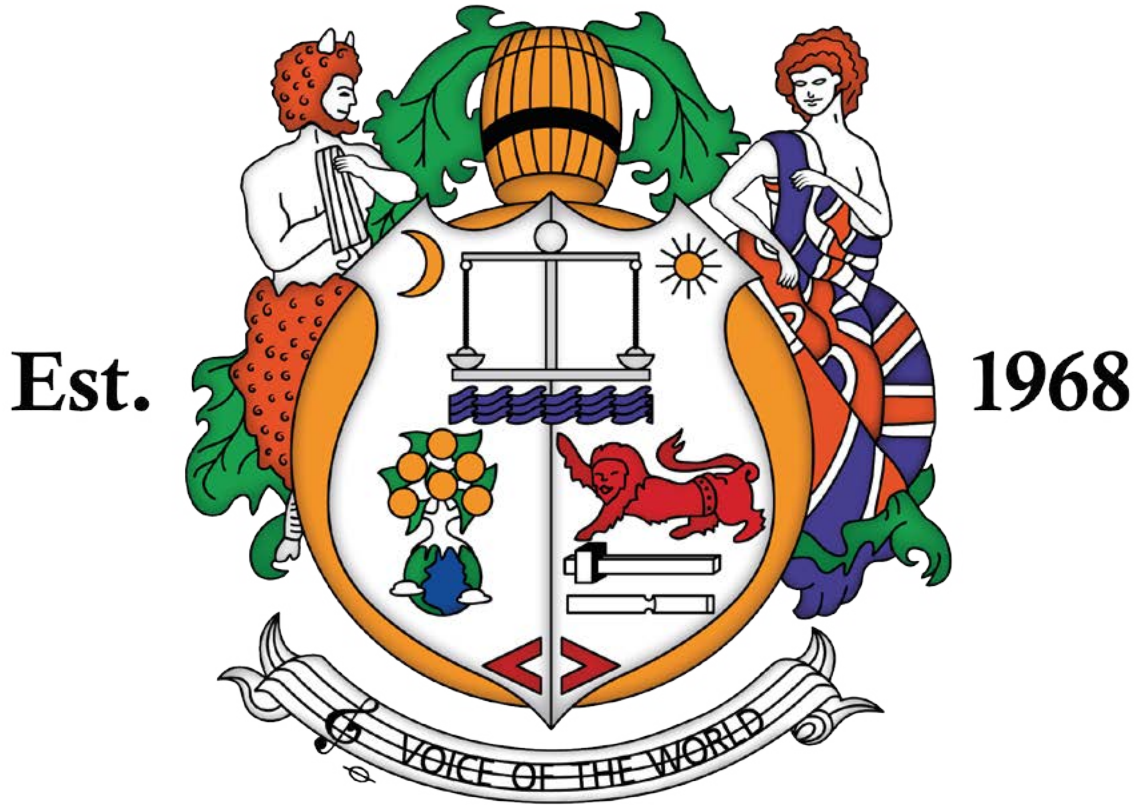


# ORANGE™



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London | England

**ROCK GUITAR**  
COMPLETE SYLLABUS

# Orange Rock Guitar - Complete Syllabus

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# Introduction

Welcome to the Electric Rock Guitar syllabus. It has been created by a team of dedicated guitarists and teachers, and has been produced completely free for users. As times change so does the music we listen to. With this inevitability in mind we will publish updated versions of our syllabus and course materials for people to enjoy. Notifications will be announced via the Orange Learn website. You are reading Version 1.0, our very first.

Students and teachers can download the complete course, course materials and have free access to backing tracks, sight reading and aural tests from [orangeamps.com/learn](https://orangeamps.com/learn). Once you have completed the course you will be able to take the unique experience of performing your exam online, made possible by our partner Online Music Exams: [www.onlinemusicexams.org](https://www.onlinemusicexams.org)

We have created the syllabuses with the intention of reducing costs to everyone without compromising on the quality and integrity of the materials learnt.

## Why take the Online Music Exams?

Our online music exams were created to give the student more control over their exams. There is no need to purchase any books from us - the course content and audio tracks are free. Students do not have to wait anymore to take their exam, they can now take it **anyday** and **anywhere** with internet.

Students can get their results much quicker than the traditional method.

We are recognised around the world for our quality.

Students will play a piece which they have selected themselves, which gives the student freedom to perform a piece from a genre or particular band or musician that inspires them.

No need to travel to a venue.

Reduces stage fright performances.

Graded exams are grouped into packages to reduce costs. The Foundation level exam is for beginner to Grade 2. The Intermediate level exam is for Grade 3 to Grade 5. The Advanced level exam is for Grade 6 to Grade 8.

Re-marking is now possible.

If students do not get the mark they need they can take the exam again as early as the next day after they have received their results.

## Officially recognised qualifications

Our Music exams are officially recognised on the National Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework and are registered with OFQUAL.

Other equivalent qualifications	RQF* credits	EQF** credits	Orange Rock Guitar	Course level
A/AS level	3	4	Grade 8 Grade 7 Grade 6	Advanced
G.C.S.E. A* - C	2	3	Grade 5 Grade 4 Grade 3	Intermediate
G.C.S.E. D - G	1	2	Grade 2 Grade 1 Grade 0	Foundation

\* Regulated Qualifications Framework in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

\*\* European Qualifications Framework

## About this syllabus

This syllabus has been designed to give the student freedom to explore and to give teachers freedom to apply their own successful methods of teaching. We have considered carefully what needs to be added in order for a student to know that they are on the correct path and that our learning materials are relevant to the modern day world. We really hope that you enjoy your new course and exam experience.

## About the exam

Our exams approach performing music for critique in a slightly different way to other examination boards. Whereas other examination boards will ask the student to play only part of what they have learnt for the exam, the Orange Rock Guitar approach is to ask the student to perform everything they have learnt so that our examiners are satisfied nothing has been missed.

As the exam is recorded online in the student's own time there is also a noticeable reduction in exam nerves and stage fright.

**To take the exam go to [orangeamps.com/learn](https://orangeamps.com/learn) and follow the instructions.**

## Mark scheme and exam structure

Foundation	Max mark	Intermediate	Max mark	Advanced	Max mark
Piece	20	Piece	20	Piece	20
Studies	40	Studies	80	Studies	60
Technical exercises	60	Technical exercises	60	Technical exercises	100
Aural	60	Aural	80	Aural	80
Sight reading	40	Sight reading	40	Sight reading	40
		Improvisation	20	Improvisation	20
Theory	25	Theory	35	Theory	50
Total	245	Total	335	Total	370

## Percentage boundaries for each certification of Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced exams

Mark percentage %	Certification
85 - 100	Distinction
71 - 84	Merit
50 - 70	Pass
Less than 50	Fail

## Foundation level certificate marks

Below is the table that identifies the marking boundaries for the Foundation level exam. The course material performed in the exam is at a Grade 2 level. How you perform this material distinguishes whether you receive a Distinction, Merit or Pass. If you receive a Distinction it means you have played to a Distinction level at Grade 2. If you receive a Merit, it means you have played the Grade 2 material to a Grade 1 standard. If you receive a Pass, it means you have played the Grade 2 material to Foundation level and passed.

Mark percentage %	Foundation Grade 0 - 2	RQF credits	EQF credits
85 - 100	Grade 2 Distinction	1	2
71 - 84	Grade 1 Merit	1	2
50 - 70	Foundation Pass	1	2
Less than 50	Fail	0	0

## Intermediate level certificate marks

Below is the table that identifies the marking boundaries for the Intermediate level exam. All course material performed in the exam is at a Grade 5 level. How you perform this material distinguishes whether you receive a Distinction, Merit or Pass. If you receive a Distinction it means you have played to a Distinction level at Grade 5. If you receive a Merit, it means you have played the Grade 5 material to a Grade 4 standard. If you receive a Pass, it means you have played the Grade 5 material to a Grade 3 standard.

Mark percentage %	Intermediate Grade 3 - 5	RQF credits	EQF credits
85 - 100	Grade 5 Distinction	2	3
71 - 84	Grade 4 Merit	2	3
50 - 70	Grade 3 Pass	2	3
Less than 50	Fail	0	0

## Advanced level certificate marks

The following table identifies the marking boundaries for the Advanced level exam. All course material performed in the exam is at a Grade 8 level. How you perform this material distinguishes whether you receive a Distinction, Merit or Pass. If you receive a Distinction it means you have played to a Distinction level at Grade 8. If you receive a Merit, it means you have played the Grade 8 material to a Grade 7 standard. If you receive a Pass, it means you have played the Grade 8 material to a Grade 6 standard.

Mark percentage %	Advanced Grade 6 - 8	RQF credits	EQF credits
85 - 100	Grade 8 Distinction	3	4
71 - 84	Grade 7 Merit	3	4
50 - 70	Grade 6 Pass	3	4
Less than 50	Fail	0	0

Our online recorded exams enable our examiners to use 5 components to mark each discipline allowing for greater accuracy in our marking. Each component has a maximum of 4 points, 0/1 = Fail, 2 = Pass, 3 = Merit, 4 = Distinction.

**Components:**

Tempo  
Rhythm  
Note accuracy  
Touch  
Technicality

Discipline/mark	0	1	2	3	4
<b>Tempo</b>	Not attempted/ being influenced	Failed to show understanding	Identified the tempo	Only slight deviation in tempo	Practically perfect
<b>Rhythm</b>	Not attempted/ being influenced	Failed to show understanding	Identified the rhythm	Only slight deviation in rhythm	Practically perfect
<b>Note accuracy</b>	Not attempted/ being influenced	Failed to show understanding	Accidentals identified	Notes mostly correct	Practically perfect
<b>Touch</b>	Not attempted/ being influenced	Failed to show understanding	Showed some engagement	Good engagement	Excellent engagement
<b>Technicality</b>	Not attempted/ being influenced	Failed to show understanding	Satisfactory technical ability	Shows good technical ability	Excellent technical ability

The structure of your exam is based upon the exam requirements set out in the syllabus.  
The order of each discipline is up to the student.

## Performance piece

Students will play a piece which they have selected themselves, which gives the student freedom to perform a piece from a genre or particular band or musician that they are inspired by. The performance piece requirements for each exam are stated in the syllabus. The piece must contain elements learnt from the course. The piece must have a published score and be available to the examiner, and they will need to give the following details of the piece during the exam - the name of the piece, the writer(s) and the publisher. Online Music Examinations expects from the student that the piece has been obtained legally and has not infringed any copyright laws in obtaining the music. The piece can be accompanied (by backing track) or unaccompanied. With the accompanied pieces the student will need to start the backing track and perform over the top with both the guitar and backing track clearly audible.

## Sight reading

The student will have to sight read a melody and a chord progression of either 4 or 8 bars long (for Foundation and Intermediate/Advanced respectively). A sight reading score will appear on your screen in the sight reading part of the exam, and a countdown will begin. It will give you between 30 and 90 seconds (depending on the course level) to look over the score, and then another countdown will appear in which you must play. You will only have one attempt. Examples of these scores can be found in the syllabus for each level.

## Technical

The technical elements of the exam are short pieces that showcase the technical abilities the student has learnt from the course. Students will gradually learn technical pieces as they progress through each lesson. Some of these technical pieces will be played over backing tracks, and others to a metronome at a specified tempo. You will not need to prepare backing tracks or a metronome for your exam, as they will become available to you in the exam arena. Please note that you will be expected to play these from memory in the Intermediate and Advanced course exams, but in the Foundation exam you will have access to the Course Materials/ sheet music for each piece.

## Aural tests

The aural exam is split into sections (which differ with each course level) - harmonic recognition, interval recognition, melodic recall, harmonic recall, and rhythmic recall. The details of each of these can be found in this syllabus' 'Learning requirements' section, or in the 'Aural development' pages of each course. For each section, the student will hear a musical element and must respond with either a spoken answer, or by playing, usually mimicking what they have just heard.

## Exercises/workouts

Technical exercises are found in the syllabus under each level and represent the student's technical ability. In the online exam arena you will find a metronome which will be set to the speed required. The student must play to this metronome. Please note that you will be expected to play these from memory in the Advanced exam, but in the Foundation exam you will have access to the notation/tabature for each exercise.

## Improvisation

The student must improvise over a 16-bar backing track. (Note: improvisation is part of the Intermediate and Advanced exams only.) In the exam, the student will hear a backing track using chord progressions introduced in the corresponding course, and they must play over the track. There are no requirements for improvisation, but we do expect that the student demonstrate basic chord-tone soloing knowledge.

## Theory

Students must also take a multiple choice theory quiz. All questions that arise are based on the theory introduced throughout each course. Please note that exams from the later courses will also feature theory questions from earlier courses (e.g. the Advanced exam will feature theory questions based on the Foundation and Intermediate courses). A summary of the theory in each course can be found in this syllabus' 'Learning requirements' section and in the 'Exam specification' lesson of each course.



# Learning requirements for the exams

## Beginner - Grade 2: Orange Foundation Level Electric Rock Guitar



# Technical

## Scales

All scales must be played using alternate picking at the indicated tempo, and using the indicated note values. Scales must be played ascending followed by descending. Any fingering that is economical and sounds good will be accepted.

1 octave scales - 100BPM, quavers (2-notes-per-click)  
C Major, A minor, G Major, E minor, A minor Pentatonic, C Major Pentatonic, G Chromatic.

Example:

The image shows a musical example of a C Major scale. It consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature, containing a sequence of 16 eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bottom staff is a guitar TAB staff with six lines. The fret numbers for the notes are: 0, 2, 3, 0, 2, 3, 0, 2, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0. The notes are grouped into four measures of four notes each.

## Chords

All chords must be played as part of the chord progressions included in the course materials. All chords are in root position. Any fingering that is economical and sounds good will be accepted.

Open chords - 60BPM

Progressions 1 - 4. These progression must be played with their corresponding backing tracks.

Example:

The image shows a musical example for open chords in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The chords are E, Am, D, and G. Below the staff is a guitar tablature (TAB) with six lines. The E chord is shown with fret numbers 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0. The Am chord is shown with fret numbers 0, 1, 2, 2, 0, 0. The D chord is shown with fret numbers 2, 3, 2, 3, 2, 0. The G chord is shown with fret numbers 3, 0, 0, 0, 2, 3. The notation includes stems and beams for the notes, and the TAB includes dots for natural notes and numbers for fretted notes.

Power chords - 60 BPM

Progression 1 – 2. These progressions must be played with their corresponding backing tracks.

Example:

The image shows a musical example for power chords in 4/4 time. It consists of a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The chords are G5, D5, A5, and E5. Below the staff is a guitar tablature (TAB) with six lines. The G5 chord is shown with fret numbers 7, 5, 7, 7, 7, 7. The D5 chord is shown with fret numbers 5, 3, 5, 5, 5, 5. The A5 chord is shown with fret numbers 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3. The E5 chord is shown with fret numbers 5, 3, 5, 5. The notation includes stems and beams for the notes, and the TAB includes numbers for fretted notes.

## Arpeggios

All arpeggios must be played individually, using either sweep picking or alternate picking, and as part of the progressions included in the course materials, at the indicated tempo and using the indicated note values. Arpeggios must be played ascending followed by descending. Any fingering that is economical and sounds good will be accepted.

1 octave arpeggios – 126 BPM  
E minor, D Major, C Major  
Progression 1 – 2

Example:

The image shows a musical example of a 1-octave arpeggio. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It shows an ascending arpeggio of E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, followed by a descending arpeggio of D5, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with six strings. The notes correspond to the following fret numbers: 16, 17, 15, 19, 15, 17, 14, 15, 14, 17, 14, 15, 12, 13, 12, 15, 12, 13, 12.

## Exercises/workouts

All exercises/workouts must be played as notated in the course materials of the corresponding lesson. Any fingering that is economical and sounds good will be accepted. Please refer to the Foundation course materials for the exercises specified below.

Chromatic alternate picking  
Exercises 1 – 2

## Performance piece

You must perform 1 piece of music for your exam, using a backing track or unaccompanied. You may perform any piece of electric guitar music from any artist, as long as it adheres to the parameters outlined below. Performance pieces may be played using an alternative tuning. Students may read from notation/tablatore during the exam.

Performance pieces MUST:

1. Be between approximately 2 and 5 minutes long.
2. Contain 4 different open or power chords learned from the beginner's section.
3. Contain a melody solo element that consists of at least 3 notes.
4. Show any articulation learnt in the Foundation course.

## Sight reading

Sight reading means that you have to play a piece of written music straight away without learning it, without TAB.

During your practical exam, you will be required to sight read a 4-bar chord progression and a 4-bar melody, both at 60 BPM. You will be given 30 seconds to look at the melody/chord progression before you are expected to play it. During the 30-second countdown, you can use your guitar to help you figure out how to play melody/progression. After the 30-second countdown, you must attempt to play the melody/progression on screen in time to the metronome. When you are asked to give your answer, you must **play** the melody back on your guitar, **NOT** sing it.

Note that you will only be expected to sight read from scales and chords within the Orange Rock Guitar Foundation course. Rhythms will consist of combinations of crotchets, quavers, minims, semibreves, dotted minims, and their corresponding rests.

Any of the following chords may appear:

Open chords: **G Major, D Major, C Major, A Major, E Major, A minor, E minor, D minor**  
Power chords: **A5, G5, F5, C5**

Any of the following scales may appear:

1 octave scales: **C Major, A Minor, G Major, E minor, A minor Pentatonic, C Major Pentatonic**

Any of the following time signatures may appear:

**3/4**  
**4/4**

Any of the following key signatures may appear:

No sharps/flat = **C Major**  
1 sharp = **G Major**

Any of the following dynamics may appear:

forte (f), mezzo-forte (mf), mezzo-piano (mp), piano (p)

The image displays two musical staves. The top staff is a melody in 3/4 time, starting with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The bottom staff is a chord progression in 4/4 time, starting with a forte (f) dynamic. The chords are D, G, C, and Em.

## Aural

### Harmonic recognition

This part of the exam tests your ability to differentiate between types of chords.

**NB** You are NOT permitted to use your guitar at any point during this part of the exam. If you attempt to use your guitar or any other instrument to figure out the chords, **you will be disqualified!**

In your exam, you will be played 3 chords, and for each one you must specify the chord quality, i.e. whether it is a major chord or a minor chord. You will hear the first chord 3 times. There will then be a 10-second gap in which you must give the name of the chord you heard. You will then hear the second chord 3 times followed by a 10-second gap to give the name of the chord, and finally the third chord 3 times followed by a 10-second gap to give the name of the chord.

You will be given the root note of each chord, and in your answer you must specify both the root note and the chord quality (e.g. Major or minor). You must **say** your answer, **NOT** play it.

### Melodic recognition

In this part of the exam, you will be tested on your ability to memorise and reproduce melodies. You will be played a 2-bar melody, and you must play this melody back. The melody will be in the key of C Major, using the C Major 1 octave scale position that you learned in the '1 octave scales' lesson, and it will be played using crotchets at 60 BPM. The time signature will be 4/4. The first note of the melody will always be C.

So without further ado, let's try it! Listen to the following melody. In your exam, you will hear the melody 3 times. There will be a 10-second gap between each repetition, and after the final repetition, you will have 15 seconds before you have to play the melody back. During this part of the exam, you may use your guitar to help you figure out the melody. When you are asked to give your answer, you must **play** the melody back on your guitar, **NOT** sing it.

Example:

The image shows a musical example for a 2-bar melody. The top staff is a treble clef with a melody of eight crotchets: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bottom staff is guitar tablature with fret numbers: 3, 2, 0, 2, 3, 2, 3, 3.

## Rhythmic recall

In this part of the exam, you will be tested on your ability to memorise and reproduce rhythms. You will be played a 2-bar rhythm, and you must play this rhythm back during your exam. The rhythm will be played on an open A string using minims, crotchets, quavers, and their respective rests, at 60 BPM. The time signature will be 4/4.

Here we go! Listen to the following rhythm. In your exam, you will hear the rhythm 3 times. There will be a 10-second gap between each repetition, and after the final repetition, you will have 15 seconds before you have to play the rhythm back. During this part of the exam, you may use your guitar to help you figure out the rhythm. When you are asked to give your answer, you must **play** the rhythm back on your guitar, **NOT** sing it.

The image shows a musical score for a 2-bar rhythm. The first staff is a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: quarter, quarter, quarter rest, eighth eighth, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, eighth eighth, quarter, quarter, quarter rest. The second staff is a guitar tablature with fret numbers: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0.

## Theory

You will take a multiple choice theory quiz. The contents of the exam will consist of all of the theory introduced in the lessons of the Foundation course.

Any of the following theory subjects may appear:

- Notation & tablature - staves, clefs, note names, enharmonic notes
- Note names and note values - semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver, semiquaver, dotted notes
- Rest names and rest values
- Bars and barlines
- Accidentals - sharps, flats, and naturals
- Time signatures - 4/4, 3/4
- Up and down picking symbols
- Tones and semitones

- Scale formulae - Major, Natural minor, Major Pentatonic, minor Pentatonic, Blues Scale
- Chord formulae - Major, minor, power chords
- Arpeggio formulae - Major, minor
- Key signatures - C Major, G Major
- Repeat lines
- Legato symbols - slurs
- Intervals of the Major Scale

**Grade 3 - Grade 5:  
Orange Intermediate Level  
Electric Rock Guitar**





# Technical

## Scales

All scales must be played using alternate picking at the indicated tempo, and using the indicated note values. Scales must be played from memory. Scales must be played ascending followed by descending. Any fingering that is economical and sounds good will be accepted.

3-note-per-string Major and minor scales – 72 BPM, semiquavers  
(4-notes-per-click)  
G Major, E minor, A Major, F# minor

Example:

The image shows a musical example for a 3-note-per-string scale. It consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The scale is played in G Major. The notation shows an ascending run of semiquavers (eighths) across three strings, followed by a descending run. Below the staff is a guitar tablature (TAB) with six lines. The notes are indicated by fret numbers: 12-14-15, 12-14-16, 13-15-17, 14-15-14, 17-15-13, 16-14-12, 16-14-12, 15-14-12, 15-14, and 12.

5 positions of the A minor Pentatonic Scale – 112 BPM, quavers (2-notes-per-click)

Example:

The image shows a musical example for 5 positions of the A minor Pentatonic Scale. It consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of no sharps or flats and a 4/4 time signature. The scale is played in A minor. The notation shows an ascending run of quavers (fourths) across three strings, followed by a descending run. Below the staff is a guitar tablature (TAB) with six lines. The notes are indicated by fret numbers: 8-10, 7-10, 7-10, 7-9, 8-10, 8-10-10-8, 10-8, 9-7, 10-7, 10-7, 10-7, 10-8.

## Chords

All chords must be played as part of the chord progressions included in the course materials. Chord progressions must be played from memory. All chords are in root position. Any fingering that is economical and sounds good will be accepted.

Open chords - part II:  
Progressions 1 – 3

Example:

A7                      D7                      G

TAB

Power chords - part II:  
Progressions 1 – 2

Example:

TAB

Bar chords  
Progressions 1 – 3

Example:

Am                      G                      F                      G                      Am

TAB

## Arpeggios

All arpeggios must be played individually, using either sweep picking or alternate picking, and as part of the progressions included in the course materials, at the indicated tempo and using the indicated note values. Arpeggios must be played ascending followed by descending. Any fingering that is economical and sounds good will be accepted.

2 octave arpeggios – 130 BPM, triplet quavers (3-notes-per-click)  
 G Major, E minor, C Major, D Major, D#dim7  
 Progression 1

Example:

## Exercises/workouts

All exercises/workouts must be played as notated in the course materials. Exercises/workouts must be played from memory. Any fingering that is economical and sounds good will be accepted. Please refer to the Intermediate course materials for the exercises specified below.

Tapping study  
 Progressions 1 – 3

Bending  
 Exercises 1 – 2

## Performance piece

You must perform 1 piece of music for your exam, using a backing track or unaccompanied. You may perform any piece of electric guitar music from any artist, as long as it adheres to the parameters outlined below. Performance pieces may be played using an alternative tuning. Students may read from notation/tablature during the exam.

Performance pieces MUST:

1. Be between approximately 2 and 5 minutes long.
2. Contain a variety of open, power, and bar chords learned from the intermediate section, including at least 1 chord extension.
3. Contain a solo element that consists of at least 1 technique learned in the intermediate course, such as tapping or bending.

## Sight reading

During your exam, you will be required to sight read a 4-bar chord progression and a 4-bar melody, both at 80 BPM. You will be given 60 seconds to look at the melody/chord progression before you are expected to play it. During the 60-second countdown, you can use your guitar to help you figure out how to play melody/progression. After the 60 second countdown, you must attempt to play the melody/progression on screen in time to the metronome. When you are asked to give your answer, you must **play** the melody back on your guitar, **NOT** sing it.

Note that you will only be expected to sight read from scales and chords within the Rock Guitar Foundation and Intermediate courses. You may also encounter any of the key signatures or time signatures that appear in the Foundation course. Rhythms will consist of combinations of crotchets, quavers, minims, semibreves, dotted minims, and their corresponding rests. Dynamics will range from piano through to forte. The following articulation may also appear: accents, staccato, legato (hammer-ons and pull-offs), crescendos and diminuendos.

Any of the following chords may appear:

Open chords: **G Major, D Major, C Major, A Major, E Major, A minor, E minor, D minor, Cadd9, A7, D Major 7, D7, Dsus4, F#half-diminished, Asus2**  
 Power chords: **A5, G5, F5, C5, E5, C#5(b5), D#5(b5)**  
 Bar chords: **G, Am, F, Dm, C, Bb**

Any of the following scales may appear:

1 octave scales: **C Major, A minor, G Major, E minor, A minor Pentatonic, C Major Pentatonic**  
 3-note-per-string scales: **G Major, A Major, E minor, F# minor**  
 A minor Pentatonic Scales: **any of the 5 positions**

Any of the following time signatures may appear:

**3/4**  
**4/4**  
**6/8**

Any of the following key signatures may appear:

No sharps/flat = **C Major/A minor**  
 1 sharp = **G Major/E minor**  
 2 sharps = **D Major/B minor**  
 3 sharps = **A Major/F# minor**  
 1 flat = **F Major/D minor**

The image displays two musical staves. The top staff is a melody in 4/4 time, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. It consists of four measures: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The second measure has a dotted quarter note G4. The third measure has a quarter rest followed by an eighth note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note B4. The fourth measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The bottom staff is a chord progression in 4/4 time, starting with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. It consists of five measures: D major, Dsus4, D major 7, D7, and G major. The G major chord is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a crescendo hairpin.

## Aural

### Harmonic recognition

NB You are NOT permitted to use your guitar at any point during this part of the exam. If you attempt to use your guitar or any other instrument to figure out the chords, ***you will be disqualified!***

In your exam, you will be played 3 chords, and for each one you must specify the chord quality, i.e. whether it is a Major chord, minor chord, Major 7th chord, Dominant 7th chord, or a suspended 4th chord. You will hear the first chord 3 times.

There will then be a 10-second gap in which you must give the name of the chord you heard. You will then hear the second chord 3 times followed by a 10-second gap to give the name of the chord, and finally the third chord three times followed by a 10-second gap to give the name of the chord.

You will be given the root note of each chord, and in your answer you must specify both the root note and the chord quality (e.g. Major or minor). You must **say** your answer, **NOT** play it.

### Interval recognition

NB You are NOT permitted to use your guitar at any point during this part of the exam. If you attempt to use your guitar or any other instrument to figure out the chords, ***you will be disqualified!***

In your exam, you will be played 3 chords, and for each one you must specify the chord quality, i.e. whether it is a Major chord, minor chord, Major 7th chord, Dominant 7th chord, or a suspended 4th chord. You will hear the first chord 3 times.

There will then be a 10-second gap in which you must give the name of the chord you heard. You will then hear the second chord 3 times followed by a 10-second gap to give the name of the chord, and finally the third chord three times followed by a 10-second gap to give the name of the chord.

You will be given the root note of each chord, and in your answer you must specify both the root note and the chord quality (e.g. Major or minor). You must **say** your answer, **NOT** play it.

## Melodic recall

You will be played a 4-bar melody, and you must play this melody back. The melody will be in the key of G Major, E minor, A Major, or F# minor (using 3-note-per-string scale positions introduced in the Intermediate course), and it will be played using minims, crotchets, quavers, dotted notes, tied notes, and their respective rests, at 80 BPM. The time signature will be 4/4 or 3/4. Dynamics will range from piano through to forte. The first note of the melody will always be the root note of the scale. The following melodic articulation may also appear and should be recalled: staccato, legato (hammer-ons/pull-offs).

In your exam, you will hear the melody 3 times. There will be a 20-second gap between each repetition, and after the final repetition, you will have 20 seconds before you have to play the melody back. During this part of the exam, you may use your guitar to help you figure out the melody. When you are asked to give your answer, you must **play** the melody back on your guitar, **NOT** sing it.

Example:

♩ = 80

*p*

T	5	5	5	4	5	7	5	4	7	5	4	4	4	7	4	5	7	8
A																		
B																		

## Harmonic recall

You will be played a 4-bar chord progression, and you must play this progression back. The progression will be in the key of C Major or A minor, using a combination of open chords and bar chords learned in the Foundation and Intermediate courses. It will be played using minims, crotchets, quavers, dotted notes, tied notes, and their respective rests, at 80 BPM. The time signature will be 4/4 or 3/4. Dynamics will range from piano through to forte. The first chord of the progression will always be the root chord of the key. The following articulation may also appear and should be recalled: staccato, left-hand muting.

In your exam, you will hear the chord progression 3 times. There will be a 20-second gap between each repetition, and after the final repetition, you will have 20 seconds before you have to play the progression back. During this part of the exam, you may use your guitar to help you figure out the progression. When you are asked to give your answer, you must **play** the progression back on your guitar, **NOT** sing it.

Example:

♩ = 80

*mp*

T	0	0	0	x	x	1	1	1	x	x	0	0	0	x	x	1	0
A	1	1	1	x	x	1	1	1	x	x	1	1	1	x	x	3	0
B	2	2	2	x	x	2	2	2	x	x	2	2	2	x	x	2	0
B	0	0	0	x	x	3	3	3	x	x	0	0	0	x	x	0	2
B				x	x	1	1	1	x	x				x	x		0

## Improvisation

In your exam, you must improvise over a 16-bar backing track. You will be given the chord progression of the backing track in lead sheet format. You will hear the backing track 3 times before being expected to improvise.

The backing track will be in the key of A minor.

Any of the following time signatures may appear: 3/4, 4/4, 6/8

Example:

The example shows a 16-bar backing track in A minor. The first line contains 8 bars with chords Am, G, Dm, Am. The second line contains 8 bars with chords Dm, F, G, Am.

## Theory

You will take a multiple choice theory exam. The contents of the exam will consist of all of the theory introduced in the lessons of the Foundation and Intermediate courses.

Any of the following theory subjects may appear:

- Notation & tablature - staves, clefs, note names, enharmonic notes
- Note names and note values - semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver, semiquaver, dotted notes, tied notes
- Rest names and rest values
- Bars and bar lines
- Accidentals - sharps, flats, and naturals
- Time signatures - 4/4, 3/4, 6/8
- Up and down picking symbols
- Tones and semitones
- Legato symbols - slurs, tapping
- Scale formulae - Major, Natural minor, Harmonic minor, Melodic minor, Major Pentatonic, minor Pentatonic, Blues Scale,
- Chord formulae - Major, minor, added 9, Major 7th, Dominant 7th, suspended 2nd, suspended 4th, half-diminished/minor 7-b5, power chords, b5 power chords

- Arpeggio formulae - Major, minor
- Bar chord shiftable positions - Major, minor
- Key signatures - C Major/A minor, G Major/E minor, D Major/B minor, A Major/F# minor, F Major/D minor
- Relative keys
- Repeat lines and volta brackets
- Palm muting symbols
- Intervals of the Major and Natural minor scales
- Compound intervals
- Keys and chords - Major key chords, Natural minor chords, Harmonic minor chords, Melodic minor chords
- Modes - Ionian and Aeolian

**Grade 6 - Grade 8:  
Orange Advanced Level  
Electric Rock Guitar**





# Technical

## Scales

All scales must be played using alternate picking at the indicated Tempo, and using the indicated note values. Scales must be played from memory. Scales must be played ascending followed by descending. Any fingering that is economical and sounds good will be accepted.

Other useful scales – 80 BPM, semiquavers (4-notes-per-click)  
E Harmonic minor, A Blues Scale, G 8-note diminished scale

Example:

Musical notation for a scale example in 3/4 time. The top staff shows a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The scale is played in eighth notes. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with six lines, showing fret numbers for each note. The notes are: 5, 8, 5, 6, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 8, 5, 8, 5, 8, 5, 8, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 6, 5, 8, 5.

Introduction to modes - 116 BPM, quavers (2-notes-per-click)  
G Ionian, A Dorian, B Phrygian, C Lydian, D Mixolydian, E Aeolian, F# Locrian

Example:

Musical notation for a scale example in 4/4 time. The top staff shows a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The scale is played in eighth notes. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with six lines, showing fret numbers for each note. The notes are: 8-10-12, 9-10-12, 9-10-12, 9-11-12, 10-12-13, 10, 12-10, 13-12-10, 12-11-9, 12-10-9, 12-10-9, 12-10, 8.

## Chords

All chords must be played as part of the chord progressions included in the course materials. Chord progressions must be played from memory. All chords are in root position. Any fingering that is economical and sounds good will be accepted.

### Bar chords - part II Progressions 1 – 3

Example:

Musical notation for bar chords in 4/4 time. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and three chord sections: Am7, Dm7, and G. Each section consists of a staff with chord symbols and a corresponding TAB staff with fret numbers. The Am7 section has 8 measures, Dm7 has 8 measures, and G has 8 measures. The TAB for Am7 shows frets 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5. The TAB for Dm7 shows frets 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 7, 7, 7, 7, 5, 5. The TAB for G shows frets 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5.

### Drop D power chords Progression 1

Example:

Musical notation for Drop D power chords in 4/4 time. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a single staff with chord symbols and a corresponding TAB staff with fret numbers. The progression consists of 16 measures. The first 4 measures are D5 (TAB: 0, 0, 0, 0). The next 4 measures are D5 (TAB: 3, 3, 3, 3). The next 4 measures are D5 (TAB: 5, 5, 5, 5). The final 4 measures are D5 (TAB: 0, 0, 0, 0).

## Arpeggios

All arpeggios must be played individually, using either sweep picking or alternate picking, and as part of the progressions included in the course materials, at the indicated tempo and using the indicated note values. Arpeggios must be played ascending followed by descending. Any fingering that is economical and sounds good will be accepted.

3 Octave Arpeggios – 116 BPM, semiquavers (4-notes-per-click)  
 G Major, A minor, F#dim7  
 Progression 1

Example:

## Exercises/workouts

All exercises/workouts must be played as notated in the course materials. Exercises/workouts must be played from memory. Any fingering that is economical and sounds good will be accepted. Please refer to the Advanced course materials for the exercises specified below.

Legato study  
 Exercises 1 – 3

Modal workout - part I  
 Exercises 2 and 3

Modal workout - part II  
 Exercise 2

## Performance piece

You must perform 1 piece of music for your exam, using a backing track or unaccompanied. You may perform any piece of electric guitar music from any artist, as long as it adheres to the parameters outlined below. Performance pieces may be played using an alternative tuning. Students may read from notation/tablature during the exam.

Performance pieces MUST:

1. Be between approximately 2 and 5 minutes long.
2. Contain a variety of open chords, power chords, barre chords, chord extensions, and at least one altered chord (Augmented or diminished).
3. Contain a solo element that consists of at least 1 technique learned in the advanced course.

## Sight reading

During your exam, you will be required to sight read an 8-bar chord progression and an 8-bar melody, both at 80 BPM. You will be given 90 seconds to look at the melody/chord progression before you are expected to play it. During the 90 second countdown, you can use your guitar to help you figure out how to play melody/progression. After the 90-second countdown, you must attempt to play the melody/progression on screen in time to the metronome. When you are asked to give your answer, you must play the melody back on your guitar, NOT sing it.

Note that you will be expected to sight read from scales and chords from the Orange Rock Guitar Foundation, Intermediate, and Advanced courses. You may also encounter any of the key signatures or time signatures that appear in the beginner and intermediate courses. Rhythms will consist of combinations of crotchets, quavers, semiquavers minims, semibreves, dotted notes, and their corresponding rests. Dynamics will range from *pianissimo* through to *fortissimo*.

The following articulation may also appear: accents, palm-muting, left-hand muting, staccato, legato (hammer-ons, pull-offs, slides), bending, crescendos and diminuendos.

Any of the following chords may appear:

Open Chords: **G Major, D Major, C Major, A Major, E Major, A minor, E minor, D minor, Cadd9, A7, D Major 7, D7, Dsus4, F#half-diminished, Asus2**

Power chords: any 5/b5 chords

Bar chords: any Major, minor, sus4, or minor 7th bar chords

Any of the following scales may appear:

1 Octave Scales: **C Major, A minor, G Major, E minor, A minor Pentatonic, C Major Pentatonic**

Any of the 5 positions of the A minor Pentatonic Scale

Any of the '3-note-per-string' Positions of the G Major scale

Any of the 7 modes of the G Major scale – **G Ionian, A Dorian, B Phrygian, C Lydian, D Mixolydian, E Aeolian, F# Locrian**

Other useful scales: E Harmonic minor, A Blues Scale, G 8-note diminished Scale

Any of the following time signatures may appear:

**3/4**

**4/4**

**6/8**

Any of the following key signatures may appear:

No sharps/flat = **C Major/A minor**

1 sharp = **G Major/E minor**

2 sharps = **D Major/B minor**

3 sharps = **A Major/F# minor**

1 flat = **F Major/D minor**

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: C4, D4, E4 (with sharp), F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Dynamics: *mp*.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Dynamics: *mp*.

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Chords: A7, Dmaj7, Bm7, Em7. Dynamics: *mp*.

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Chords: Asus2, A7, Bm, F#m7, G.

## Aural

### Harmonic recognition

NB You are NOT permitted to use your guitar at any point during this part of the exam. If you attempt to use your guitar or any other instrument to figure out the chords, **you will be disqualified!**

In your exam, you will be played 3 chords, and for each one you must specify the chord quality, which may be any of the following:

Major chord, minor chord, augmented chord, diminished chord, 7th chord (Major, minor, Dominant), suspended 4th, suspended 2nd

In your exam, you will hear the first chord 3 times. There will then be a 10-second gap in which you must give the name of the chord you heard. You will then hear the second chord 3 times followed by a 10-second gap to give the name of the chord, and finally the third chord 3 times followed by a 10-second gap to give the name of the chord.

You will be given the root note of each chord, and in your answer you must specify both the root note and the chord quality (e.g. Major or minor). You must **say** your answer, **NOT** play it.

### Interval recognition

NB You are NOT permitted to use your guitar at any point during this part of the exam. If you attempt to use your guitar to figure out the intervals, **you will be disqualified!**

In your exam, you will be played 3 intervals, and you must name each one. Any chromatic intervals may appear. Intervals may be ascending or descending from the root note.

You will hear the first interval 3 times. There will then be a 10-second gap in which you must give the name of the interval you heard. You will then hear the second interval 3 times followed by a 10-second gap to give the name of the interval, and finally the third interval 3 times followed by a 10-second gap to give the name of the interval.

You must **say** your answer, **NOT** play it.

## Melodic recall

In this part of the exam, you will be tested on your ability to memorise and reproduce melodies. You will be played an 8-bar melody, and you must play this melody back. The melody may use any of the following scales:

G Ionian, A Dorian, B Phrygian, C Lydian, D Mixolydian, E Aeolian

The melody will be played using minims, crotchets, quavers, semiquavers, dotted notes, tied notes, and their respective rests, at 80 BPM. The time signature will be 4/4 or 3/4. Dynamics will range from piano through to forte. The first note of the melody will always be the root note of the scale. The following melodic articulation may also appear and should be recalled: staccato, legato (hammer-ons/pull-offs, slides), crescendos and diminuendos.

In your exam, you will hear the melody 3 times. There will be a 30 second gap between each repetition, and after the final repetition, you will have 30 seconds before you have to play the melody back. During this part of the exam, you may use your guitar to help you figure out the melody. When you are asked to give your answer, you must **play** the melody back on your guitar, **NOT** sing it.

$\text{♩} = 80$

The image shows two musical examples for a melodic recall exercise. Each example consists of a staff with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature, followed by a guitar tablature (TAB) section. The first example starts with a tempo marking of quarter note = 80 and a forte (f) dynamic. The melody is an 8-bar phrase. The second example is another 8-bar melody. The TAB for the first melody is: 5-8-7-5-9 | 5-9-5-5-7 | 5-8-7-5-9 | 7. The TAB for the second melody is: 5-9-7-7-5 | 7-5-7-5-7 | 5-9-7-7-5 | 7.

## Harmonic recall

In this part of the exam, you will be tested on your ability to memorise and reproduce chord progressions. You will be played an 8 bar chord progression, and you must play this progression back. The progression will be in the key of C Major, A minor, G Major, or E minor, and may include some modal harmony, using a combination of open chords, power chords, and bar chords learned in the Foundation, Intermediate, and Advanced courses. It will be played using minims, crotchets, quavers, semiquavers, dotted notes, tied notes, and their respective rests, at 80 BPM. The time signature will be 4/4 or 3/4. The first chord of the progression will always be the root chord of the key. Dynamics will range from *pianissimo* through to *fortissimo*. The first chord of the progression will always be the root chord of the key. The following articulation may also appear and should be recalled: staccato, left-hand muting, crescendos and diminuendos.

In your exam, you will hear the chord progression 3 times. There will be a 30-second gap between each repetition, and after the final repetition, you will have 30 seconds before you have to play the progression back. During this part of the exam, you may use your guitar to help you figure out the progression. When you are asked to give your answer, you must **play** the progression back on your guitar, **NOT** sing it.

♩ = 80

G F G B $\flat$  G F G E F F $\sharp$  G

TAB

G F G Cmaj7 C $\sharp$ 7 D7 G



## Improvisation

In your exam, you must improvise over a 16-bar backing track. You will be given the chord progression of the backing track in lead sheet format. You will hear the backing track 3 times before being expected to improvise.

The backing track will use any of the following keys/modes:

G Major  
A Dorian  
B Phrygian  
C Lydian  
D Mixolydian  
A minor

Any of the following time signatures may appear: 3/4, 4/4, 6/8

The image shows a 16-bar backing track in G major, 4/4 time. The first line contains four bars with chords G, Cmaj7, D, and Bm7. The second line contains five bars with chords Em7, Am7, D7, D9, and G. The notation uses a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The chords are indicated by vertical lines on the staff, and the time signature is shown at the beginning of the first line.

## Theory

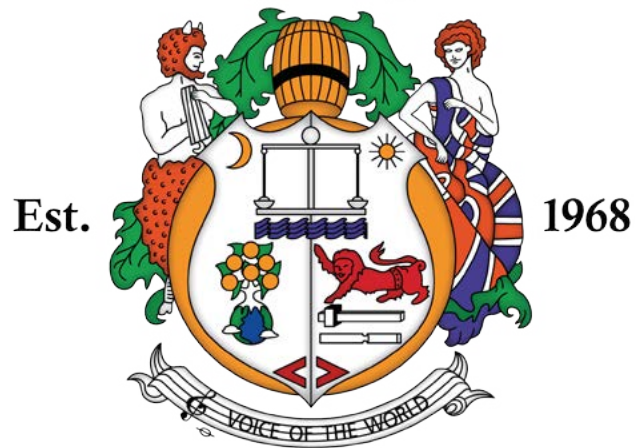
You will take a multiple choice theory exam. The contents of the exam will consist of all of the theory introduced in the lessons of the Foundation, Intermediate, and Advanced courses.

Any of the following theory subjects may appear:

- Notation & tablature - staves, clefs, note names, enharmonic notes
- Note names and note values - semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver, semiquaver, dotted notes, tied notes
- Rest names and rest values
- Bars and bar lines
- Accidentals - sharps, flats, and naturals
- Time signatures - 4/4, 3/4, 5/4, 6/8
- Up and down picking symbols
- Tones and semitones
- Legato symbols - slurs, tapping, sliding
- Scale formulae - Major, Natural minor, Harmonic minor, Melodic minor, Major Pentatonic, minor Pentatonic, Blues Scale, Diminished Scale
- Mode formulae - Ionian, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian, Locrian
- Chord formulae - Major, minor, added 9, Major 7th, Dominant 7th, suspended 2nd, suspended 4th, half-diminished/minor 7-b5, power chords, b5 power chords

- Arpeggio formulae - Major, minor
- 2 octave arpeggio shiftable positions - Major and minor
- Bar chord shiftable positions - Major, minor, suspended 4th, minor 7th
- Key signatures - C Major/A minor, G Major/E minor, D Major/B minor, A Major/F# minor, F Major/D minor
- Relative keys
- Repeat lines and volta brackets
- Palm muting symbols
- Intervals of the Major and Natural minor scales
- Chromatic intervals (Augmented and diminished)
- Compound intervals
- Triplets
- Keys and chords - Major key chords, Natural minor chords, Harmonic minor chords, Melodic minor chords
- Modal chord progressions

# ORANGE™



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