

Rockschool Grade Exams Ear Tests

Ear Tests (Grades 1-6 and 8)

Candidates will be asked to take two ear tests in their grade exam. The tests are played with a piano sound to the candidate by the examiner on CD and each test is played twice. The first test, regardless of grade, is a playback test where the candidate hears a melody and asked to play it back on the piano or keyboard. In Grades 1-5, candidates will be told the key of the exercise and the first note in the sequence. In Grades 6 and 8, candidates will be told the key only.

Exam Requirements – Test 1: Playback

Grade 1: candidates will be asked to play back a combination of notes composed from the first three notes of the G major scale (G, A, B) crotchets only, 2 bars, common time.

Grade 2: candidates will be asked to play back a combination of notes composed from the first five notes of either the C major or G major scales, crotchets and quaver notes only, 2 bars, common time.

Grade 3: candidates will be asked to play back a combination of notes derived from either the C major, F major, C minor pentatonic or F minor pentatonic scales, using simple melodic contours, crotchet and quaver notes only, 4 bars, common time.

Grade 4: candidates will be asked to play back a combination of notes derived from either the F and Bb blues scales and F and G major scales, using simple melodic contours, minims, dotted minims, crotchet and quaver notes, and some quaver syncopation and shuffle feels, 4 bars, common time.

Grade 5: candidates will be asked to play back a combination of notes derived from either the Bb and G major scales and A and D blues scales, note values and rhythms as in Grade 4, 4 bars, common time.

Grade 6: candidates will be asked to play back a combination of notes consisting of major, dorian or blues scales in the keys of C, F, G, D, A, Bb and Eb, note values as per **Grade 5:** but including semiquavers, 8 bars, common time, 6/8 and 3/4.

Grade 8: candidates will be asked to play back a combination of notes consisting of major, dorian or blues scales in any key, note values as per Grade 6, 8 bars, common time, 6/8 and 3/4. The second test differs according to the grade being attempted. Candidates undertaking the chord sequence test (Grades 3-6 and 8) may use their piano or electronic keyboard as a guide.

Exam Requirements – Test 2

Grade 1: candidates will be asked to clap back a simple melody, quavers and crotchets, 2 bars, common time.

Grade 2: candidates will be asked to recognize a chord as either major or minor.

Grade 3: candidates will be asked to recognize a chord sequence using chords from the following: I, IV and V in the keys of either C major, G Major or A minor, 1 chord per bar, 4 bars.

Grade 4: candidates will be asked to recognize a chord sequence using chords from the following: I, II minor7, IV, V7 and VI minor7 in the keys of either C major, F major or G Major, 1 chord per bar, 4 bars.

Grade 5: candidates will be asked to recognize a chord sequence using chords from the following: I, II minor7, IV, V7 and VI minor7 in the keys of either C major, Bb major or D Major, up to 2 chords per bar, 4 bars.

Grade 6: candidates will be asked to recognize a chord sequence using chords from the following: I or I major7, II minor7, III minor7, IV or IV major7, V or V7, VI minor7 and minor VII b5 in any key, up to 2 chords per bar, 4 bars.

Grade 8: candidates will be asked to recognize the root movement and chord type of a chord progression using chord combinations of major, minor, major7th, minor7th, and minor7b5 on root notes I, II, III, IV, V, VI and VII in any key, up to 2 chords per bar, 4 bars.