PUTTING TOGETHER A
ROCK & POP SET LIST

TRINITY ROCK & POP 2018

INFORMATION AND IDEAS FOR ROCK & POP EXAM SET LISTS

The three songs Rock & Pop candidates perform in the exam are worth 80% of the marks available, so it's important that candidates choose the songs that best suit and demonstrate their individual style and skills. Here we explore the options available to candidates and provide ideas and considerations for putting an exam set list together.

EXAM STRUCTURE - SONGS

SONG 1 (maximum marks = 25): A song chosen from the current graded Rock & Pop songbook, performed to the supplied backing track.

SONG 2 (maximum marks = 25): Candidates can choose from the following options:

⚡ A different song chosen from the current graded Rock & Pop songbook, performed to the supplied backing track

⚡ A song from the additional Trinity arrangements at **trinityrock.com/extra-songs** performed to the supplied backing track

⚡ An own-choice song

⚡ A song composed by the candidate

If the candidate chooses to perform an own-choice song or one they have composed themselves it may:

⚡ be performed unaccompanied

⚡ be performed to a backing track (which can be pre-recorded by the candidate)

⚡ include added vocals, performed live by the candidate (or self-played accompaniment for vocalists)

⚡ include an accompaniment played or sung live by another musician.

SONG 3 (maximum marks = 30): A technical focus song chosen from the current graded Rock & Pop songbook, performed to the supplied backing track.

Total marks = 80

OWN-CHOICE AND SELF-COMPOSED SONGS (SONG 2) - FACT CHECK

Candidates can choose to perform another song from the graded Rock & Pop songbook, or they can opt to perform an own-choice song or song they have composed themselves.

An own-choice song can be:

⚡ A song available as sheet music from a printed or online source

⚡ A cover version of a song that the candidate has arranged

⚡ A song from the 2015-2017 Trinity Rock & Pop syllabus, provided that it meets the 2018 own-choice parameters. A list of suitable 2015-2017 songs can be found at **trinityrock.com/extra-songs**

⚡ An original song that the candidate has composed themselves.

Parameters for own-choice and self-composed songs:

Own-choice and original songs must be equivalent in standard to the songs in the graded Trinity songbook for the instrument and grade. Parameters indicating the length and level of difficulty required at each grade are listed in each 2018 instrument syllabus.

ROCK & POP 2018 SYLLABUS

Download the Rock & Pop 2018 syllabus from: **trinityrock.com/syllabus**

What needs to be brought into the exam?

Candidates must provide a (photo)copy of their chosen song for the examiner, with their name and candidate number clearly shown. The examiner will keep this.

Own-choice songs may be presented as an original score, handwritten or computer generated, in one of the following formats:

⚡ a lead sheet with lyrics, chords and melody line

⚡ a chord chart with lyrics

⚡ a full score using conventional staff notation

⚡ a full score using conventional staff notation and TAB.

Own-choice and self-composed song performance ideas

Do you have a student who is a vocalist that also plays an instrument such as guitar or keyboards? They might like to demonstrate their multi-instrumental skills in their vocals exam by playing their own accompaniment.

Do you have a student that can sing as well as play drums, guitar, bass or keyboards? They might like to demonstrate their vocals in their exam by singing the lead vocal of their chosen song at the same time as playing their exam instrument.

Do you have a student with production skills? They might want to showcase this in their exam by mixing and mastering their own backing track.

DEVELOP THE WHOLE MUSICIAN - TIPS FROM EXAMINER NICK POWLESLAND

Play to strengths: Study all of the songs for the grade and consider which are best suited to each student.

Expression and communication: Consider the full dynamic range and appropriate tone quality when choosing a set list, and deliver contrast between songs.

Explore styles: Choose songs with contrasting styles to create a varied set list that demonstrates a range of different skills and techniques.

Time travel: Choose songs that introduce students to songs and artists from different eras.

The personal touch: Explore the possibilities of the Song 2 own-choice options to make set lists truly unique.

Nick's example set lists:

Expression and communication (Guitar, Grade 3):
'Friday I'm in Love', The Cure
'Love is a Losing Game', Amy Winehouse (TF)
'Black Night', Deep Purple

Time travel (Drums, Grade 1):
'Mustang Sally', Wilson Pickett (1965)
'Billie Jean', Michael Jackson (1983)
'Uptown Funk', Mark Ronson ft. Bruno Mars (TF) (2014)

Explore styles (Bass, Grade 4):
'Smells Like Teen Spirit', Nirvana (Grunge)
'I Never Loved a Man (The Way I Love You) ', Aretha Franklin (Swung ballad)
'Forever', Haim (TF) (Rock)

Explore styles (Vocals (Female), Grade 8):
'Over the Rainbow', Eva Cassidy (Ballad)
'Vision of Love', Mariah Carey (TF) (RnB ballad)
'Chandelier', Sia (RnB)

Explore styles and eras (Keyboards, Grade 5):
'Shake a Tailfeather', Ray Charles (TF) (1980, RnB)
'Ghost Town', The Specials (1981, reggae funk)
'Take Me To Church', Hozier (2013, gospel)

Please note: these are example set lists; candidates playing these song combinations will be marked in exactly the same way as candidates who choose other combinations.

ACCESS ALL AREAS...

Visit the **Rock & Pop Practice Room** to find a range of articles, videos and resources including:

⚡ **Producer's Notes:** Printable handouts which look at songs on the Rock & Pop 2018 syllabus.

⚡ **Rock & Pop Sessions:** Performances of Rock & Pop 2018 songs by the professionals.

trinityrock.com/practice-room

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