

MTB Pre-Grade Higher Contemporary Guitar

Recital

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
Ed Sheeran	Perfect (Beginner Level with Orchestra)	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Ed Sheeran	Perfect (Beginner Level, Solo Guitar)	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Simon and Garfunkel	Sound of Silence (Beginner Level with Orchestra)	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Trad.	The House of the Rising Sun (Candidate to play to bar 30)	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Peter Nuttall	The Magic Waterfall	A Taste of Jazz Rock Blues for Starters	Hal Leonard - Purchase here
Nuttall/Whitworth	Carnival	The Guitarist's Way Book 1 p14	Holley Music - Purchase here
Schmid and Koch	Shenandoah	Guitar Method Book 1 p29	Hal Leonard - Purchase here
Schmid and Koch	Red River Valley	Guitar Method Book 1 p29	Hal Leonard - Purchase here
Coldplay	Fix You (key C)	cat. ref. 80431	sheetmusicdirect.com
Ed Sheeran	Perfect (key G)	cat. ref. 251134	sheetmusicdirect.com
Deep Purple	Smoke on the Water	Easy Guitar Edition cat. ref. 29457	sheetmusicdirect.com
E.Y. "Yip" Harburg	Over the Rainbow	Easy Guitar Edition cat. ref. 151064	sheetmusicdirect.com
Van Morrison	Brown Eyed Girl (key G)	Easy Guitar Edition cat. ref. 73013	sheetmusicdirect.com
Adele	Hello (key G)	Easy Guitar Edition cat. ref. 162228	sheetmusicdirect.com
The Beatles	Norwegian Wood	Easy Guitar Edition cat. ref. 67636	sheetmusicdirect.com
The Beatles	Yellow Submarine	Easy Guitar Edition cat. ref. 81974	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](#).

Technical Exercises (25 marks)

Prepare all the technical exercises required for this grade which can be downloaded from the website (syllabus page) - [see the next page](#)

MTB Contemporary Guitar

Pre-Grade Higher Exercise 1

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

♩=60

This may be played with plectrum or fingers.

C major

Guitar

Guitar

T 0 1
A 0 2
B 2

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

Detailed description: This block shows the first four measures of the C major exercise. The top staff is a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: M1: C4, D4, E4, F#4; M2: G4, A4, B4, C5; M3: B4, A4, G4, F#4; M4: E4, D4, C4, B3. The bottom staff shows the fretting for the strings: Treble (T) 0, 1; Acoustic (A) 0, 2; Bass (B) 2. The fret numbers for each measure are: M1: 3, 0, 2, 3; M2: 0, 2, 0, 1; M3: 0, 2, 0, 3; M4: 2, 0, 3.

A minor

Gtr.

Gtr.

0 1
2 2
3 0

3 2 0 1 0 2 3 0 2 3 0

Detailed description: This block shows the first four measures of the A minor exercise. The top staff is a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of no sharps or flats. The notes are: M1: A3, B3, C4, D4; M2: E4, F4, G4, A4; M3: G4, F4, E4, D4; M4: C4, B3, A3, G3. The bottom staff shows the fretting for the strings: Treble (T) 0, 1; Acoustic (A) 2, 2; Bass (B) 3, 0. The fret numbers for each measure are: M1: 3, 2, 0, 1; M2: 0, 2, 3, 0; M3: 0, 2, 3, 0; M4: 0, 2, 3, 0.

Gtr.

Gtr.

2 3 0 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 0

Detailed description: This block shows the final three measures of the A minor exercise. The notes are: M5: G3, F3, E3, D3; M6: C3, B2, A2, G2; M7: F2, E2, D2, C2. The bottom staff shows the fretting for the strings: Treble (T) 2, 3; Acoustic (A) 0, 2; Bass (B) 0, 3, 2, 0. The fret numbers for each measure are: M5: 2, 3, 0, 2; M6: 0, 3, 2, 0; M7: 3, 2, 0.

Pre-Grade Higher Technical Exercise 2

This chord sequence is to be played with or without an audible click or metronome. The repeat is to be played, 8 bars in all.

This is to be "strummed" with either thumb, fingers or plectrum.

♩=60

G major D7 C major D7 G major

Guitar

Guitar

T
A
B
B
A
T

Pre-Grade Higher Technical Exercise 3

This is to be played with or without an audible click or metronome.

This may be played with either fingers or plectrum.

Where possible, the notes of the chords should be allowed to ring through creating a legato effect.

M.Pleass

♩=85

Am7 D7

Guitar

Guitar

T
A
B
B
A
T

Am7 D7 let these notes keep ringing

Gtr.

Gtr.

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.