
London
College of
Music
Examinations

Rock
Guitar

Handbook
Step 1

From 2019

Rock Guitar: Step 1

This handbook is part of a progressive series of handbooks, primarily intended for candidates considering taking London College of Music examinations in rock guitar. The series provides a solid foundation of musical education for any rock guitar student, whether intending to take an exam or not. Candidates must always refer to the current Rock Guitar Syllabus: from 2019.

Syllabus validity

This handbook is valid for examinations from Summer 2019.

Entering for an exam

Exam entries can be made online at lcme.uwl.ac.uk/enter

Audio recordings

Audio recordings of the pieces and backing tracks are available from lcme.uwl.ac.uk

Cover design

Each LCME Rock Guitar handbook has a unique cover design. Designers MuirMcNeil used the instrument name to create a multi-layered typographic 'seed' composition, using interlocking fonts from their TwoPlus type system. This composition was then zoomed, cropped and modified by a colour palette specific to the instrument, generating a one-off cover design for each book. The seed composition is scaled in calibrated increments, the early grades zooming deep into the artwork, the higher grades revealing more of the typographic basis of the composition. As a result, bold, abstract, geometric cover designs develop progressively in their detail and complexity through the series.

Rock Guitar: Step 1

Catalogue no: LL 341

© 2019 University of West London, LCM Publications

All musical compositions and arrangements by Tony Skinner

Cover design by Muir McNeil

LCM Examinations

lcme.uwl.ac.uk

Contents

Rock Guitar: Step 1

Introduction	4
Prepared Performances	5
Quiet as a Bulldog	7
Firecracker	8
The Jaguar	9
Jump the Barrier	10
Armour Plated	11
Missing in Action	12
Chords and Scales	13
Chords	13
Scales	14

Introduction

Tuning

For exam purposes instruments should be tuned to concert pitch (A=440Hz). The use of an electronic tuner or other tuning aid is permitted. The examiner will offer an E or A note to tune to on request.

Notation

Fretboxes

Fretboxes are used to illustrate the chords required at this level. The vertical lines represent the strings (with the line furthest to the right representing the high E string); horizontal lines represent the frets. 0 above a string line indicates that an open (unfretted) string should be played. The numbers on the lines show the recommended fingering.

Tab

As well as traditional musical notation the pieces within this book are also notated using tablature. The horizontal lines represent the strings (with the top line being the high E string). The numbers on the string lines refer to the frets — 0 on a line means play that string open (unfretted). Tablature does not include rhythm notation, so you should look at the traditional notation and listen to the recordings to guide you.

Fingering and picking options

Throughout the exam, it is your choice whether to use a plectrum, fingers or a combination of both; a thumbpick can be used if desired. The fingerings given in this book are likely to be effective for a wide range of players, however any alternative fingerings that produce an effective musical result are acceptable.

Prepared Performances

Requirements

Performance of two pieces

One from Group A and one from Group B

Information

Piece selection

This book contains six specially composed rock guitar pieces. In the exam you are required to perform one piece from Group A and one from Group B. The Group A pieces are all based on the A natural minor scale, whereas those in Group B are based on the E pentatonic minor scale.

Backing tracks

The pieces at this level are to be performed along to set backing tracks. These are available to download from the LCME website. You do not need to bring these to the exam, as the examiner will provide the necessary backing tracks. Also available to download for the website are recordings of the tracks performed in full for demonstration purposes.

Performance style

Performances should be accurate reproductions of the pieces as notated in this book. Alternative fingerings and playing positions can be adopted if preferred, provided the overall musical result is not altered. Prior to the performance commencing, you will be allowed a brief soundcheck to choose your sound and volume level. A clean or distorted sound can be used, and you can bring distortion or other effects units to the exam providing you can set them up promptly and unaided.

Performing from memory

Performances do not need to be from memory. If notation is used it should not detract in any way from the confidence and presentation of the performance.

Chords and scales

The chords and scales that may appear in the pieces at this grade are all included at the back of this book. You should be fully familiar with these in order to be prepared for performing the set pieces in the exam.

Chords used in the exam pieces

- Major chords: G D
- Minor chords: Am Em
- 5th (power) chords: A5 E5

Scales used in the exam pieces (both 1 octave)

- A natural minor
- E pentatonic minor

Guidance

Performances should be fully accurate and confidently presented. Timing, clarity and technical control should be secure throughout.

Quiet as a Bulldog

Group A

♩ = 112

A5 A5 E5

TAB: 2 0, 2 0, 2 0, 2 0, 2 0 | 0 2 3 2 | 2 0, 2 0, 2 0, 2 0 | 0 2 3 2 | 2 0, 2 0

6 A5 A5

TAB: 2 0, 2 0, 2 0 | 2 0, 2 0 | 2 0, 2 0, 2 0 | 2 0, 2 0 | 2 0 2 | 2 0, 2 0 | 2 0 2

13 E5 E5 A5

TAB: 2 0, 2 0 | 2 0 2 | 2 0, 2 0 | 2 0 3 2 | 2 0, 2 0, 2 0, 2 0 | 0 2 3 2

19 A5 E5

TAB: 2 0, 2 0, 2 0, 2 0, 2 0 | 0 2 3 2 | 2 0, 2 0 | 2 0, 2 0, 2 0 | 2 0, 2 0 | 2 0, 2 0, 2 0

25 A5

TAB: 2 0 2 | 3 2 0 | 2 0 3 2 | 0 2

Firecracker

Group A

♩ = 76

E5

T
A
B

0 0 0 3 0 0 0 3 | 0 0 0 3 0 3 2 | 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 3 | 0 0 0 3 0 3 2 | 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

6

Am Em Am Em

T
A
B

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 | 0 1 2 2 2 0 | 0 0 2 2 2 0 | 0 1 2 2 2 0 | 0 0 2 2 2 0

11

T
A
B

3 2 0 3 2 | 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 3 | 0 0 0 3 0 3 2 | 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 3

16

E5 Am Am

T
A
B

0 0 0 3 0 3 2 | 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 | 0 1 2 2 2 0 | 0 1 2 2 2 0

The Jaguar

Group A

♩ = 100

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The top staff shows a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth-note runs in measures 1-4, followed by quarter notes in measures 5 and 6. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature with fret numbers 0, 2, and 3.

7

Am Em Am G

Musical notation for measures 7-14. Measures 7-10 show a sequence of chords: Am, Em, Am, G. The notation includes chord diagrams and guitar tablature. The bottom staff shows fret numbers 0, 1, 2, and 3.

15

Musical notation for measures 15-20. The notation includes a treble clef, a melody of eighth notes, and guitar tablature with fret numbers 0, 2, and 3.

21

Am

Musical notation for measures 21-25. Measures 21-22 show a sequence of chords: Am, Am. The notation includes chord diagrams and guitar tablature. The bottom staff shows fret numbers 0, 1, 2, and 3.

26

G Em Am

Musical notation for measures 26-28. Measures 26-28 show a sequence of chords: G, Em, Am. The notation includes chord diagrams and guitar tablature. The bottom staff shows fret numbers 0, 1, 2, and 3.

Jump the Barrier

Group B

♩ = 88

E5 A5 E5 A5 E5 A5 G D

T
A
B

6

T
A
B

E5 A5 E5 A5 E5 A5 G D

T
A
B

17

T
A
B

Armour Plated

Group B

♩ = 88

A5

Musical notation for measures 1-4. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. Measures 1-3 contain a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes: quarter, eighth, eighth, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. Measure 4 contains a whole note chord. TAB below shows fret numbers: 0 0 3 0 for measures 1-3, and 2 0 for measure 4.

5

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. Measures 5-7 contain a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes: quarter, eighth, eighth, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. Measure 8 contains a whole note chord. Chords: Em (measures 5-7), Am (measure 6), Em (measure 7), D (measure 8). TAB below shows fret numbers for each measure.

9

Musical notation for measures 9-12. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. Measures 9-11 contain a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes: quarter, eighth, eighth, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. Measure 12 contains a whole note chord. Chords: Em (measures 9-11), Am (measure 10), D (measures 11-12). TAB below shows fret numbers for each measure.

13

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. Measures 13-15 contain a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes: quarter, eighth, eighth, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. Measure 16 contains a whole note chord. Chords: A5 (measures 13-15), E5 (measure 16). TAB below shows fret numbers: 0 0 3 0 for measures 13-15, and 2 0 for measure 16.

Missing in Action

Group B

♩ = 84

Em D

TAB

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5

TAB

2	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	2
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

10

Am D Am

TAB

0	3	0	2	0	3	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	2	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

16

D E5

TAB

2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Chords and Scales

Chords

G major*

T	3
A	0
B	0

XX000

D major

T	2
A	3
B	2
	0

XX0

T	3
A	0
B	0

000

* To enable young players, especially those with small hands, to cope with the physical challenge of playing a G major chord, the simplified four-string version of the chord as shown above (technically named G/D) is utilised within the pieces set for this exam level. For reference only, notation showing the standard full version of the open position G major chord is also provided.

A minor

T	0
A	1
B	2
	2
	0

X0 0

E minor

T	0
A	0
B	2
	2
	0

0 000

A5

T

A 2

B 0

X0 XXX

E5

T

A 2

B 0

0 XXXX

Scales

A natural minor

T

A 0 2 3 0 2 3 0 2

B 0 2 3 0 2 3 0 2

0 0 0

E pentatonic minor

T

A 0 3 0 2 0 2

B 0 3 0 2 0 2

0 0 0

LCM Examinations
University of West London
St Mary's Road
London
W5 5RF

020 8231 2364
lcme.uwl.ac.uk
lcm.exams@uwl.ac.uk