

London College of Music Examinations

Electric Guitar Recorded Exams

Qualification specifications for:
Step, Grades and Recital Grades

Valid from:
2026 until further notice

updated 05.10.2026

This document was released on September 1, 2026.

Below is a record of updates made since release:

05.10.2026

Candidates may now select appropriate own-choice repertoire, subject to the requirements specified for each component and grade.

Electric Guitar Recorded Exam Requirements

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London College of Music Examinations

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Electric Guitar Recorded Requirements

1. Information and general guidelines

1.1 Introduction

This document outlines the requirements for Recorded Grades and Recital Grades in Electric Guitar from Step to Grade 8, including technical work, set repertoire, and spoken test questions. For information about in-person exams, the full performance guidelines and assessment criteria, please refer to the current [Electric Guitar Syllabus](#).

Recorded Exams

Recorded exams provide the opportunity for the assessment of musical performance through the submission of a video recording, rather than attendance at an examination venue. Performances are assessed by trained LCME examiners using the same standards and criteria as for in-person examinations.

1.2 Validity

These specifications apply to Recorded Electric Guitar exams (Step, Grades, and Recital Grades) from 1 September 2026 until further notice.

1.3 Exam entry

Submission guidelines

Details of fees and how to book a digital exam are available on our website: lcme.uwl.ac.uk

Recording requirements

Details of what to include and how to film and upload recorded exams are available on our website: lcme.uwl.ac.uk

Age groups and requirements for prior learning

LCME graded exams are open to all and there are no minimum age restrictions. No prerequisite qualifications are required for entering any exam; candidates can enter at any level provided they have the required knowledge, skills and understanding.

Equity, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration

Information on assessment, examination and entry requirements for candidates with specific needs is published in the Equity, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration policy available on our website: lcme.uwl.ac.uk

1.4 Exam options

	Grades	Recital Grades
Technical Work	✓	✗
Rhythm Playing	✓	✓
Lead Playing	✓	✓
Spoken Tests	✓	✗
Specialism	✓	✗
Structure	Grades 1 to 8	Grades 1 to 8
Prerequisites	✗	✗
Assessment	Digital Recorded	Digital Recorded
Grading	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%	Distinction: 85–100% Merit: 75–84% Pass: 65–74%
Regulation	✓	✗
UCAS points	Grades 6 to 8	✗

Introductory examinations

LCME also offers one level of introductory examinations in Electric Guitar: Step. The pass bands are the same as for the graded examinations (Distinction (85–100% of the total marks available), Merit (75–84%) and Pass (65–74%). These exams are not regulated by Ofqual.

1.5 Assessment and results

Assessment

Exams are assessed according to the same standards and criteria as for LCME's in-person exams. Refer to the details listed in the assessment and regulations sections in the current [Electric Guitar Syllabus](#).

Marking

Qualifications are awarded by the University of West London (UWL). Exams are conducted by trained examiners. Candidates will be assessed on their technical accomplishment, musical knowledge, musicality and communication. In awarding marks, examiners will take into account the extent to which each of these assessment objectives is demonstrated within each exam component.

Issue of results

Candidates will be informed of the results of examinations as soon as possible. Results are available soon after the examination and certificates for successful candidates are normally dispatched within eight weeks of the date of the examination.

Enquiries, complaints and appeals

Information on how to make an enquiry, complaint or appeal is available on our website:

lcme.uwl.ac.uk

Exam regulations

Full details of all general exam regulations are published in the Regulations and Information document available on our website: lcme.uwl.ac.uk

1.6 Performance guidelines

Refer to the relevant details listed in the current **Electric Guitar Syllabus**.

1.7 Recording requirements

Please refer to the relevant guidance on our website: lcme.uwl.ac.uk. This covers essential information on how to film your exam, as well as advice on preparation, equipment, and recording quality.

1.8 Publications

The following materials are available to purchase or download:

Physical publications

• LCME repertoire handbooks

Hard-copy handbooks containing the repertoire needed for all levels are available from all major retailers: [click here to purchase](#)

Digital publications

• LCME repertoire handbooks

Repertoire handbooks for all levels are available as PDF downloads to purchase from digital retailers: [click here to download](#) 

• Audio files

Audio files and other supporting material can be downloaded for free from our website: [click here to download](#) 

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Electric Guitar Recorded Requirements

2. Recorded Exam requirements

2.1 Recorded Grade Exams

This overview outlines the components that candidates will encounter in the exam. For detailed information, please refer to the requirements on the following pages.

Recorded Step, Grades 1–5

• Component 1: Technical Work

Performance of the technical work as per the requirements of the grade.

• Component 2: Rhythm Playing or Performance

Candidates give a prepared rhythm performance using their selected chord chart from the LCME handbook or perform a piece of their own choice.

• Component 3: Lead Playing or Improvisation

Candidates give a prepared lead performance over the backing track for their selected chord progression from the LCME handbook or perform an improvised section over a piece or backing track of their own choice.

• Component 4: Spoken Tests

Candidates respond to a given set of topics about the music performed including instrument specific knowledge and techniques applied in the performance, as appropriate to the grade.

Component weightings

Technical Work	Rhythm Playing	Lead Playing	Spoken Tests
20%	35%	35%	10%

Recorded Grades 6–8

• Component 1: Technical Work

Performance of the technical work as per the requirements of the grade.

• Component 2: Rhythm Playing or Performance

Candidates give a prepared rhythm performance using their selected chord chart from the LCME handbook or perform a piece of their own choice.

• Component 3: Lead Playing or Improvisation

Candidates give a prepared lead performance over the backing track for their selected chord progression from the LCME handbook or perform an improvised section over a piece or backing track of their own choice.

• Component 4: Spoken Tests

The candidate responds to a given set of topics about the music performed including instrument specific knowledge and techniques applied in the performance, as appropriate to the grade.

• Component 5: Specialism

Candidates choose one of the following options to perform:

- Option 1: Slide/bottleneck playing or Finger-tapping or Fingerstyle (or flatpicking)
- Option 2: Rhythm guitar playing or Improvisation

Component weightings

Technical Work	Rhythm Playing	Lead Playing	Spoken Tests	Specialism
15%	25%	25%	10%	25%

Regulation

LCME's Recorded Grades are regulated in England by Ofqual, and by the corresponding authorities in Wales (Qualifications Wales) and Northern Ireland (CCEA). They have been placed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at Levels 1 to 7 and attract UCAS points accordingly.

2.2 Recorded Recital Grades

Recital grades are performance-focused graded exams, using the same repertoire and supplementary test requirements, with the format set out below.

Recorded Recital Grades 1–5

• Component 1: Rhythm Study or Performance

Option 1: Rhythm Playing

Candidates perform two rhythm guitar charts. These are to be selected from the relevant exam handbook. Alternatively, candidates can select rhythm charts from the appropriate grade of the Rhythm Guitar Playing series of books, available to download from lcmbooks.org

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform a piece of their own choice at the same standard, which may be a piece set for the grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

• Component 2: Lead Playing or Improvisation

Option 1: Lead Playing

Candidates choose and play lead guitar over one track from the appropriate grade of the Improvising Lead Guitar series of books, available to download from lcmbooks.org.

Option 2: Improvisation

Candidates perform an improvised section over a piece or backing track of their own choice at the same of the level.

Recorded Recital Grades 6–8

• Component 1: Rhythm Study or Performance

Option 1: Rhythm Playing

Candidates perform two rhythm guitar charts. These are to be selected from the relevant exam handbook. Alternatively, candidates can select rhythm charts from the appropriate grade of the Rhythm Guitar Playing series of books, available to download from lcmbooks.org

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform a piece of their own choice at the same standard, which may be a piece set for the grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

• Component 2: Lead Playing or Improvisation

Option 1: Lead Playing

Candidates choose and play lead guitar over two tracks from the appropriate grade of the Improvising Lead Guitar series of books, available to download from lcmbooks.org. Alternatively, in place of one of these tracks, candidates can choose to perform a lead solo over one of the lead guitar charts from the appropriate grade exam handbook using one of the specially-recorded backing tracks available from lcmbooks.org.

Option 2: Improvisation

Candidates perform an improvised section over a piece or backing track of their own choice at the same of the level.

Component weightings

	Rhythm Study	Lead Playing
Grades 1 to 5	60%	40%
Grades 6 to 8	50%	50%

Regulation

LCME's Recorded Recital Grades in Electric Guitar are not regulated and do not attract UCAS points.

Step

Component 1: Technical Work

20 marks

Candidate to perform all the scales and chords listed below from memory. Scales are to be performed ascending and descending.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
E blues C major	1 octave, 80–112bpm (one note per beat)	The use of open strings is permitted
Chords		
D major E minor B dominant 7th		Non-barre (open position) chords are expected.

Component 2: Rhythm Playing or Performance

35 marks

Option 1: Rhythm Playing

Candidates perform one chord chart from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019. The musical style is left to the candidate's discretion.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform a piece of their own choice at the same standard, which may be a piece set for the grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 3: Lead Playing or Improvisation

35 marks

Option 1: Lead Playing

Candidates give a prepared lead performance over a chord progression from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019, using the corresponding backing track.

Audio files are available to download for free from our website: [click here to download](#) 

Option 2: Improvisation

Candidates perform an improvised section performed over a piece or backing track of the candidate's own choice. The improvisation must be of the standard of the grade and last between 45 seconds and 1 minute approximately.

Component 4: Spoken Tests

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Play and name the following notes on your guitar: 2nd fret on the D string, 3rd fret on the A string, 3rd fret on the B string
- Point to the following parts on your guitar: Machine heads or tuning heads and Bridge

Grade 1

Component 1: Technical Work

20 marks

Candidate to perform all the scales and chords listed below from memory. Scales are to be performed ascending and descending.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
E natural minor G pentatonic major A pentatonic minor	2 octaves, 100–120bpm (one note per beat)	The use of open strings is permitted
Chords		
A, C, D major 7th A, G major D minor D dominant 7th		Non-barre (open position) chords are expected.

Component 2: Rhythm Playing or Performance

35 marks

Option 1: Rhythm Playing

Candidates perform one chord chart from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019. The musical style is left to the candidate's discretion.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform a piece of their own choice at the same standard, which may be a piece set for the grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 3: Lead Playing or Improvisation

35 marks

Option 1: Lead Playing

Candidates give a prepared lead performance over a chord progression from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019, using the corresponding backing track.

Audio files are available to download for free from our website: [click here to download](#) 

Option 2: Improvisation

Candidates perform an improvised section performed over a piece or backing track of the candidate's own choice. The improvisation must be of the standard of the grade and last between 45 seconds and 1 minute approximately.

Component 4: Spoken Tests

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Play and name the following notes on your guitar: 3rd fret on the G string, 4th fret on the D string
- What does the gain function do on an amp?
- Name two controls on a standard guitar amp that would affect the tone.
- What is the meaning of the term 'action' on the guitar?

Grade 2

Component 1: Technical Work

20 marks

Candidate to perform all the scales and chords listed below from memory. Scales are to be performed ascending and descending.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
A natural minor D pentatonic major G blues C major	2 octaves, 126–144bpm (one note per beat)	All scales are to be played without the use of open strings.
Chords		
F, G major 7th F major G dominant 7th F# minor D minor 7th		Non-barre (open position) chords are expected.

Component 2: Rhythm Playing or Performance

35 marks

Option 1: Rhythm Playing

Candidates perform one chord chart from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019. The musical style is left to the candidate's discretion.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform a piece of their own choice at the same standard, which may be a piece set for the grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 3: Lead Playing or Improvisation

35 marks

Option 1: Lead Playing

Candidates give a prepared lead performance over a chord progression from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019, using the corresponding backing track.

Audio files are available to download for free from our website: [click here to download](#) 

Option 2: Improvisation

Candidates perform an improvised section performed over a piece or backing track of the candidate's own choice. The improvisation must be of the standard of the grade and last between 45 seconds and 1 minute approximately.

Component 4: Spoken Tests

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Play and name the following notes on your guitar: 5th fret on the A string, 6th fret on the B string, 7th fret on the D string, 9th fret on the G string
- Point to the following parts of your guitar: Saddle and Nut
- How can you avoid 'fretbuzz' when you are playing?
- How might you set up your guitar amp so that the signal has plenty of gain but the overall volume isn't too loud?
- Name two types of guitar amp

Grade 3

Component 1: Technical Work

20 marks

Candidate to perform all the scales and chords listed below from memory. Scales are to be performed ascending and descending. All chords are to be performed using barre chord shapes.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
G major		
F# natural minor	2 octaves,	
Bb pentatonic major	160–176bpm (one note per beat)	
F blues		
Arpeggios		
A major	2 octaves,	
Ab minor	120–138bpm (one note per beat)	
Chords		
B major		
Gb major		All barre chords in two different fingerboard positions.
C# minor		
F minor		

Component 2: Rhythm Playing or Performance

35 marks

Option 1: Rhythm Playing

Candidates perform one chord chart from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019. The musical style is left to the candidate's discretion.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform a piece of their own choice at the same standard, which may be a piece set for the grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 3: Lead Playing or Improvisation

35 marks

Option 1: Lead Playing

Candidates give a prepared lead performance over a chord progression from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019, using the corresponding backing track.

Audio files are available to download for free from our website: [click here to download](#) 

Option 2: Improvisation

Candidates perform an improvised section performed over a piece or backing track of the candidate's own choice. The improvisation must be of the standard of the grade and last between 45 seconds and 1 minute approximately.

Component 4: Spoken Tests

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Play and name the following notes on your guitar: 6th fret on the D string, 9th fret on the B string, 11th fret on the A string, 11th fret on the G string
- Name the notes in A major arpeggio
- Name the notes in B minor arpeggio

- Name a type of pedal that affects the gain
- What is the difference between the volume dial on a single channel of an amp and the master volume? Why is this useful?

Grade 4

Component 1: Technical Work

20 marks

Candidate to perform all the scales and chords listed below from memory. Scales are to be performed ascending and descending. All chords are to be performed using barre chord shapes.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
B major C# natural minor Eb pentatonic major Bb blues	2 octaves, 100bpm (two notes per beat)	Each played in two different fingerboard positions.
Arpeggios		
Ab major 7 A minor 7 C dominant 7th	2 octaves, 76bpm (two notes per beat)	Each played in one fingerboard position.
Chords		
B minor 7 C major 7 F dominant 7		All barre chords in two different fingerboard positions.

Component 2: Rhythm Playing or Performance

35 marks

Option 1: Rhythm Playing

Candidates perform one chord chart from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019. The musical style is left to the candidate's discretion.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform a piece of their own choice at the same standard, which may be a piece set for the grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 3: Lead Playing or Improvisation

35 marks

Option 1: Lead Playing

Candidates give a prepared lead performance over a chord progression from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019, using the corresponding backing track.

Audio files are available to download for free from our website: [click here to download](#) 

Option 2: Improvisation

Candidates perform an improvised section performed over a piece or backing track of the candidate's own choice. The improvisation must be of the standard of the grade and last between 45 seconds and 1 minute approximately.

Component 4: Spoken Tests

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Play and name the following notes on your guitar, 14th fret on the D string, 15th fret on the B string, 14th fret on the E string
- Name the notes in A pentatonic major scale
- Name the notes in arpeggio of D minor 7th

- Explain how to change the strings on your guitar
- Explain a method of tuning your guitar
- Name two modulation effects
- What does a reverb pedal do?
- Name a type of reverb

Grade 5

Component 1: Technical Work

20 marks

Candidate to perform all the scales and chords listed below from memory. Scales are to be performed ascending and descending. All chords are to be performed using barre chord shapes.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
Bb major	1 octave, 120bpm (two notes per beat)	in three different fingerboard positions
G harmonic minor	2 octaves, 120bpm (two notes per beat)	
A pentatonic minor	1 octave, 120bpm (two notes per beat)	in 5ths
Arpeggios		
B major 7	1 octave,	in two different fingerboard positions
C dominant 7th	92bpm (two notes per beat)	
Chords		
Bb minor 6		All barre chords in two different fingerboard positions.
C major 6		
F suspended 4th		

Component 2: Rhythm Playing or Performance

35 marks

Option 1: Rhythm Playing

Candidates perform one chord chart from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019. The musical style is left to the candidate's discretion.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform a piece of their own choice at the same standard, which may be a piece set for the grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 3: Lead Playing or Improvisation

35 marks

Option 1: Lead Playing

Candidates give a prepared lead performance over a chord progression from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019, using the corresponding backing track.

Audio files are available to download for free from our website: [click here to download](#) 

Option 2: Improvisation

Candidates perform an improvised section performed over a piece or backing track of the candidate's own choice. The improvisation must be of the standard of the grade and last between 45 seconds and 1 minute approximately.

Component 4: Spoken Tests

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Name the note a perfect 4th above G
- Name the note a major 3rd above E
- Name the note a major 7th above F
- Name 4 chords from the key of A major
- Name 4 chords from the key of D major

- Explain how to adjust the 'action' on your guitar
- Name 2 effects commonly used when playing funk guitar
- What does a compressor pedal do?
- How can the tone be varied by changing the picking hand position?

Grade 6

Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidate to perform all the scales and chords listed below from memory. Scales are to be performed ascending and descending. All chords are to be performed using barre chord shapes.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
A natural minor	1 octave, 144bpm (two notes per beat)	in five different fingerboard positions
G mixolydian modal	2 octaves, 144bpm (two notes per beat)	
Bb major	1 octave, 52bpm (two notes per beat)	in 3rds
Arpeggios		
D major 9	1 octave,	in two different fingerboard positions
Eb diminished 7th	112bpm (two notes per beat)	
Chords		
G minor 9		All barre chords in two different fingerboard positions.
F# major 9		
C diminished 7		
G# augmented 5		

Component 2: Rhythm Playing or Performance

25 marks

Option 1: Rhythm Playing

Candidates perform one chord chart from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019. The musical style is left to the candidate's discretion.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform a piece of their own choice at the same standard, which may be a piece set for the grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 3: Lead Playing or Improvisation

25 marks

Option 1: Lead Playing

Candidates give a prepared lead performance over a chord progression from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019, using the corresponding backing track.

Audio files are available to download for free from our website: [click here to download](#) 

Option 2: Improvisation

Candidates perform an improvised section performed over a piece or backing track of the candidate's own choice. The improvisation must be of the standard of the grade and last between 45 seconds and 1 minute approximately.

Component 4: Spoken Tests

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Name the note a perfect 4th above Ab
- Name the note a major 9th above E
- Name the note a major 6th above B
- Name a scale that could be used to solo over a chord sequence consisting of Am7 and D7

- Name a scale that could be used to solo over a chord sequence consisting of Gm7 and Cm7
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of having heavy gauge strings on your guitar
- Describe what a modulation pedal does and give an example pedal from this category
- What pedal might be used to reduce hum, buzzing or feedback?
- Name one type of delay

Component 5: Specialism

25 marks

Candidates choose one of the following options to perform:

Option 1: Slide/bottleneck playing or Finger-tapping or Fingerstyle (or flatpicking)

Candidates perform a single unaccompanied piece or series of excerpts (lasting about two minutes in total). This may be an existing guitar piece, a self-composition or an arrangement. The main feature of the performance should be either slide/bottleneck playing, finger-tapping or fingerstyle (or flatpicking).

Option 2: Rhythm guitar playing or Improvisation

Candidates can choose to perform either another rhythm playing chord chart (see component 2) or improvise over another chord progression (see component 3).

Grade 7

Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidate to perform all the scales and chords listed below from memory. Scales are to be performed ascending and descending.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
C Lydian	2 octaves, 152bpm (two notes per beat)	
A $\flat$ blues	3 octaves, 152bpm (two notes per beat)	
B mixolydian modal	2 octaves, 152bpm (two notes per beat)	in two different fingerboard positions
F natural minor	1 octave, 72bpm (two notes per beat)	in 8ths
Arpeggios		
B minor 7 $\flat$ 5	1 octave,	
F $\sharp$ dominant 7 $\sharp$ 5 $\flat$ 9	116bpm (two notes per beat)	
Chords		
G minor 7 $\flat$ 9		
D $\flat$ dominant 7 $\flat$ 5 $\flat$ 9		
Bm/A $\sharp$		
E $\flat$ /B $\flat$		

Component 2: Rhythm Playing or Performance

25 marks

Option 1: Rhythm Playing

Candidates perform one chord chart from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019. The musical style is left to the candidate's discretion.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform a piece of their own choice at the same standard, which may be a piece set for the grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 3: Lead Playing or Improvisation

25 marks

Option 1: Lead Playing

Candidates give a prepared lead performance over a chord progression from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019, using the corresponding backing track.

Audio files are available to download for free from our website: [click here to download](#) 

Option 2: Improvisation

Candidates perform an improvised section performed over a piece or backing track of the candidate's own choice. The improvisation must be of the standard of the grade and last between 45 seconds and 1 minute approximately.

Component 4: Spoken Tests

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Name the note a minor 6th above G
- Name the note a diminished 5th above D
- Name the note an augmented 5th above F

- Name the note a minor 3rd above F#
- Name the 'half-diminished' chord that occurs in the key of B minor
- Name 3 minor chords that occur in the key of A major
- What does a tremolo pedal do and what controls might you see on one?
- What is the difference between overdrive and distortion?
- What produces more gain, an overdrive pedal or a distortion pedal?
- What are the pros and cons of valve amps and transistor amps?

Component 5: Specialism

25 marks

Candidates choose one of the following options to perform:

Option 1: Slide/bottleneck playing or Finger-tapping or Fingerstyle (or flatpicking)

Candidates perform a single unaccompanied piece or series of excerpts (lasting about two minutes in total). This may be an existing guitar piece, a self-composition or an arrangement. The main feature of the performance should be either slide/bottleneck playing, finger-tapping or fingerstyle (or flatpicking).

Option 2: Rhythm guitar playing or Improvisation

Candidates can choose to perform either another rhythm playing chord chart (see component 2) or improvise over another chord progression (see component 3).

Grade 8

Component 1: Technical Work

15 marks

Candidate to perform all the scales and chords listed below from memory. Scales are to be performed ascending and descending.

Requirements	Range/tempo	Details
Scales		
G chromatic	3 octaves, 160bpm (two notes per beat)	
A♭ major		
A Lydian modal	1 octave, 160bpm (two notes per beat)	in two different fingerboard positions
C# mixolydian modal	1 octave, 160bpm (two notes per beat)	in three different fingerboard positions
D locrian modal	2 octaves, 160bpm (two notes per beat)	
Arpeggios		
B♭ dominant 13th	1 octave, 126bpm (two notes per beat)	
Chords		
B♭ major		in five different fingerboard positions
F# dominant 7th		
B dominant 13th		in two different fingerboard positions
C minor 7#5		

Component 2: Rhythm Playing or Performance

25 marks

Option 1: Rhythm Playing

Candidates perform one chord chart from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019. The musical style is left to the candidate's discretion.

Option 2: Performance

Candidates perform a piece of their own choice at the same standard, which may be a piece set for the grade by another Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation.

Component 3: Lead Playing or Improvisation

25 marks

Option 1: Lead Playing

Candidates give a prepared lead performance over a chord progression from the LCME Electric Guitar Handbook 2019, using the corresponding backing track.

Audio files are available to download for free from our website: [click here to download](#) ↓

Option 2: Improvisation

Candidates perform an improvised section performed over a piece or backing track of the candidate's own choice. The improvisation must be of the standard of the grade and last between 45 seconds and 1 minute approximately.

Component 4: Spoken Tests

10 marks

All questions should be answered after the performance section:

- Name the note a major 13th above G
- Name the note a diminished 5th above B♭

- Name the notes in the chord of Bm7b5
- Name the chords that occur in the key of Eb major
- What does a tremolo pedal do and what controls might you see on one?
- What is the difference between overdrive and distortion?
- What are the pros and cons of valve amps and transistor amps?
- Transpose the following chord sequence into the key of E major: A–E–Bm–D–A

Component 5: Specialism

25 marks

Candidates choose one of the following options to perform:

Option 1: Slide/bottleneck playing or Finger-tapping or Fingerstyle (or flatpicking)

Candidates perform a single unaccompanied piece or series of excerpts (lasting about two minutes in total). This may be an existing guitar piece, a self-composition or an arrangement. The main feature of the performance should be either slide/bottleneck playing, finger-tapping or fingerstyle (or flatpicking).

Option 2: Rhythm guitar playing or Improvisation

Candidates can choose to perform either another rhythm playing chord chart (see component 2) or improvise over another chord progression (see component 3).



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