

## Technical Requirements & Discussion Questions for Recorded Graded Exams

The following list of technical requirements should be performed to make up the Technical Work and Discussion components of the exam:

<b>Acoustic Guitar</b>
<b>Step 1</b>
<b>Technical Requirements</b>  <b>Scales-</b> to be played ascending only C major G major <b>Chords</b> C major G major A minor
<b>Step 2</b>
<b>Technical Requirements</b>  <b>Chords</b> D major C major E minor A minor <b>Scales-</b> to be played ascending and descending C major G major
<b>Grade 1</b>
<b>Technical Requirements</b>  <b>Chords</b> Major chords : A, E, C Minor chords : Dm, Am Dominant 7th chords: B7, D7

**Scales**

D major

A natural minor

C major

**Discussion Questions**

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

- Play and name the following notes on your guitar:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> fret on the B string
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> fret on the G string
  
- Point to the following parts on your guitar:
  - Bridge
  - Machine heads

**Grade 2:****Technical Requirements****Chords**

F

E

Dm7

Em7

Amaj7

Cmaj7

G7

**Scales**

Two-octave A major scale

Two-octave A dorian modal scale

One-octave D major scale

**Discussion Questions**

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

- Play and name the following notes on your guitar:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> fret on the A string
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> fret on the B string
  
- Point to the following parts of your guitar:
  - Nut
  - Saddle

**Grade 3:****Technical Requirements****Chords**

Asus2

Esus4  
Csus4  
Dsus2  
F  
Dmaj7  
C7  
Gmaj7

### **Scales**

Two-octave G major scale  
Two-octave A natural minor scale  
Two-octave A mixolydian modal scale

### **Discussion Questions**

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

- Name the key signature of the piece.
- Name the time signature of the piece.
- Name and demonstrate one of the techniques used in your piece.

## **Grade 4**

### **Technical Requirements**

#### **Chords**

A6  
D6  
E6  
Cadd9  
Gadd9  
Fadd9  
Any 2 of the following: Esus4, Fsus4, Gsus4, Csus4

#### **A Scales**

Two-octave major scale (either G, A, C or D)  
Two-octave E blues scale  
Two-octave E natural minor scale

### **Discussion Questions**

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

- Choose one piece and tell me which time and key signatures it uses
- What does the dynamic marking at the beginning mean?
- Explain the dynamic markings in the rhythm playing study

## Grade 5

### Technical Requirements

A selection of different keys should be performed

#### Chords

Two major barre chords with different root notes (one on the 5<sup>th</sup> string, one on the 6<sup>th</sup> string)

Two minor barre chords with different root notes (one on the 5<sup>th</sup> string, one on the 6<sup>th</sup> string)

#### Scales

Two two-octave major scales

One two-octave blues scale

One two-octave natural minor scale

#### Arpeggios

Two two-octave major arpeggios

Two two-octave minor arpeggios

### Discussion Questions

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

- Choose one piece and tell me which time and key signatures it uses. What does the dynamic marking at the beginning mean?
- Name and demonstrate two different playing techniques used in your piece

## Grade 6

### Technical Requirements

A selection of different keys should be performed

#### Chords

One dominant 7<sup>th</sup> barre chord

Two major 7<sup>th</sup> barre chords with different root notes (one on the 5<sup>th</sup> string, one on the 6<sup>th</sup> string)

Two minor 7<sup>th</sup> barre chords with different root notes (one on the 5<sup>th</sup> string, one on the 6<sup>th</sup> string)

#### Scales

One one-octave major scale in three different fingerboard positions

Two two-octave pentatonic minor scale

Two two-octave pentatonic major scale

#### Arpeggios

Three two-octave major arpeggios

### Discussion Questions

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

- Choose one piece and tell me which time and key signatures it uses. Talk me through the dynamics of the piece.
- Talk a little about your approach to learning these pieces, identifying any particular technical or musical challenges you faced and how you overcame these.

## Grade 7

### Technical Requirements

A selection of different keys should be performed

#### Chords

One major chord in three different fingerboard positions

One major chord in 1<sup>st</sup> inversion (C,G,D,A or E)

One major chord in 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion (C,G,D,A or E)

One diminished 7<sup>th</sup> chord

#### Scales

One one-octave natural minor scale in three different fingerboard positions

One two-octave dorian modal scale

One two-octave mixolydian modal scale

One two-octave harmonic minor scale

#### Arpeggios

Three two-octave minor arpeggios

### Discussion Questions

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

- Explain your reasons for choosing to perform these pieces and how they contrast in style.
- Talk about your approach to learning these pieces, identifying any particular technical or musical challenges you faced and how you overcame these.
- With reference to one piece, name the composer and provide some historical context.

## Grade 8

### Technical Requirements

A selection of different keys should be performed

#### Chords

One major chord in four different fingerboard positions

One minor chord in three different fingerboard positions

One minor chord in 1<sup>st</sup> AND 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion (Am, Dm or Em)

#### Scales

One one-octave major scale in five different fingerboard positions

One one-octave G major scale, harmonised in 10ths

One one-octave C major scale, harmonised in 6ths

One one-octave C major scale harmonised in 3rds

#### Arpeggios

Two two-octave dominant 7<sup>th</sup> arpeggios

### 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? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?

- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- Describe one melodic and harmonic feature of the music (such as sequence, melodic inversion, circle of 5ths or pedal points).