

MTB Grade 1 Contemporary Drums

Section One: Recital (75 marks)

Select Three pieces from the following list (25 marks each)

As an alternative to the pieces below, candidates may perform up to 3 free choice pieces.
For guidance on free choice [click here](#). Contemporary syllabuses cover a range of styles including Rock, Pop, Jazz, Latin etc.

Composer/Artist	Title	Book/Cat. Ref	Publisher/ Buy Here
Will Sivier	Rush Hour	MTB Classical Drums Book Grade 1	MTB Bookshop
Will Sivier	Caribbean Sunset	MTB Classical Drums Book Grade 1	MTB Bookshop
Guns N' Roses	Knockin' on Heaven's Door	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Jackson 5	ABC	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Ray Charles	Hit the Road Jack	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Michael Bublé	Feeling Good	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Ugly Kid Joe	Everything About You	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Coldplay	Yellow	cat ref: 104552	sheetmusicdirect.com
Greenday	Boulevard of Broken Dreams	cat ref: 414588	sheetmusicdirect.com

Tomplay pieces often include accompaniments and can be purchased individually using the link next to each piece or via a discounted subscription for MTB teachers/learners. To learn more about Tomplay and the subscription [click here](#).

Section Two: Technical (25 marks)

Prepare either option 1 or 2 below

Technical Option 1

Technical Exercises:

Perform all the technical exercises
required for this grade

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Technical Option 2

Technical Exercises:

Perform all the technical exercises
required for this grade

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Note: In contrast to other MTB syllabuses, 'Section Three: Musicianship Section' (Reading Skills, Listening Skills and Duet) does not feature in Contemporary syllabuses

Technical Exercises

Technical Exercise 1

This exercise may be presented with or without an audible click/metronome. This may be played with plectrum or fingers.

♩ = 60

R L R L R L R L cont.

R R L L R R L L



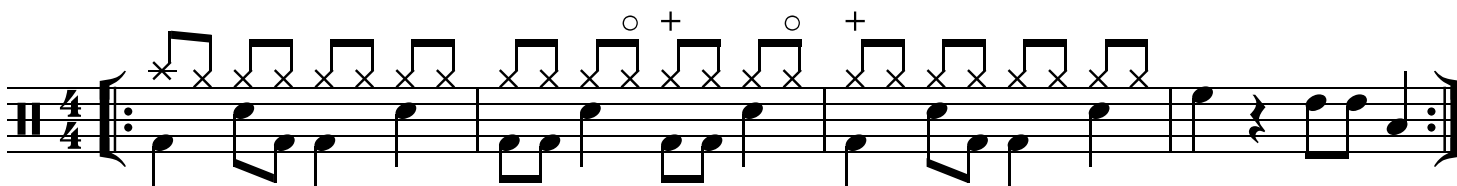
cont.

R L R R L R L L cont.



Grade 1 Technical Exercise 2

♩ = 80

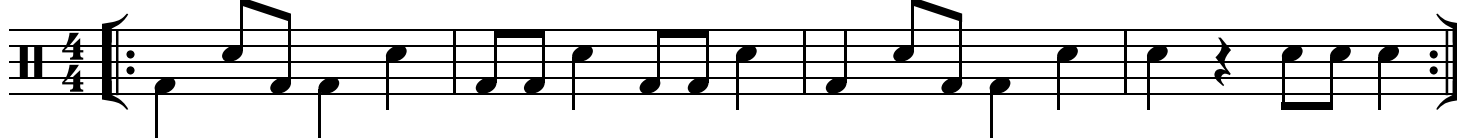


Grade 1 Technical Exercise 3

This is a study demonstrating how the previous groove, Technical Exercise 2 may be transferred onto a whole range of appropriate percussion instruments. A hand drum or djembe type instrument is good for this, alternatively the floor tom of the drum kit may be used.

The following rhythm shown demonstrates the primary parts of the groove but this is only a basic pattern to follow. It is creative and appropriate to use both hands to "Fill in the gaps" and create a hand drum rhythm that can be played along with Technical Exercise 2.

♩ = 80



Technical Exercises

Technical Exercise 1

Double Strokes, Single Strokes and Paradiddles, eighth and sixteenth notes.
The Repeat should be played, 12 bars given in the exam. Left handed drummers may wish to reverse the sticking shown.

♩ = 60

R L R L R L R L cont.

R R L L R R L L



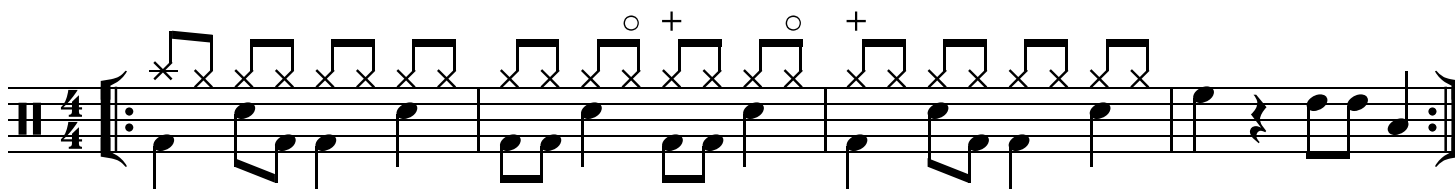
cont.

R L R R L R L L cont.



Grade 1 Technical Exercise 2

♩ = 80



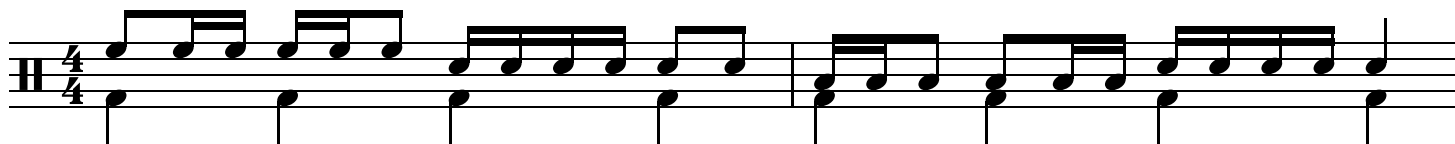
Grade 1 Technical Exercise 3

♩ = 80

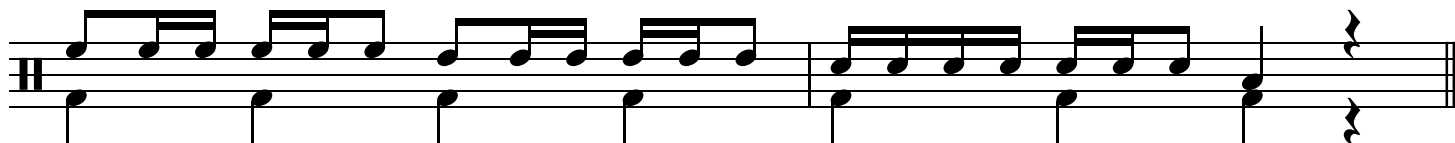
The sticking may be reversed for left handed players.

by Will Sivier

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R



3 L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R



Syllabus Guidance

- The teacher is encouraged to speak to the candidate during the exam to put them at ease or to help them understand what is being requested. For more guidance on conducting/taking the exam [click here](#).
- The recording should not be turned off at any point during the exam until all elements of the assessment have been completed. For more recording advice [click here](#).
- For Practical Grades follow the above syllabus requirements. To learn about Performance Grade requirements please [click here](#).
- To learn more about how our exams are marked visit our Marking Criteria Page [here](#).

Recital Guidance - Practical & Performance Grades:

- Repeats are optional for MTB Exams, however, they are encouraged as they are often structurally important and can offer opportunities to display greater dynamic and expressive variation.
- All D.C. and D.S. marks should be observed (unless the syllabus specifies otherwise).
- The candidate should introduce each piece they are about to perform by stating its title.
- The teacher may help the candidate tune up before the exam begins. This should be done before starting the recording.
- Recorded accompaniments are acceptable as an alternative to a live accompanist. Make sure it is played on a different device to the one recording the exam.
- The composer's dynamics, phrasing etc should be observed in the pieces. Any editorial markings may be altered to allow for a personal interpretation. Where a piece contains no, or only limited, dynamic and expressive markings, the candidate is encouraged to include their own additional dynamic or expressive elements.
- Where a candidate presents Free Choice repertoire these must be of the correct grade standard. If such pieces fall below the required grade standard then examiners may reflect this in their marking. Free Choice Guidance can be found [here](#).
- Candidates wishing to submit 2 or more pieces with Jazz improvisation may do so as part of our free choice options, these will be marked by a Jazz specialist who will normally specialise in that section of instruments (i.e. Wind, Brass etc).

Technical & Musicianship Guidance - Practical Grades:

- The tempi given for the technical section exercises (scales from memory/technical exercises etc.) are minimum speed requirements.
- There are no unprepared elements in an MTB exam. All Technical and Musicianship elements should be practised by the candidate prior to taking the exam.
- If the Listening Skills fall outside of the candidate's vocal range, they may be transposed. However, all exercises within a test must be transposed by the same interval.
- For the duet option, the teacher part may be performed by the teacher, another pupil or any suitable player on any instrument from the same family (wind/brass/strings etc) with octave transpositions made as necessary. Alternatively, a recording can be used for the teacher part during the exam.
- Duets set in the Musicianship section cannot to be used as recital pieces.