

Welcome to

*Percussion
Academy*

Debut Grade

*A series of graded examinations
Designed by drummers, for drummers.*

LIVE EXAMINATIONS

*There are 2 forms of live, face to face examination available:
ACADEMY GRADE and PERFORMANCE GRADE*

ACADEMY GRADE EXAMINATION:

Consists of:

- 1. A selection of rudiments chosen by the examiner. played (and may be read) from this book.*
- 2. Three pieces to be played.*

*One of the pieces must be chosen from this book,
and two from either this book or our backing track section.*

- 3. Supporting tests:*

Sight reading

Study for a maximum of 1 minute and then attempt to play a short solo piece.

Ensemble

Accompany a soundtrack chosen by the examiner.

Repetition

Repeat a phrase after a second playing by the examiner.

Time signature

*On being given the pulse, recognise the time signature of a
rhythm, played twice by the examiner.*

Musical genre

Candidates will be requested to play the genres listed on the genres page

Viva Voce

*Candidates will be asked a maximum of 6 questions relating to either the pieces
played or the drum kit, see the viva voce page.*

PERFORMANCE EXAMINATION:

Consists of:

4 pieces only to be played.

*One of the pieces must be chosen from this book
and three from either this book or our list of backing tracks.*

No supporting tests are required for performance grade examinations.

A LIST OF BACKING TRACKS IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.percussionacademy.co.uk

RECORDED EXAMINATIONS

*There are 2 forms of recorded examination available:
PERFORMANCE GRADE and RECITAL GRADE*

PERFORMANCE GRADE EXAMINATION

The entire exam must be one continuous recording.

Each recording must be labelled with the candidate's name and the grade.

Consists of:

4 pieces only to be played.

One of the pieces must be chosen from this book

and three from either this book or our list of backing tracks.

No supporting tests are required for performance grade examinations.

Candidate to:

State their name at the start of the recording,

State the name of each piece prior to playing it.

GRADES 6-8 only: proof of identity should be shown at the beginning of the recording. If not possible a parent/guardian may show proof of identity and confirm the identity of the candidate.

RECITAL GRADE EXAMINATION

Each piece may be a separate recording, each labelled with the candidate's name and the title of the piece to be performed.

Consists of:

4 pieces only to be played.

One of the pieces must be chosen from this book

and three from either this book or our list of backing tracks.

No supporting tests are required for performance grade examinations.

Candidate to:

State their name and the title of the piece to be performed.

















Although Recital recordings are examined by our specialist examiners under the same strict conditions as all other Percussion Academy examinations, they do not attract UCAS points.

For further details of Recital exams please visit the Percussion Academy website.

**IN DEPTH DETAILS OF RECORDED EXAMS AND A LIST OF
BACKING TRACKS IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:**

www.percussionacademy.co.uk

LEGEND


CRASH	CYM BELL	RIDE	CLOSED H.H.
			
OPEN H.H.	CLOSE H.H.	SLACK H.H.	SNARE
			
RIM SHOT	RIM CLICK	GHOSTED NOTE	HIGH TOM
			
MID TOM	FLOOR TOM	BASS	PEDAL H.H.
			

RUDIMENTS

REVERSE THE STICKING FOR A LEFT-HANDED KIT CONFIGURATION


SINGLE STROKES

$\text{♩} = c88$ R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L




DOUBLE STROKES

$\text{♩} = c88$ R R L L R R L L R R L L R R L L



PARADIDDLE

$\text{♩} = c88$ R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L



ROCKED UP

$\text{♩} = c105$
H.H. $\frac{4}{4}$
mf

f *mf* **FINE**

f **D.C. at FINE**

Musical score for 'ROCKED UP' in 4/4 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff starts with a tempo marking of quarter note = 105 and a dynamic of mezzo-forte (mf). The second staff begins with a forte (f) dynamic, followed by a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic, and ends with a double bar line and the word 'FINE'. The third staff starts with a forte (f) dynamic and ends with a double bar line and the instruction 'D.C. at FINE'. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and cross-sticks.

N.Y. BLUES

$\text{♩} = c72$
RIDE $\frac{12}{8}$
mf

f

Musical score for 'N.Y. BLUES' in 12/8 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff has a tempo marking of quarter note = 72 and a dynamic of mezzo-forte (mf). The second and third staves begin with a forte (f) dynamic. The notation features a consistent 'RIDE' pattern on the top staff and various rhythmic figures on the bottom staff, including eighth and sixteenth notes and rests.

DEBUT GRADE

JUNGLE

$\text{♩} = c112$

The musical score for 'JUNGLE' is written for a drum set in 4/4 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* and features a steady eighth-note pattern. The second staff starts with a dynamic marking of *f*, includes a circled 'X' symbol, and contains a section marked 'FINE' with a dynamic marking of *p*. The third staff concludes with a circled 'X' symbol and a dynamic marking of *f*, with the instruction 'D.C. at FINE' above it.

L.A. TRIP

$\text{♩} = c120$

The musical score for 'L.A. TRIP' is written for a drum set in 4/4 time. It features four staves. The first staff is labeled 'BELL' and starts with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The second staff includes a section labeled 'FILL.....' with diagonal slash notation. The third staff is labeled 'H.H.' and starts with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The fourth staff concludes with a circled 'X' symbol and a dynamic marking of *f*, with the instruction 'CHOKE' above it.

JAZZER

$\text{♩} = c120$

RIDE

mf *f*

p *f*

THREE WAY SPLIT

$\text{♩} = c120$

RIDE

mp

f

BELL

f *mf*

DEBUT GRADE

JAZZ HAT

$\text{♩} = c104$

f *mp*

RIDE
mf

f

SHUFFLE UP

$\text{♩} = c104$

mp *mf* *f* *CHOKE*

RIDE
mf

H.H.
mf *f*

COOL NIGHTS

$\text{♩} = c130$
BELL

mf

f

FILL.....

THREES

$\text{♩} = c100$

mp *mf*

BELL

RIDE

f

Rit.....

MONTEGO BAY

$\text{♩} = c108$
SNARE OFF

mf

p *f* **FILL**

mf *f*

THE CUBE

$\text{♩} = c144$
SNARES ON OR OFF

mf

mp

f

\otimes

SIGHT READING

The candidate will be requested to play one piece of music similar to one of the samples below. One minute will be allowed for studying the piece prior to playing.

$\text{♩}=\text{c}105$
H.H.
mf

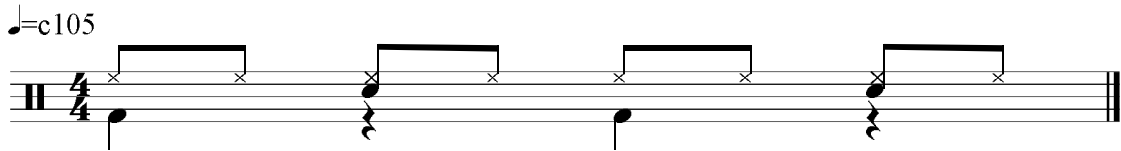
f

$\text{♩}=\text{c}108$
RIDE

$\text{♩}=\text{c}130$
BELL

ENSEMBLE

Candidates will be requested to accompany a piece of music for approximately 45 seconds. Drum fills may be inserted as appropriate but are not necessary. An example of the required standard of rhythm for this grade is:



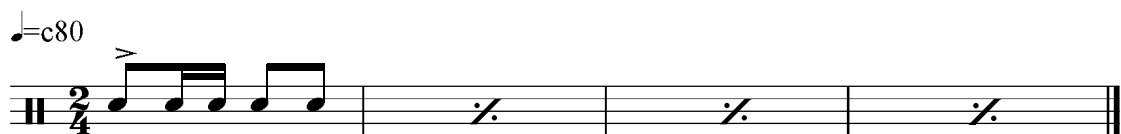
REPETITION

Candidates will be requested to repeat a pattern played by the examiner. The examiner will play the pattern twice. An example of the required standard for this grade is:



TIME SIGNATURES

Candidates will be requested to state the time signature of a 4 bar phrase played twice by the examiner. The pulse will be given. Examples for this grade are:



MUSICAL GENRES

Candidates will be requested to improvise 3 bars in one of the following styles, ending with a fill bar.

EXAMPLES OF REQUIRED STANDARD FOR THIS GRADE

ROCK

$\text{♩} = c120$

$\frac{3}{4}$ ROCK

$\text{♩} = c100$

BLUES

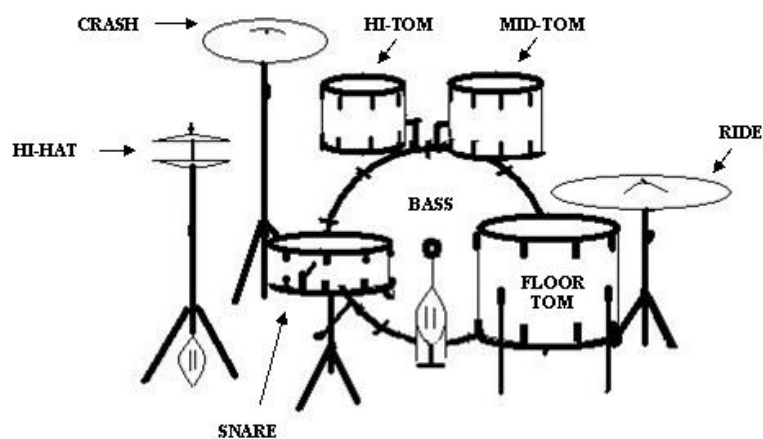
$\text{♩} = c90$

VIVA VOCE

Candidates will be asked a maximum of 6 questions from the following list and/or questions relating to the drum kit.

<u>note</u>	<u>rest</u>	$\frac{4}{4}$	Time signature. Indicates the number & type of beat per bar.
		$\text{♩} = 120$	Metronome Mark. Indicates tempo i.e. 120 beats per minute
		↯	Repeat previous bar
			Stave
			Bar line
Name the drums & cymbals.			Final double bar line
Point to the snare release lever.		<i>f</i>	forte
		<i>mf</i>	mezzo forte
		<i>p</i>	piano
			crescendo

DEBUT GRADE THE KIT



Arrange as a mirror image for a left handed configuration.

POSTURE

Correct posture and therefore the height of the drum stool is vitally important.

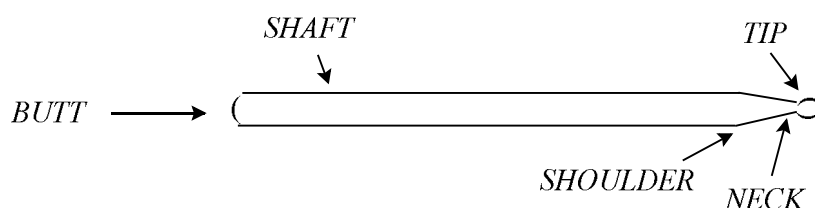
When sitting at the kit, the thighs should be almost horizontal, sloping downwards slightly. Position the stool in order to achieve equal distance from the hi-hat and bass drum pedals and it is important to be facing in the same direction as the bass drum.

The angle created by the foot and calf should not be acute and should allow easy movement of the pedals without the necessity to lift the heel (although various techniques may require the heel up position).

STICKS

Choose sticks which feel right, usually sizes 7a or 5a are sufficient. Plastic tips produce a brighter sound on cymbals, wooden tips will produce a softer tone. Different woods produce different tones and weight for a given size of stick. look along the length of each stick or roll them on a flat surface to ensure they are straight, a warped stick will have an adverse effect on playing. Check that the sticks, as a pair, are of an even weight.

PARTS OF A DRUM STICK



GRIP

MATCHED GRIP

Grip the stick lightly between the thumb and first knuckle of the fore finger, approximately 100 mm from the butt end of the stick. Curl the remaining fingers around the stick. Do the same with the other hand and then importantly, turn the palms to face downwards. this should result in the sticks appearing to make a 'V' shape over the drum.

- Do not extend the index finger.
- Do not have the thumb on top of the stick.
- Do not turn the palms up
- Do not hold the stick too far towards the tip or the butt.

ORTHODOX GRIP

Grip the stick in the right hand as for matched grip. Turn the left hand palm upwards. Lay the stick in the palm between the thumb and fore finger and between the second and third fingers. The butt of the stick should be approximately 100mm from the thumb. The fore finger moves the stick while the second finger acts as a 'guard'. The wrist is 'flicked' to obtain accents.

- Do not turn the palm down.
- Do not hold the stick too far towards the tip or the butt.

Examiner's signature

*Each candidate will be required to present their individual copy of the book
In live exams the examiner will sign the book.
If necessary the book may be re-used for examination retakes by the same candidate.
The book to be signed each time.*

Photocopies, PDF's etc, of this book are not allowed.