arpeggios

F major one octave: using thumb only. Quaver = 170

G major two octave: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 170

A minor two octave: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 170

D minor one octave: using *pimamip*. Quaver = 170

D major one octave: using *pimamip*. Quaver = 170

Option 2

Study: 12th Fret Harmonics (Declan Zapala)

Plus:

Scales

Chromatic Scale beginning on G: *l* and *m*. crotchet = 84

D major one octave: *l* and *m*. Crotchet = 84

A harmonic minor two octave: using *l* and *m*. Crotchet = 84

Arpeggios

G major two octave: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 170

D minor one octave: using *pimamip*. Quaver = 170

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Name the Key and Time signature of your favourite piece, and describe the dynamics used in the piece
- Name TWO other related instruments to the guitar.
- Demonstrate a good sitting position, use of the footstool, and a good right-hand position.
- Name and point to, THREE different parts of the guitar.

Grade 3

Technical Requirements

Option 1

Scales

A major two octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

D major two octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

A melodic minor two octave: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

E melodic minor two octave: *i* and *m* and *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

Chromatic scale (beginning on F): using thumb only. Crotchet = 88

Arpeggios

A major two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 180

C major two octave: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 180

E minor two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 180

Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of E: using thumb and fingers. Crotchet = 88

Harmonized scale - C major in 3rds one octave: using *p* and *i*. Crotchet = 88

Option 2

Study: *Slurs (Declan Zapala)*

Plus:

Scales

A major two octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

A melodic minor two octave: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

Chromatic scale (beginning on F): using thumb only. Crotchet = 88

Arpeggios

C major two octave: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 180

Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of E: using thumb and fingers. Crotchet = 88

Harmonized scale - C major in 3rds one octave: using *p* and *i*. Crotchet = 88

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Explain and demonstrate how to move smoothly between 1st and 2nd position.
- What is the mood of the pieces you played, and how do they contrast?
- What do the dynamic markings in your favourite piece mean?
- Explain and demonstrate the difference between legato and staccato playing.

Grade 4

Technical Requirements

Option 1

Scales

E major two octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

D harmonic minor two octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

D melodic minor two octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

Chromatic scale (beginning on E) 2 octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

Arpeggios

E major two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 180

D minor two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 180

Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of G, two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Crotchet = 88

Harmonised Scales

A major in 3rds one octave: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 88

C major in octaves one octave: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 88

G major in 10ths one octave: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 88

Option 2

Study: *Syncopation and Half Barres (Declan Zapala)*

Plus:

Scales

E major two octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

D melodic minor two octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

Chromatic scale (beginning on E) 2 octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 88

Arpeggios

D minor two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 180

Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of G, two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Crotchet = 88

Harmonised Scales

A major in 3rds one octave: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 88

G major in 10ths one octave: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 88

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Discuss the composer of your favourite piece, their nationality, and their approximate dates
- Which was the most technically difficult part of one of your pieces to learn and why?
- Explain how to play a half barre, and how to achieve a clear sound.
- Discuss why you should keep the guitar away from any cold or hot sources, and why keeping it in tune is important.

Grade 5

Technical Requirements

Option 1

Scales

E major three octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 96

Bb major two octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 96

B melodic minor two octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 96

Chromatic scale (beginning on E) 3 octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 96

Arpeggios

E major three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 190

Bb major two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 190

G minor two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 190

Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of Bb, two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Crotchet = 96

Harmonised Scales

G major in 3rds two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 96

F major in octaves two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 96

G major in 6ths two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 96

Option 2

Study: *Cross-String Articulation (Declan Zapala)*

Plus:

Scales

E major three octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 96

B melodic minor two octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 96

Chromatic scale (beginning on E) 3 octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 96

Arpeggios

E major three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 190

Bb major two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 190

Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of Bb, two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Crotchet = 96

Harmonised Scales

F major in octaves two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 96

G major in 6ths two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 96

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Discuss how to perform ascending or descending slurs
- Tell me about your approach to learning your favourite of the three pieces you played today, were there any difficulties you had to overcome? (Musical or technical)
- Choose another piece and describe the structure of this piece?

- Which historical period do each of the pieces you performed today come from?

Grade 6

Technical Requirements

Option 1

Scales

G major three octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 100

E melodic minor three octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 100

A major in four positions, one octave: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 100

A melodic minor in four positions, one octave: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 100

Chromatic scale (beginning on G) 3 octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 100

Arpeggios

G major three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 200

E minor three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 200

Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of F#, two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Crotchet = 100

Harmonised Scales

D major in 3rds two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 100

D major in 6ths two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 100

Chords

G major in root position triads two octaves: using *p, i, m*. Crotchet = 100

G minor in root position triads two octaves: using *p, i, m*. Crotchet = 100

Option 2

Study: F# minor using harp harmonics and full barres (Declan Zapala)

Plus:

Scales

E melodic minor three octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 100

A major in four positions, one octave: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 100

A melodic minor in four positions, one octave: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 100

Chromatic scale (beginning on G) 3 octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 100

Arpeggios

E minor three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 200

Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of F#, two octaves: using thumb and fingers. Crotchet = 100

Harmonised Scales

D major in 6ths two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 100

Chords

G minor in root position triads two octaves: using *p, i, m*. Crotchet = 100

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Discuss your responses to the music performed: the extent to which you like or dislike it, or find it challenging or rewarding, and why.
- Tell me about your approach to performing another piece you played today, including certain techniques and aspects of interpreting the music.
- Describe one melodic and harmonic feature of the music in a different piece you performed today (such as sequence, melodic inversion, circle of 5ths, or pedal points).
- Which historical periods do the pieces you performed today come from?

Grade 7

Technical Requirements

Option 1

Scales

A major three octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 104

A melodic minor three octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 104

E major in four positions, one octave: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 104

Arpeggios

A major three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 210

A minor three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 210

Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of A, three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Crotchet = 104

Harmonised Scales

A major in 3rds two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 104

A major in inverted 6ths two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 104

Chords

D major in 1st inversion triads two octaves: using *p*, *i*, *m*. Crotchet = 104

D minor in 1st inversion triads two octaves: using *p*, *i*, *m*. Crotchet = 104

Option 2

Study: *Rasgueado and Full Barre (Stuart Wheaton)*

Plus:

Scales

A melodic minor three octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 104

E major in four positions, one octave: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 104

Arpeggios

Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of A, three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Crotchet = 104

Harmonised Scales

A major in 3rds two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 104

A major in inverted 6ths two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 104

Chords

D minor in 1st inversion triads two octaves: using *p, i, m*. Crotchet = 104

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played/ sang today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as the use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- What is the structure of this piece?
- Describe one melodic and harmonic feature of one of the pieces you performed today (such as sequence, melodic inversion, circle of 5ths, or pedal points).
- What do you know about the composer and the historical and stylistic context of each piece?

Grade 8

Technical Requirements

Option 1

Scales

B major three octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 108

B melodic minor three octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 108

E melodic minor in four positions, one octave: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 108

Arpeggios

B major three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 220

B minor three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 220

Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of B, three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Crotchet = 108

Harmonised Scales

E major in 3rds two octaves: using *p* and *i* or *m*. Crotchet = 108

E major in inverted 6ths two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 108

Chords

C major in 2nd inversion triads two octaves: using *p, i, m*. Crotchet = 108

C minor in 2nd inversion triads two octaves: using *p, i, m*. Crotchet = 108

Option 2

Study: B minor Using Full barres and Harmonics (Declan Zapala)

Plus:

Scales

B major three octaves: *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 108

B melodic minor three octaves: using *i* and *m* or *m* and *a*. Crotchet = 108

Arpeggios

B minor three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Quaver = 220

Dominant 7th Arpeggio in the key of B, three octaves: using thumb and fingers. Crotchet = 108

Harmonised Scales

E major in inverted 6ths two octaves: using *p* and *i/m*. Crotchet = 108

Chords

C major in 2nd inversion triads two octaves: using *p*, *i*, *m*. Crotchet = 108

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- From each piece performed, name another piece by the same composer
- Discuss with the examiner a range of issues arising from the music performed, demonstrating evidence of a rounded musical awareness, in terms of both the repertoire itself and your response to it as a performer
- Discuss the styles and performers which have been influential in the development of your playing.
- Explain the difference between free stroke and rest stroke playing and how they would be employed in different pieces.
- Explain and demonstrate an artificial harmonic and explain how it differs from a natural harmonic
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rasgueado technique and how to perform it