



Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

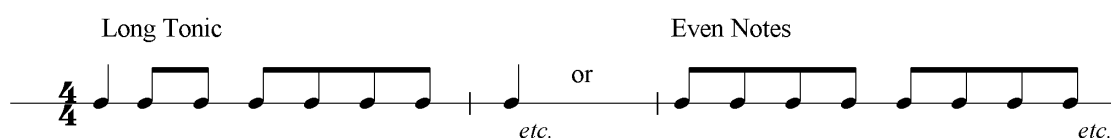
GRADE 3 FIDDLE – TECHNICAL WORK

The Technical Work section is worth 18 points of the exam overall and candidates will be asked approximately five tests in this section. All tests should be played from memory.

Bowings – Scales will require to be played ascending and descending with both separate bows *and* slurs. Arpeggios will require to be played ascending and descending with separate bows *and* slurs.

Minor Scales – Minor scales may be played in the harmonic, melodic or natural form, at candidate's choice.

Rhythm Patterns for scales – For scales, candidates may choose between two rhythm patterns: long tonic *or* even notes –



***Note** – All scales are notated in long tonic form.

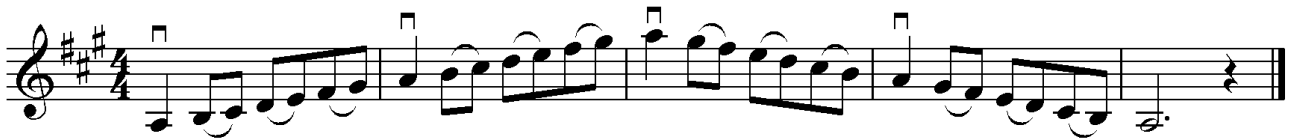
Fiddle Rhythmic Scales – Candidates will be required to play a one octave version of any major scale selected by the examiner to a prescribed fiddle related rhythm – see examples

GRADE 3 SCALES:

G major - 2 octaves



A major - 2 octaves



D major - 2 octaves



C major - 1 octave



F major - 1 octave



Bb major - 1 octave



G minor harmonic - 2 octaves



G minor melodic - 2 octaves



G minor natural - 2 octaves



A minor harmonic - 2 octaves



A minor melodic - 2 octaves



A minor natural - 2 octaves



E minor harmonic - 1 octave



E minor melodic - 1 octave



E minor natural - 1 octave



B minor harmonic - 1 octave



B minor melodic - 1 octave



B minor natural - 1 octave



D minor harmonic - 1 octave



D minor melodic - 1 octave



D minor natural - 1 octave



GRADE 3 ARPEGGIOS:

G major - 2 octaves



A major - 2 octaves



D major - 2 octaves



C major - 1 octave



F major - 1 octave



Bb major - 1 octave



G minor - 2 octaves



A minor - 2 octaves



E minor - 1 octave



B minor - 1 octave



D minor - 1 octave



GRADE 3 RHYTHMIC SCALES:

Candidates will be asked to perform a one octave version of a major scale selected by the examiner from the following rhythms – a crotchet and two quavers on each degree of the scale, as in –

D major - 1 octave rhythmic scale



OR a triplet on each degree of the scale (jig rhythm), as in –

F major - 1 octave 'jig' rhythm scale



QUICK STUDY – FIDDLE

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 3

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

The piece will be in one of the following keys:

A, C, D, F, G majors; A, B, D, E minors

Specimens for Grade 3:

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

March/Fiddle/G3

Musical notation for a March/Fiddle/G3 piece. It consists of four staves of music in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The music is written in a simple, rhythmic style characteristic of a march or fiddle tune. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Jig/Fiddle/G3

Musical notation for a Jig/Fiddle/G3 piece. It consists of three staves of music in the key of D major (two sharps) and 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The music is written in a rhythmic style characteristic of a jig or fiddle tune. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

March/Fiddle/G3

Four staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of G major (one sharp), and 4/4 time signature. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and a double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Waltz/Fiddle/G3

Three staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of G major (one sharp), and 3/4 time signature. The notation includes quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, rests, and a double bar line at the end of the third staff.

PRACTICAL & AURAL MUSICIANSHIP – FIDDLE

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, melody and harmonic potential.

GRADE 3 PRACTICAL & AURAL MUSICIANSHIP

The examiner plays eight bars of a waltz, march or jig.

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, 4/4 or 6/8.
- B. Say whether it is in a major or minor key.
- C. Clap or tap the rhythm of the opening phrase (*see sample phrasing brackets*), as played by the examiner.
- D. Listen to the opening phrase again and extemporise (whether by singing, humming, whistling, diddling or playing) a new answering phrase of the same length.
- E. Sing or play a note that harmonises with the phrase, as played by the examiner.

Waltz / Fiddle / G3

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

Jig / Fiddle / G3

Two staves of musical notation for a Jig in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff contains the first four measures, and the second staff contains the next four measures. The melody is written in treble clef. Below the notes are 'X' marks indicating fret positions on the guitar strings. A bracket above the first four measures indicates a first ending.

March / Fiddle / G3

Two staves of musical notation for a March in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first four measures, and the second staff contains the next four measures. The melody is written in treble clef. Below the notes are 'X' marks indicating fret positions on the guitar strings. A square symbol above the first measure of each staff indicates a first ending.

Waltz / Fiddle / G3

One staff of musical notation for a Waltz in G major, 3/4 time. The melody is written in treble clef. Below the notes are 'X' marks indicating fret positions on the guitar strings. A square symbol above the first measure indicates a first ending.