



Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

GRADE 1 ACCORDION – TECHNICAL WORK

The Technical Work section is worth 18 points of the exam overall. Candidates will be asked to play approximately three tests in this section from memory.

Keys and ranges:

C, D, G majors (*one octave*)

Scales: right hand, legato or staccato at the choice of the candidate, as in:



Arpeggios: right hand, legato or staccato at the choice of the candidate, as in:



QUICK STUDY – ACCORDION

General Guidelines

The Quick Study section is worth 21 marks in the exam overall. In the quick study, you are expected to play back a short passage of music. This is to test your ability to internalise and reproduce the music on your instrument. You will be given the option to attempt the test either at sight or by ear.

If at sight:

- The examiner will hand you the music and will give two bars' pulse to indicate the general tempo expected.
- You will then have half a minute in which to look through and, if you wish, try out the piece before assessment.
- The examiner will indicate, after which you should play the piece as written.

If by ear:

The examiner will perform the opening section of the piece three times and you will be expected to play the excerpt back after each time. You will be assessed on the strongest of your three attempts.

- The examiner will first name the key, sound and name the starting note and play the tonic chord as a broken chord.
- The examiner will then give a two-bar count-in and perform the piece.
- You will then play the piece back.
- The examiner will then give a two-bar count-in and perform the piece for a second time. You will then play the piece back for a second time.
- The examiner will then give a two-bar count-in and perform the piece for a third time. You will then play the piece back for the third and final time.

Remember that the examiner will be looking for fluent and confident delivery, with a clear reference to style and musical character.

GRADE 1 QUICK STUDY

Perform EITHER at sight or by ear, at your choice, a short passage in air or waltz time.

The piece will be in one of the following keys:

C, D, G majors

Specimens for Grade 1:

*** Note – The opening up to the comma represents the length of the test if played by ear**

Air / Accordion / G1



Waltz/Accordion/G 1



Air/Accordion/G1



PRACTICAL & AURAL MUSICIANSHIP – ACCORDION

General Guidelines

The Practical & Aural Musicianship (PAM) section is worth 21 points of the exam overall.

Practical and aural musicianship in Scottish tradition often encompasses the ability to learn and manipulate music by ear. The visual communication between master and pupil, or between musicians in a session, is often just as important. The RCS Scottish Traditional Music Graded Exams therefore encourage the candidate to develop aural awareness of rhythm, melodic shape and phrasing, extemporisation and harmonic accompaniment to a variety of tune idioms in a face-to-face situation with the examiner.

In the PAM section, the examiner plays one eight-bar tune chosen from several idioms and conducts a few brief tests designed to assess and encourage your aural understanding of the tune's rhythms, phrasing and melody.

GRADE 1 PRACTICAL & AURAL MUSICIANSHIP

The examiner plays eight bars of an air or waltz.

The candidate is asked to:

- A. Clap the pulse of the tune (*see sample pulse marks*) and identify its time signature as either 3/4 or 4/4.
- B. Indicate to the examiner where the first phrase of the tune ends (*see sample phrasing brackets*) by raising a hand or saying 'here' as the examiner plays the tune. The examiner will play the tune twice.
- C. Clap or tap the rhythm of the phrase, as played by the examiner.
- D. Sing an interval of two consecutive notes within the tune selected and played by the examiner. The interval will be no greater than a 3rd and the examiner will alter the octave to suit young candidates with changing voices.

Waltz / Accordion / G1



Air / Accordion / G1

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X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

Waltz / Accordion / G1

X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X