

## Debut Exam

The Debut Acoustic exam is for candidates who have been learning a short time and have developed elementary skills, techniques, co-ordination and musical understanding. There are two types of exam available at Debut, either a Grade Exam or Performance Certificate. (Refer to the Introduction for an explanation of the differences).

*At Debut there are three groups of technical work Scales, Chords and Acoustic Riff. All exercises need to be played in straight feel, in the keys, octaves and tempos shown. Candidates may use their book during the exam for all groups.*

**Group A:** needs to be played to a click. The examiner will play the click at the given tempo and candidates should begin to play after four clicks.

**Group B:** is played as a continuous sequence, with each chord announced by the examiner

**Group C:** is played to a backing track.

## Grade Exams

### Prepared work:

Candidates are required to play three performance pieces and Technical exercises which cover scales, chords and acoustic riffs.

### Unprepared:

Candidates are required to complete either a Sight Reading or an Improvisation and Interpretation test, and two Ear Tests which begin to develop Melodic and Rhythmic recall.

## Exam Structure

Debut exam last 15minutes and is taken in the following order:

- **Performance Pieces\***
- **Technical exercises\***
- **Sight reading or improvisation & Interpretation**
- **Ear Tests**
- **General Musicians Questions**

*\*these elements can be taken first or second at the candidate's request.*

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

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## Technical work

## GROUP A: Scale

**Tempo: 65bpm**

## Rhythm: Quarter Notes

**Range:** One Octave

- C Major
- E minor Pentatonic
- A minor Pentatonic

## GROUP B: CHORDS

- **Major:** A, D, C, G
- **Minor:** Am, Em

## GROUP C: ACOUSTIC RIFF

The riff shown in bar 1 should be played the same shape in bars 2-4. The root note of the pattern to be played is shown in the music in each of the subsequent three bars.

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

# **Sight Reading or Improvisation & Interpretation**

## SIGHT READING

**Duration:** 4 bars

**Rhythm:** Whole (semibreves), half (minims) and quarter (crotchets)

**Key:** C major

### Pitches and Instrumental Compass: C&D on the second string

**Tempo:** 65bpm

*Candidates will have 90 seconds to practise after which the examiner will play the backing track twice. The first time is to practise and the second time is to perform the final version for the exam. During the practice time, candidates will be given the option of a metronome click throughout or a one bar count-in at the beginning. The backing track is continuous so once the first playthrough has finished the count-in of the second playing will start immediately.*

#### **SIGHT READING OR IMPROVISATION & INTERPRETATION**

**Duration:** 4 bars

**Key:** C major

**Tempo:** 65bpm

**Improvisation Requirement:** Diatonic single-note melodies only

*Candidates will have 90 seconds to practise after which the examiner will play the backing track twice. The first time is to practise and the second time is to perform the final version for the exam. During the practice time, candidates will be given the option of a metronome click throughout or a one bar count-in at the beginning.*

*The backing track is continuous so once the first playthrough has finished the count-in of the second playing will start immediately.*

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

## Ear test

### TEST1: MELODIC RECALL

*There are two Ear Tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test twice.*

**Candidates** will hear two half notes one after the other and will be asked whether the second note is higher or lower in pitch than the first note. The test will be played twice. Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in.

**Tempo:** 85bpm

### TEST 2: RHYTHMIC RECALL

**Candidates** will hear a two-bar rhythm played to a drum backing on the lowest-sounding E string. The test will be played twice. Candidates will be asked to play the rhythm back, before identifying the rhythm from two printed examples shown to them by the examiner. Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar count-in. There will be a short gap for candidates to practise. Next candidates will hear a vocal count-in and will then need to play the rhythm to the drum backing.

**Tempo:** 85bpm

### GROUP C: ACOUSTIC RIFF

The riff shown in bar 1 should be played the same shape in bars 2-4. The root note of the pattern to be played is shown in the music in each of the subsequent three bars.

### NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

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## General Musicians Questions

## TEST1: MELODIC RECALL

*Candidates will be asked five questions. Four of these questions will be about general music knowledge and the fifth question asked will be about the candidate's instrument.*

## Music Knowledge:

The examiner will ask the candidate four music knowledge questions based on a piece of performed in the exam. Candidates will nominate the piece of music about which the questions will be asked.

### **In Debut candidates will be asked to identify:**

- The music stave and the TAB
- The treble clef
- Half and quarter note values

## Instrument Knowledge:

The examiner will also ask candidates one question regarding their instrument.

### **In Debut candidates will be asked to identify:**

- One of the following parts of the guitar: neck, body, tuning-pegs or bridge

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

# Grading Success Criteria

## DEBUT

## PREPARED WORK

BAND	MARK RANGE	GRADING CRITERIA
<b>Distinction</b>	Pieces 18–20 Technical exercises 13–15	Consistent and secure basic techniques Consistent rhythm / pulse Notation accuracy detailed throughout Consistent sync Highly confident and assured presentation
<b>Merit</b>	Pieces 15–17 Technical exercises 11–12	Secure basic techniques overall Secure rhythm / pulse overall Notation accuracy observed overall Mainly synchronised Confident presentation overall
<b>Pass</b>	Pieces 12–14 Technical exercises 9–10	Basic techniques evident Rhythm / pulse evident Notation accuracy evident Sync evident Some confidence in presentation
<b>Below Pass 1</b>	Pieces 6–11 Technical exercises 4–8	Basic techniques not shown Rhythm/pulse largely inaccurate Notation accuracy largely inaccurate Sync not achieved Unsure in presentation
<b>Below pass 2</b>	Pieces 0–5 Technical exercises 0–3	Incomplete performance No attempt

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

# Grading Success Criteria

## DEBUT

## UNPREPARED WORK

BAND	MARK RANGE	GRADING CRITERIA
<b>Distinction</b>	Sight/Improv QSP / Ear Tests 9–10 GMQ 5	Consistent and secure basic techniques Consistent rhythm / pulse Notation accuracy detailed throughout Consistent sync Highly confident and assured presentation
<b>Merit</b>	Sight/Improv QSP / Ear Tests 7-8 GMQ 4	Secure basic techniques overall Secure rhythm / pulse overall Notation accuracy observed overall Mainly synchronised Confident presentation overall
<b>Pass</b>	Sight/Improv QSP / Ear Tests 6 GMQ 3	Basic techniques evident Rhythm / pulse evident Notation accuracy evident Sync evident Some confidence in presentation
<b>Below Pass 1</b>	Sight/Improv QSP / Ear Tests 3-5 GMQ 2	Basic techniques not shown Rhythm/pulse largely inaccurate Notation accuracy largely inaccurate Sync not achieved Unsure in presentation
<b>Below pass 2</b>	Sight/Improv QSP / Ear Tests 1–2 GMQ 0-1	Incomplete performance No attempt

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS