

## Exam Preparation (Drums)

Should you wish to pursue grading exams, here at Multiply Music we want our customers to understand the steps which take place on the exam journey. Please find below the expected process which you will experience when learning Graded Drums exams using the official Rockschool Graded syllabuses. Please note that this page may change / be updated as and when the governing body updates their policies.

Please Note that graded drum exams are split into two sections of which you can pick your preferred options.

1. Grade Exam (3 performance pieces, technical exercises, sight reading / improvisation, ear tests, general music questions)
2. Performance Certificate (5 performance pieces only)

Step 1) Our devoted Multiply Music team will teach all sections of the official Rockschool Grading Books. You as a customer can choose between the “Grade Exam” or “Performance Certificate” of which preference you wish.

Please review the following links to the relevant grading book levels:

- [Grade 1](#)
- [Grade 2](#)
- [Grade 3](#)
- [Grade 4](#)
- [Grade 5](#)
- [Grade 6](#)
- [Grade 7](#)
- [Grade 8](#)

Step 2) The majority of our students start from Grade 1. However, you can take a grade exam from any level which you wish to learn / test yourself on.

Once you have confirmed your desires of which exam you would like to take, our Multiply Music team will perform a series of tests which cover all areas / requirements to pass said exam.



Our seniors on site will perform a test mock exam and try and replicate exact comparisons to help the student / parent know what to expect. Please review the following video which shows / outlines a typical grading exam. (Please note that this exam shows Grade I. Higher exams may differ, but this is to give you a quick understanding).

This mock exam will occur 3 times (i.e., tests on 3 separate occasions) to give students the highest possible chance of passing the exams.

Rockschool Exam Prep Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltgXTvSUxq8>

Step 3) Once our Multiply Music team feel that you are ready for your exam, you can then arrange / book your exam. You can do this by clicking the following link:

<https://www.rslawards.com/rockschool/graded-exams/drums/>

Simply:

- Choose the exam level.
- Click "Face To Face / Paper". Then Add to cart.
- Click "Checkout"
- Create a new account and follow the steps until payment.

Once you have paid for the exam, Rockscool will either get in contact with a time / date of your exam and the equipment needed to bring or upon checkout you will be given the option to choose your preferred exam date / window. **All students need to bring their own drum sticks & their graded drum book. All exams are conducted on an acoustic drum kit. If you wish to play on an electronic drum kit, you will need to provide this yourself.**

## Pricing (2023)

Exam Type  
Face to Face Grade Exam
▼

Instrument  
Drums
▼

Location  
United Kingdom
▼

Exam grade	Price
Entry Level 3 (Debut)	£4900
Grade 1	£5400
Grade 2	£6000
Grade 3	£6900
Grade 4	£7600
Grade 5	£8500
Grade 6	£9400
Grade 7	£10400
Grade 8	£11300

## Exam Breakdown & What To Expect

- Exam durations are dependent upon the exam level; however, exam durations are commonly 25 minutes.
- Rockscool advise that you arrive 15 minutes before the exam, and you will be allowed a couple of minutes to prepare. If you apply for a Grade 6,7 or 8 exam, please bring photographic identification.
- Teachers / parents are not allowed in the exam room.
- Restarts will only be permitted if candidates are less than a third of the way through a piece or technical exercise. Candidates will not be permitted more than one re-start during the performance of the pieces,

and more than two re-starts during the Technical Exercises. All re-starts may be reflected in the marking, except for a first (or only) re-start in the Technical Exercises section.

- Rooms have either visibility in a room or CCTV present.
- Sometimes face to face exams may be recorded but you will be contacted in advance if this happens.
- Candidates will receive their results and report online and certificates will be issued afterwards. We aim to release results a maximum of 7 days after the exam, but very often it will be sooner than this.

### Grade Exam Breakdown (Theory & Practical)

3 Performance Pieces (two of which may be Free Choice Pieces)	Candidates choose to play either Performance Pieces or Technical Exercises first	These account for 60% of the exam mark
Technical Exercises (Section A, B, C and D for Level 3 qualifications)	Candidates choose to play either Performance Pieces or Technical Exercises first	These account for 15% of the exam mark
Sight Reading or Improvisation & Interpretation (Debut to Grade 5); Quick Study Pieces (Grade 6 to Grade 8)	Candidates are given an unseen test to prepare and perform	This accounts for 10% of the exam marks
2 Ear Tests	Candidates respond to 2 aural tests.	These account for 10% of the exam marks
5 General Musicianship Questions	Candidates answer 5 questions based on one of the pieces performed	These account for 5% of the exam marks
5 Performance Pieces only (three of these can be Free Choice Pieces)		These account for 20% of the exam mark each.

## Assessment Criteria / Marking

### Performance Pieces

Attainment Band ⇅	Distinction ⇅	Merit ⇅	Pass ⇅	Below Pass ⇅	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	6–11	0–5
Command of Instrument	Consistently clear production of sound and even tone quality throughout	Mostly clear production of sound and even tone quality overall	Some clear production of sound and generally even tone quality	Sound produced is unclear with uneven quality of tone produced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Sync or Pulse	Performance consistently synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance mostly synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance sometimes synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance not synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse not maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	all of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout.  Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time.	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall.  Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time.	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time.	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills not demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure not evidenced.	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Style & Expression	Consistently convincing projection of the music.	Mostly convincing projection of the music.	Some convincing projection of the music.	Music not convincingly projected.	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

## Technical Exercises

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	13–15	11–12	9–10	4–8	0–3
Command of Instrument	Consistently clear production of sound and even tone quality throughout	Mostly clear production of sound and even tone quality overall	Some clear production of sound and generally even tone quality	Sound produced is unclear with uneven quality of tone produced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Sync or Pulse	Performance consistently synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance mostly synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance sometimes synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance not synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse not maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	all of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout.  Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time.	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall.  Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time.	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time.	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills not demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure not evidenced.	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

## Ear Tests

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	9–10	7–8	6	3–5	0–2
Accuracy & Understanding	All of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout.  Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time.	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall.  Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time.	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time.	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills not demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure not evidenced.	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

## Supporting Tests

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	9–10	7–8	6	3–5	0–2
Command of Instrument	Consistently clear production of sound and even tone quality throughout	Mostly clear production of sound and even tone quality overall	Some clear production of sound and generally even tone quality	Sound produced is unclear with uneven quality of tone produced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Sync or Pulse	Performance consistently synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance mostly synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance sometimes synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance not synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse not maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	All of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout.  Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time.	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall.  Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time.	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time.	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills not demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure not evidenced.	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

## General Musicianship Questions

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	5 correct responses	4 correct responses	3 correct responses	2 correct responses	0–1 correct responses

## Performance Certificate

Attainment Band	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Below Pass	Below Pass 2
Mark Range	18–20	15–17	12–14	6–11	0–5
Command of Instrument	Consistently clear production of sound and even tone quality throughout	Mostly clear production of sound and even tone quality overall	Some clear production of sound and generally even tone quality	Sound produced is unclear with uneven quality of tone produced	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Sync or Pulse	Performance consistently synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance mostly synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance sometimes synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse maintained	Performance not synchronised to the music, or an internal pulse not maintained	No attempt and/or incomplete performance
Accuracy & Understanding	All of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated throughout.  Understanding of musical structure shown all of the time.	Most of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills demonstrated overall.  Understanding of musical structure shown most of the time.	Some of the written music accurately performed or equivalent skills generally demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure shown some of the time.	Written music not accurately performed or equivalent skills not demonstrated.  Understanding of musical structure not evidenced.	No attempt and/or incomplete performance

## EXAM DATES WINDOW (2023)

Term	Exam Dates	Closing Date
A 2023	20th February - 16th April 2023	13th February 2023
B 2023	15th May - 6th August 2023	9th May 2023
Summer Exams 2023	7th – 21st August 2023	24th July 2023
C 2023	30th October - 23rd December 2023	23rd October 2023