

Drums Rubric

Technical Exercises Drums

Debut

In this section the examiner will ask you to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the three groups shown below. In addition there is a Fill exercise which you will play using the designated backing track on the CD. You do not need to memorise the exercises (and can use the book in the exam) but the examiner will be looking for the speed of your response.

The stickings shown (R & L) are there as a guide for right handed drummers. Left handed drummers should reverse the sticking patterns. Before you start the section you will be asked whether you would like to play the exercises along with the click or hear a single bar of click before you commence the test. Groups A-C should be played at crotchet = 70.

Group A: Single Strokes

1. In eighth notes

Group B: Double Strokes

1. In eighth notes

Group C: Paradiddles

1. Single paradiddle in eighth notes

Group D: Fill

In the exam you will be asked to play the three bar groove shown in the grade book followed by one of the notated fills chosen by the examiner. You will perform this exercise to the backing track on the CD. The tempo is crotchet = 80.

Grade 1

In this section the examiner will ask you to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the three groups shown below. In addition there is a Fill exercise which you will play using the designated backing track on the CD. You do not need to memorise the exercises (and can use the book in the exam) but the examiner will be looking for the speed of your response.

The stickings shown (R & L) are there as a guide for right handed drummers. Left handed drummers should reverse the sticking patterns. Before you start the section you will be asked whether you would like to play the exercises along with the click or hear a single bar of click before you commence the test. Groups A-C should be played at crotchet = 70.

Group A: Single and Double Strokes

1. Single and double strokes in eighth notes, alternate bars

Group B: Single and Double Strokes

1. Single and double strokes in 16th notes, alternate bars

Group C: Paradiddles

1. Single paradiddle in 16th notes

Group D: Fill

In the exam you will be asked to play the three bar groove shown in the grade book followed by one of the notated fills chosen by the examiner. The fills consist of alternating eighth and 16th note single and double strokes. You will perform this exercise to the backing track on the CD. The tempo is crotchet = 80.

Grade 2

In this section the examiner will ask you to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the four groups shown below. In addition there is a Fill exercise which you will play using the designated backing track on the CD. You do not need to memorise the exercises (and can use the book in the exam) but the examiner will be looking for the speed of your response.

The stickings shown (R & L) are there as a guide for right handed drummers. Left handed drummers should reverse the sticking patterns. Before you start the section you will be asked whether you would like to play the exercises along with the click or hear a single bar of click before you commence the test. Groups A-D should be played at crotchet = 70.

Group A: Single and Double Strokes

1. Single and double strokes in eighth and 16th notes

Group B: Paradiddles

1. Single paradiddle in 16th notes with accents

Group C: Flams

1. Flams in quarter notes

Group D: Triplets

1. Triplets in eighth notes with alternate stickings

Group E: Fill

In the exam you will be asked to play the three bar groove shown in the grade book followed by one of the notated fills chosen by the examiner. The fills consist of alternating eighth and 16th note single and double strokes and flams. You will perform this exercise to the backing track on the CD. The tempo is crotchet = 80.

Grade 3

In this section the examiner will ask you to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the five groups shown below. In addition there is a Fill exercise which you will play using the designated backing track on the CD. You do not need to memorise the exercises (and can use the book in the exam) but the examiner will be looking for the speed of your response.

The stickings shown (R & L) are there as a guide for right handed drummers. Left handed drummers should reverse the sticking patterns. Before you start the section you will be asked whether you would like to play the exercises along with the click or hear a single bar of click before you commence the test. Groups A-E should be played at crotchet = 75.

Group A: Single Strokes

1. Single strokes in eighth notes, eighth note triplets and 16th notes

Group B: Double Strokes

1. Double strokes in eighth and 16th notes, using snare and toms

Group C: Paradiddles

1. Single paradiddle in 16th notes with accents on snare and toms

Group D: Flams and Drags

1. Flams and drags in quarter notes

Group E: Triplets

1. Triplets in eighth notes with accents on snare and toms

Group F: Fill

In the exam you will be asked to play the three bar groove shown in the grade book followed by one of the notated fills chosen by the examiner. The fills consist of alternating eighth notes, triplet eighth notes, 16th notes and flams. The snare is to be played as a cross stick. You will perform this exercise to the backing track on the CD. The tempo is crotchet = 80.

Grade 4

In this section the examiner will ask you to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the four groups shown below. In addition there is a Fill exercise which you will play using the designated backing track on the CD. You do not need to memorise the exercises (and can use the book in the exam) but the examiner will be looking for the speed of your response.

The stickings shown (R & L) are there as a guide for right handed drummers. Left handed drummers should reverse the sticking patterns. All exercises must be played to a metronome click. Groups A-D should be played at the tempo shown for each exercise.

Group A: Single and Double Strokes

1. Single and double strokes in eighth notes, eighth note triplets and 16th notes played alternately as a continuous exercise

Group B: Paradiddles

1. Single paradiddle in 16th notes using the whole kit
2. Triple paradiddle in 16th notes using the whole kit

Group C: Flams and Ruffs

1. Flam tap and ruffs in quarter notes

Group D: Hands and Feet Patterns

1. Pattern 1
2. Pattern 2
3. Pattern 3
4. Pattern 4

Group E: Fill

In the exam you will be asked to play the three bar groove shown in the grade book followed by the second bar of one of the Hands and Feet Patterns (1-4) shown in Group D above chosen by the examiner. The snare is to be played with rimshot and ghost note. You will perform this exercise to the backing track on the CD. The tempo is crotchet = 80.

Grade 5

In this section the examiner will ask you to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the five groups shown below. In addition there is a Fill exercise which you will play using the designated backing track on the CD. You do not need to memorise the exercises (and can use the book in the exam) but the examiner will be looking for the speed of your response.

The stickings shown (R & L) are there as a guide for right handed drummers. Left handed drummers should reverse the sticking patterns. All exercises must be played to a metronome click. Groups A-E should be played at the tempo shown for each exercise.

Group A: Single and Double Strokes

1. Single and double strokes in eighth notes, eighth note triplets and 16th notes played alternately as a continuous exercise

Group B: Paradiddles

1. Single paradiddle in 16th notes using the whole kit (bass drum follows the right hand)
2. Triple paradiddle in 16th notes using the whole kit (bass drum follows the right hand)

Group C: Flams and Ruffs

1. Flam accent and single drag tap

Group D: Rolls

1. Five stroke roll phrase

Group E: Hands and Feet Patterns

1. Pattern 1
2. Pattern 2
3. Pattern 3
4. Pattern 4

Group F: Fill

In the exam you will be asked to play the three bar groove shown in the grade book followed by the second bar of one of the Hands and Feet Patterns (1-4) shown in Group E above chosen by the examiner. The snare is to be played with rimshot and ghost notes. You will perform this exercise to the backing track on the CD. The tempo is crotchet = 90.

Grade 6

In this section the examiner will ask you to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the five groups shown below. In Group E you will be asked to prepare *one* stylistic study from the three printed. The choice of stylistic study will determine the style of the Quick Study Piece. You do not need to memorise the exercises (and can use the book in the exam) but the examiner will be looking for the speed of your response.

The stickings shown (R & L) are there as a guide for right handed drummers. Left handed drummers should reverse the sticking patterns. All exercises must be played to a metronome click. Groups A-E should be played at the tempo shown for each exercise.

Group A: Single and Double Strokes

1. Single and double strokes in triplet eighth notes, 16th notes and sextuplets played alternately as a continuous exercise

Group B: Paradiddles

1. Flam paradiddle in 16th notes and paradiddle-diddle in sextuplets

Group C: Ratamacues

1. Single ratamacue

Group D: Rolls

1. Five stroke roll phrase with accents on toms
2. Nine stroke roll phrase

Group E: Stylistic Studies

You will prepare a technical study from one group of styles from the list below. Your choice of style will determine the style of the Quick Study Piece.

1. Rock/metal
2. Funk
3. Jazz/Latin/blues

Grade 7

In this section the examiner will ask you to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the six groups shown below. In Group F you will be asked to prepare *one* stylistic study from the three printed. The choice of stylistic study will determine the style of the Quick Study Piece. You do not need to memorise the exercises (and can use the book in the exam) but the examiner will be looking for the speed of your response.

The stickings shown (R & L) are there as a guide for right handed drummers. Left handed drummers should reverse the sticking patterns. All exercises must be played to a metronome click. Groups A-F should be played at the tempo shown for each exercise.

Group A: Single Strokes

1. Single strokes in quarter notes, eighth notes, eighth note triplets, 16th notes, quintuplet 16th notes, sextuplet 16th notes, sextuplet 16th notes and 32nd notes.

Group B: Paradiddles

1. Flam paradiddle in 16th notes and paradiddle-diddle in sextuplets with accents on toms

Group C: Flams

1. Pataflafla

Group D: Ratamacues

1. Double and single ratamacue phrase

Group E: Rolls

1. Nine stroke roll phrase with accents on toms
2. Seven stroke roll phrase

Group F: Stylistic Studies

You will prepare a technical study from one group of styles from the list below. Your choice of style will determine the style of the Quick Study Piece.

1. Rock/metal
2. Funk
3. Jazz/Latin/blues

Grade 8

In this section the examiner will ask you to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the six groups shown below. In Group F you will be asked to prepare *one* stylistic study from the three printed. The choice of stylistic study will determine the style of the Quick Study Piece. You do not need to memorise the exercises (and can use the book in the exam) but the examiner will be looking for the speed of your response.

The stickings shown (R & L) are there as a guide for right handed drummers. Left handed drummers should reverse the sticking patterns. All exercises must be played to a metronome click. Groups A-F should be played at the tempo shown for each exercise.

Group A: Single Strokes

1. Single strokes in quarter notes, eighth notes, eighth note triplets, 16th notes, quintuplet 16th notes, sextuplet 16th notes, sextuplet 16th notes, 32nd notes, nontuplet 32nd notes and double quintuplet 32nd notes.

Group B: Paradiddles

1. Paradiddle-diddle and alternative paradiddle-diddle in sextuplets around the kit

Group C: Flams

1. Swiss Army triplet and pataflafla in 16th notes

Group D: Ratamacue

1. Triple ratamacue

Group E: Rolls

1. Seven stroke roll phrase with accents on toms
2. Combined rolls

Group F: Stylistic Studies

You will prepare a technical study from one group of styles from the list below. Your choice of style will determine the style of the Quick Study Piece.

1. Rock/metal
2. Funk
3. Jazz/Latin/blues

Sight Reading

Debut

You will be asked to prepare a sight reading test which will be given to you by the examiner. The test is four bars long and is played on the snare drum. The examiner will allow you 90 seconds to prepare it and will set the tempo for you. The tempo is crotchet = 80.

Grade 1

In this section you have a choice between either a sight reading test or an Improvisation and Interpretation test. You will be asked to prepare a sight reading test which will be given to you by the examiner. The test is four bars long and is played on the snare drum. The examiner will allow you 90 seconds to prepare it and will set the tempo for you. The tempo is crotchet = 80.

Grade 2

In this section you have a choice between either a sight reading test or an Improvisation and Interpretation test. You will be asked to prepare a sight reading test which will be given to you by the examiner. The test is four bars long and is played on the snare drum. The examiner will allow you 90 seconds to prepare it and will set the tempo for you. The tempo is crotchet = 70.

Grade 3

In this section you have a choice between either a sight reading test or an Improvisation and Interpretation test. You will be asked to prepare a sight reading test which will be given to you by the examiner. The test is four bars long and is played on the snare drum. The examiner will allow you 90 seconds to prepare it and will set the tempo for you. The tempo is crotchet = 70-80.

Grade 4

In this section you have a choice between either a sight reading test or an Improvisation and Interpretation test (see following page). You will be asked to prepare a sight reading test which will be given to you by the examiner. The test is an eight-bar groove that uses the whole kit. At this level there is an element of improvisation. This is in the form of a two-bar development. The examiner will allow you 90 seconds to prepare it and will set the tempo for you. The tempo is crotchet = 80-100.

Grade 5

In this section you have a choice between either a sight reading test or an Improvisation and Interpretation test (see following page). You will be asked to prepare a sight reading test which will be given to you by the examiner. The test is an eight-bar groove that uses the whole kit. At this level there is an element of improvisation. This is in the form of a two-bar development. The examiner will allow you 90 seconds to prepare it and will set the tempo for you. The tempo is crotchet = 80-120.

Improvisation and Interpretation

Grade 1

You will be asked to play a written one bar groove, vary it in the following two bars and improvise a fill in the fourth bar. This test will be played to a backing track using the kick drum, hi-hat and snare drum. You have 30 seconds to prepare and then you will be allowed to practise during the first playing of the backing track, before playing it to the examiner on the second playing of the backing track. This test is continuous with a one bar count-in at the beginning and after the practice session. The tempo is crotchet = 80.

Grade 2

You will be asked to play a written one bar groove, vary it in the following two bars and improvise a fill in the fourth bar. This test will be played to a backing track using the kick drum, hi-hat (closed/open) and snare drum. You have 30 seconds to prepare and then you will be allowed to practise during the first playing of the backing track, before playing it to the examiner on the second playing of the backing track. This test is continuous with a one bar count-in at the beginning and after the practice session. The tempo is crotchet = 80.

Grade 3

You will be asked to play a written one bar groove, vary it in the following two bars and improvise a fill in the fourth bar. This test will be played to a backing track using the kick drum, hi-hat (closed/open), snare drum, crash cymbal and ride cymbal. You have 30 seconds to prepare and then you will be allowed to practise during the first playing of the backing track, before playing it to the examiner on the second playing of the backing track. This test is continuous with a one bar count-in at the beginning and after the practice session. The tempo is crotchet = 80-100.

Grade 4

You will be asked to play a written two bar groove, develop it in the following four bars and then improvise a two bar solo. This test will be played to an eight bar backing track using the kick drum, hi-hat (closed/open), snare drum, crash cymbal and ride cymbal. You have 30 seconds to prepare and then you will be allowed to practise during the first playing of the backing track, before playing it to the examiner on the second playing of the backing track. This test is continuous with a one bar count-in at the beginning and after the practice session. The tempo is crotchet = 80-100.

Grade 5

You will be asked to play a written two bar groove, develop it in the following four bars and then improvise a two bar solo. This test will be played to an eight bar backing track using the kick drum, hi-hat (closed/open), snare drum, crash cymbal and ride cymbal. You have 30 seconds to prepare and then you will be allowed to practise during the first playing of the backing track, before playing it to the examiner on the second playing of the backing track. This test is continuous with a one bar count-in at the beginning and after the practice session. The tempo is crotchet = 80-120.

Quick Study Piece

Grade 6

At this grade you will be asked to prepare and play a short Quick Study Piece (QSP). You will be shown the test and played the track with the *notated parts played*. Any bars that require improvisation will not be demonstrated. You will then have three minutes to study the test. The backing track will be played twice more. You will be allowed to practise during the first playing of the backing track, with the notated parts now absent, before playing it to the examiner on the second playing of the backing track.

The style of your QSP is determined by the stylistic study you selected in the technical exercise section. The QSP is in the form of a lead sheet and it is up to you to create your own interpretation of the music in the parts marked for improvisation.

Grade 7

At this grade you will be asked to prepare and play a short Quick Study Piece (QSP). You will be shown the test and played the track with the *notated parts played*. Any bars that require improvisation will not be demonstrated. You will then have three minutes to study the test. The backing track will be played twice more. You will be allowed to practise during the first playing of the backing track, with the notated parts now absent, before playing it to the examiner on the second playing of the backing track.

The style of your QSP is determined by the stylistic study you selected in the technical exercise section. The QSP is in the form of a lead sheet and it is up to you to create your own interpretation of the music in the parts marked for improvisation.

Grade 8

At this grade you will be asked to prepare and play a short Quick Study Piece (QSP). You will be shown the test and played the track with the *notated parts played*. Any bars that require improvisation will not be demonstrated. You will then have three minutes to study the test. The backing track will be played twice more. You will be allowed to practise during the first playing of the backing track, with the notated parts now absent, before playing it to the examiner on the second playing of the backing track.

The style of your QSP is determined by the stylistic study you selected in the technical exercise section. The QSP is in the form of a lead sheet and it is up to you to create your own interpretation of the music in the parts marked for improvisation.

Ear Tests

Debut

There are two ear tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test to you twice. You will find one example of each type of test printed below.

Test 1: Fill Playback and Recognition

The examiner will play you one bar of fill in common time played on the snare drum. You will play back the fill on the snare drum. You will then identify the fill from two printed examples shown to you by the examiner. You will hear the test twice.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 70.

Test 2: Groove Recall

The examiner will play you a four bar groove played on the kick drum, hi-hat and snare. This is a two bar groove repeated. You will hear the test twice. You will be asked to play the groove back on the drum voices indicated for four bars.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is Crotchet = 80.

Grade 1

There are two ear tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test to you twice. You will find one example of each type of test printed below.

Test 1: Fill Playback and Recognition

The examiner will play you one bar of fill in common time played on the snare drum. You will play back the fill on the snare drum. You will then identify the fill from two printed examples shown to you by the examiner. You will hear the test twice.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 70.

Test 2: Groove Recall

The examiner will play you a four-bar groove played on the kick drum, hi-hat and snare. This is a two bar groove repeated. You will hear the test twice. You will be asked to play the groove back on the drum voices indicated for four bars.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is Crotchet = 80.

Grade 2

There are two ear tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test to you twice. You will find one example of each type of test printed below.

Test 1: Fill Playback and Recognition

The examiner will play you one bar of fill in common time played on the snare drum. You will play back the fill on the snare drum. You will then identify the fill from two printed examples shown to you by the examiner. You will hear the test twice.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 70.

Test 2: Groove Recall

The examiner will play you a four bar groove played on the kick drum, hi-hat (open and closed) and snare. This is a two bar groove repeated. You will hear the test twice. You will be asked to play the groove back on the drum voices indicated for four bars.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 80.

Grade 3

There are two ear tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test to you twice. You will find one example of each type of test printed below.

Test 1: Fill Playback and Recognition

The examiner will play you one bar of fill in common time played on the snare drum. You will play back the fill on the snare drum. You will then identify the fill from two printed examples shown to you by the examiner. You will hear the test twice.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 70.

Test 2: Groove Recall

The examiner will play you a four bar groove played on the kick drum, hi-hat (open and closed), crash cymbal and snare. This is a two bar groove repeated. You will hear the test twice. You will be asked to play the groove back on the drum voices indicated for four bars.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 80.

Grade 4

There are two ear tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test to you twice. You will find one example of each type of test printed below.

Test 1: Fill Playback and Recognition

The examiner will play you one bar of fill in common time played on the snare drum. You will play back the fill on the snare drum. You will then identify the fill from three printed examples shown to you by the examiner. You will hear the test twice.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 70.

Test 2: Groove Recall

The examiner will play you a four bar groove using the whole drum kit. This is a two bar groove repeated. You will hear the test twice. You will be asked to play the groove back on the drum voices indicated for four bars. You will then identify the style of the groove from three examples given to you by the examiner.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 80-120.

Grade 5

There are two ear tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test to you twice. You will find one example of each type of test printed below.

Test 1: Fill Playback and Recognition

The examiner will play you one bar of fill in common time played on the snare drum. You will play back the fill on the snare drum. You will then identify the fill from three printed examples shown to you by the examiner. You will hear the test twice.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 70.

Test 2: Groove Recall

The examiner will play you a four-bar groove using the whole drum kit. This is a two bar groove repeated. You will hear the test twice. You will be asked to play the groove back on the drum voices indicated for four bars. You will then identify the style of the groove from three examples given to you by the examiner.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is between crotchet = 80-120.

Grade 6

There are two ear tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test to you twice. You will find one example of each type of test printed below.

Test 1: Fill Playback and Recognition

The examiner will play you one bar of fill in common time played on the snare drum. You will play back the fill on the snare drum. You will then identify the fill from three printed examples shown to you by the examiner. You will hear the test twice.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 70.

Test 2: Groove Recall

The examiner will play you a four-bar groove using the whole drum kit. This is a two bar groove repeated. You will hear the test twice. You will be asked to play the groove back on the drum voices indicated for four bars. You will then identify the style of the groove from four examples given to you by the examiner.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 80-140.

Grade 7

There are two ear tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test to you twice. You will find one example of each type of test printed below.

Test 1: Fill Playback and Recognition

The examiner will play you one bar of fill in common time played on the snare drum. You will play back the fill on the snare drum. You will then identify the fill from three printed examples shown to you by the examiner. You will hear the test twice.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one-bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 70.

Test 2: Groove Recall

The examiner will play you a four-bar groove using the whole drum kit. This is a two bar groove repeated. You will hear the test twice. You will be asked to play the groove back on the drum voices indicated for four bars. You will then identify the style of the groove from four examples given to you by the examiner.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 80-160.

Grade 8

There are two ear tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test to you twice. You will find one example of each type of test printed below.

Test 1: Fill Playback and Recognition

The examiner will play you one bar of fill in common time played on the snare drum. You will play back the fill on the snare drum. You will then identify the fill from three printed examples shown to you by the examiner. You will hear the test twice.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 70.

Test 2: Groove Recall

The examiner will play you a four bar groove using the whole drum kit. This is a two bar groove repeated. You will hear the test twice. You will be asked to play the groove back on the drum voices indicated for four bars. You will then identify the style of the groove from four examples given to you by the examiner.

Each time the test is played it is preceded by a one bar vocal count-in. The tempo is crotchet = 80-160.