

DIGITAL GRADES: ROCK & POP SYLLABUS

Qualification specifications for solo exams
from November 2020

Digital assessment



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ABOUT TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON

Trinity College London, established in 1872, is a leading internationally recognised awarding organisation (exam board), publisher and independent education charity. We specialise in the assessment of communicative and performance skills covering music, drama, combined arts and English language. With over 850,000 candidates a year in more than 60 countries worldwide, Trinity qualifications are specifically designed to help people progress. We inspire teachers and learners through the creation of assessments that are enjoyable to prepare for, rewarding to teach and that develop the skills needed in real life.

At the heart of Trinity's work is the belief that effective communicative and performance skills are life enhancing, know no boundaries and should be within reach of us all. We exist to promote and foster the best possible communicative and performance skills through assessment, content and training that is innovative, personal and authentic.

Please check [trinityrock.com](https://www.trinityrock.com) to make sure you are using the current version of the syllabus and for the latest information about our Rock & Pop grades. Trinity accepts entries for its exams on the condition that candidates conform to the requirement of the appropriate syllabus.

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WELCOME

Welcome to Trinity College London's syllabus for digital graded exams in rock and pop instruments, containing details of solo exams from Initial to Grade 8.

The digital graded exams enable candidates to record their songs at a place and time of their choice and then submit the video recording via our online platform to be assessed by our expert examiners. The exams have the same academic rigour as our face-to-face exams, and candidates gain full recognition for their achievements, with the same certificate and UCAS points awarded as for the face-to-face exams.

Designed for digital

Responsive to a changing world, these exams have been designed to support teaching, learning and assessment through a digital medium.

Your performance, your choice

Sitting alongside our face-to-face graded exams, digital exams provide even more choice and flexibility in how a regulated graded qualification can be achieved.

Digital support content

Comprehensive online resources provide support to candidates and teachers throughout their digital exam journey.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. This syllabus should be read alongside the instrument-specific syllabuses, which list the songs for the grades.
2. To take this assessment you must have access to:
 - ✔ A high-quality audio-visual recording device with enough storage for your performance (eg a good quality mobile phone, tablet, laptop or video camera)
 - ✔ The internet – to upload your performance video and supporting files
 - ✔ An external speaker that will allow you to play backing tracks for your exam songs
3. All performances must be submitted as one continuous performance. Start the recording before your first song, and do not stop or pause the video until you have completed all parts of the assessment. Any evidence of editing will result in a syllabus infringement and your exam will not be assessed.
4. You can be given assistance to film your performance, and another person can be present to operate your backing tracks. A count-in at the start of a pre-recorded track is permitted. However, indications of pulse, verbal or non-verbal entry cues during the songs, or the playing of an additional instrument (unless for own-choice songs) will result in a syllabus infringement.
5. Only the official Trinity backing tracks should be used. Adapted or edited versions of the tracks from any other source are not permitted.
6. Audio and video may be recorded using separate devices, as long as they are recorded simultaneously. No pre- or post-production techniques may be applied. A single external microphone may be used but multiple microphone set-ups are not permitted.

INTRODUCTION TO TRINITY'S DIGITAL GRADED ROCK & POP EXAMS

WHICH INSTRUMENTS ARE THE DIGITAL EXAM OPTION AVAILABLE FOR?

- ✔ Bass
- ✔ Drums
- ✔ Guitar
- ✔ Keyboards
- ✔ Vocals

TYPES OF INSTRUMENT

Please refer to the relevant graded syllabus.

OBJECTIVE OF THE QUALIFICATION

Trinity's graded Rock & Pop exams provide a structured yet flexible framework for progress, which enables learners to demonstrate their own musical personality and promotes enjoyment in music performance.

The exams assess performance and technical ability through practical assessment. They offer learners of any age the opportunity to measure their development as performers against a series of internationally understood benchmarks, taking them from beginner level to the point at which they can progress to higher education in music or enter for Trinity's performance diplomas.

HOW TO ENTER

Please refer to:
trinitycollege.com/digital-rp-grades

WHO THE QUALIFICATIONS ARE FOR

Trinity's graded Rock & Pop exams are open to all learners, with no age restrictions or other limitations. There is no requirement to have passed lower grades, theory exams or other qualifications, although the grades represent a system of progressive mastery and the outcomes for each level assume confidence in the requirements of previous grades.

Trinity is committed to making its exams accessible to all, and each candidate is treated individually when considering how assessments can be adapted for those with special needs. Find more information at trinitycollege.com/music-csn

ASSESSMENT AND MARKING

Trinity's graded Rock & Pop exams are assessed by external examiners trained and moderated by Trinity. Examiners provide marks and comments for the exam using the assessment criteria on pages 21-24.

The exams are marked out of 100. Candidates' results correspond to different attainment bands as follows:

Mark	Attainment level
87-100	DISTINCTION
75-86	MERIT
60-74	PASS
45-59	BELOW PASS 1
0-44	BELOW PASS 2

See pages 20-24 for further information about how the exams are marked.

DURATION OF STUDY (TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME)

All regulated qualifications are assigned a total qualification time. This should be used as guidance only. Total qualification time is an estimate of the average time a candidate spends with a teacher (guided learning hours) added to the average time spent learning independently. It is recognised that the amount of time needed to commit to a qualification will be dependent on each individual's level of experience.

	Guided learning hours (GLH)	Independent learning hours (ILH)	Total qualification time (TQT) (hours)
Initial	8	32	40
Grade 1	12	48	60
Grade 2	18	72	90
Grade 3	18	102	120
Grade 4	24	126	150
Grade 5	24	156	180
Grade 6	36	184	220
Grade 7	48	222	270
Grade 8	54	266	320

RECOGNITION AND UCAS POINTS

Trinity College London is an international exam board regulated by Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) in England, CCEA Regulation in Northern Ireland and by Qualifications Wales. Various arrangements are in place with governmental education authorities worldwide.

In the UK, Grades 6-8 are eligible for UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) points for those applying to colleges and universities, as shown in the next column.

Grade 6

UCAS POINTS
PASS **8** | MERIT **10** | DISTINCTION **12**

Grade 7

UCAS POINTS
PASS **12** | MERIT **14** | DISTINCTION **16**

Grade 8

UCAS POINTS
PASS **18** | MERIT **24** | DISTINCTION **30**

WHERE THE QUALIFICATIONS COULD LEAD

While for some learners graded Rock & Pop exams represent a personal goal or objective, they can also be used as a progression route towards:

- ✔ Performance diplomas offered by Trinity or by other awarding organisations
- ✔ Music courses at conservatoires and universities, for which Grade 8 is often specified as an entry requirement
- ✔ Employment opportunities in music and the creative arts

TRINITY QUALIFICATIONS THAT COMPLEMENT THE ROCK & POP QUALIFICATIONS

Trinity's music qualifications offer flexible progression routes from beginner to advanced levels in a range of musical styles. All are designed to help candidates develop as musicians according to their individual needs as learners.

Graded music exams assess a broad range of musicianship skills, including performance, while certificate exams (available for classical instruments and voice) focus entirely on performance, including separate marks for presentation skills. Find out more about graded exams at trinitycollege.com/graded-exams and about certificate exams at trinitycollege.com/certificates

Candidates can enter any combination of graded or certificate exams, and do not need to pass any particular level in order to proceed to a higher level.

Performance diplomas at Associate (ATCL), Licentiate (LTCL) and Fellowship (FTCL) levels are available for all Rock & Pop subjects. Find out more about Rock & Pop diplomas at trinitycollege.com/rock-pop-diplomas

Theory exams are available from Grade 1 to support learners to develop their understanding of the technical language of music. However, no theory qualifications or other prerequisites are required to enter graded or certificate exams at any level. Find out more about theory exams at trinitycollege.com/theory

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS OFFERED BY TRINITY

After Grade 8 or the Advanced Certificate, candidates can progress to diplomas at Associate (ATCL), Licentiate (LTCL) and Fellowship (FTCL) levels. These assess higher skills in performance, teaching and theory. Find out more about diploma exams at trinitycollege.com/diplomas

Adults who work as music educators may also wish to consider Trinity's Level 4 Certificate for Music Educators (Trinity CME). Find out more about the Trinity CME at trinitycollege.com/CME

We also offer:

- ✔ Graded, certificate and diploma qualifications in drama subjects
- ✔ English language qualifications
- ✔ Teaching English qualifications
- ✔ Arts Award (only available in certain countries)

Specifications for all these qualifications can be downloaded from trinitycollege.com

TRINITY MUSIC QUALIFICATIONS

RQF* Level	EQF** Level	Classical and Jazz	Rock & Pop	Theory of Music	Teaching	Music Performance in Choirs	Graded Awards in Music Performance	Music Performance in Bands	Awards and Certificates in Musical Development	Solo and Group Certificates ³
7	7	FTCL	FTCL ²							
6	6	LTCL	LTCL ²	LMusTCL ¹	LTCL					
5										
4	4/5	ATCL	ATCL ²	AMusTCL ¹	ATCL					
					Certificate for Music Educators (CME)					
3	4	Grade 8	Grade 8	Grade 8					Level 3	Advanced
		Grade 7	Grade 7	Grade 7						
		Grade 6	Grade 6	Grade 6						
2	3	Grade 5	Grade 5	Grade 5					Level 2	Intermediate
		Grade 4	Grade 4	Grade 4						
1	2	Grade 3	Grade 3	Grade 3					Level 1	Foundation
		Grade 2	Grade 2	Grade 2		Grade 2	Grade 2	Grade 2		
		Grade 1	Grade 1	Grade 1		Grade 1	Grade 1	Grade 1		
Entry Level 3	1	Initial	Initial			Initial	Initial	Initial	Entry 3	
Entry Level 2						Pre-initial		Pre-initial	Entry 2	
Entry Level 1									Entry 1	

* Regulated Qualifications Framework ** European Qualifications Framework

1 Available only as in-person exams

2 Available only as digital exams

3 Available only as in-person exams and not EQF or RQF regulated

REGULATED TITLES AND QUALIFICATION NUMBERS

Regulated title	Qualification number
Initial TCL Entry Level Award in Graded Examination in Rock and Pop (Entry 3) (Initial)	600/3695/3
Grade 1 TCL Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Rock and Pop (Grade 1)	600/3546/8
Grade 2 TCL Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Rock and Pop (Grade 2)	600/3588/2
Grade 3 TCL Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Rock and Pop (Grade 3)	600/3590/0
Grade 4 TCL Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Rock and Pop (Grade 4)	600/3591/2
Grade 5 TCL Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Rock and Pop (Grade 5)	600/3592/4
Grade 6 TCL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Rock and Pop (Grade 6)	600/3593/6
Grade 7 TCL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Rock and Pop (Grade 7)	600/3594/8
Grade 8 TCL Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Rock and Pop (Grade 8)	600/3595/X

PARENTAL AND TEACHER GUIDANCE

The songs in Trinity's Rock & Pop syllabuses have been arranged to represent the artists' original recordings as closely and authentically as possible. Popular music frequently deals with subject matter that some may find offensive or challenging. It is possible that the songs may include material that some might find unsuitable for use with younger learners.

There is no requirement that all songs in this syllabus must be learnt. We recommend that parents, guardians and teachers exercise their own judgement to satisfy themselves that the lyrics of selected songs are appropriate for the learners concerned. Trinity does not associate itself with, adopt or endorse any of the opinions or views expressed in the selected songs.

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

These learning outcomes and assessment criteria are the same as those outlined in the current Rock & Pop syllabuses. Examiners mark your video performance using these learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

INITIAL

(RQF Entry Level 3)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learner will:

1.
Produce a performance that demonstrates a basic foundation on their instrument and shows some interpretation

2.
Perform audibly with a sense of enthusiasm and enjoyment and with some awareness of audience

3.
Demonstrate that the foundations of a secure technique have been established

4.
Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or improvisation

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The learner can:

1.1 Perform with adequate continuity and a sense of pulse
1.2 Perform with some evidence of individual interpretation

2.1 Demonstrate some sense of performance with some confidence and capacity for audience engagement

3.1 Demonstrate a generally adequate technique
3.2 Perform with an adequate basic sound

4.1 Respond to a quick study piece with attention to note values and pitches
4.2 Improvise with some melodic development, some harmonic awareness, and a basic use of instrumental/vocal resources relevant to Initial level

GRADE 1

(RQF Level 1)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learner will:

- 1.**
Produce a performance that demonstrates preparation and the beginnings of interpretation

- 2.**
Perform accurately and be able to create and convey mood to the audience

- 3.**
Show evidence of a basic familiarity with the fundamentals of instrumental/vocal technique

- 4.**
Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or improvisation

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The learner can:

- 1.1** Perform with general continuity and a sense of pulse
- 1.2** Perform with a developing feeling of individual interpretation

- 2.1** Give a performance that is essentially accurate with general fluency and attention to musical and notational details
- 2.2** Demonstrate an overall sense of performance with basic confidence and some capacity for audience engagement

- 3.1** Demonstrate a generally reliable technique
- 3.2** Perform with an adequate basic sound with some evidence of tonal control and projection

- 4.1** Respond to a quick study piece with continuity of pulse and attention to note values and pitches
- 4.2** Improvise with some melodic development, harmonic awareness, and use of basic instrumental/vocal resources relevant to Grade 1

GRADE 2

(RQF Level 1)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learner will:

- 1.**
Produce a performance that demonstrates preparation, understanding and the beginnings of thoughtful interpretation

- 2.**
Perform clearly and accurately and be able to create and convey mood to the audience

- 3.**
Show evidence of a technical command of the instrument/voice

- 4.**
Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or improvisation

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The learner can:

- 1.1** Perform with generally secure rhythm and a sense of pulse
- 1.2** Perform with a general feeling of individuality and commitment

- 2.1** Give a performance that is generally accurate and fluent with fair attention to musical and notational details
- 2.2** Demonstrate a competent sense of performance

- 3.1** Demonstrate a competent level of technical ability with varied use of instrumental/vocal resources
- 3.2** Perform with a good-quality sound that is flexible and well-projected

- 4.1** Respond to a quick study piece with continuity of pulse, attention to note values and pitches, and some sense of musical interpretation
- 4.2** Improvise with a creative approach to melodic responses, awareness of harmonic implications, and generally wide use of instrumental/vocal resources relevant to Grade 2

GRADE 3

(RQF Level 1)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learner will:

1.
Produce a performance that demonstrates careful preparation, understanding and the beginnings of thoughtful interpretation

2.
Perform clearly and accurately, with a sense of spontaneity and be able to create and convey mood to the audience

3.
Show evidence of a fluent technical command of the instrument/voice

4.
Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or an improvisation

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The learner can:

- 1.1** Perform with secure rhythm and pulse
1.2 Perform with clear evidence of an emerging musical personality

- 2.1** Give a performance that is accurate and fluent with perceptive attention to musical and notational details
2.2 Demonstrate a confident, communicative and consistent sense of performance

- 3.1** Demonstrate a solid command of technique with musical and sensitive control of intonation and other instrumental/vocal resources
3.2 Perform with good production and projection of sound

- 4.1** Respond to a quick study piece with continuity of pulse, attention to note values and pitches, and a sense of musical interpretation
4.2 Improvise with controlled melodic development, appropriate harmonic vocabulary, and full use of instrumental/vocal resources relevant to Grade 3

GRADE 4

(RQF Level 2)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learner will:

1.
Produce a performance that demonstrates an understanding of the material, leading to a personal interpretation

2.
Perform clearly and with projection, supporting mood and character and engaging with the audience

3.
Show evidence of a basic exploration of and familiarity with the fundamentals of instrumental/vocal technique

4.
Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or improvisation

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The learner can:

- 1.1** Give a performance that pays attention to musical and notational details
1.2 Perform with some evidence of stylistic awareness and a general attempt to convey individual musical intent

- 2.1** Demonstrate an overall sense of performance with confidence and some capacity for audience engagement

- 3.1** Perform with a generally reliable technique
3.2 Perform with an adequate basic sound with some evidence of tonal control and projection

- 4.1** Respond to a quick study piece with continuity of pulse, attention to note values and pitches, and a sense of musical interpretation
4.2 Improvise with melodic development, harmonic awareness, and use of instrumental/vocal resources relevant to Grade 4

GRADE 5

(RQF Level 2)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learner will:

- 1.**
Produce a performance that demonstrates a sound understanding of the material, leading to a personal and imaginative interpretation
- 2.**
Perform confidently with projection, control and engagement with the audience
- 3.**
Show evidence of consistent application of developing technical skills and sound production
- 4.**
Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or improvisation

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The learner can:

- 1.1** Give a performance that pays close attention to musical and notational details
- 1.2** Perform with awareness of and sensitivity to appropriate style, with evidence of an emerging musical personality
- 2.1** Give a performance that is rhythmically secure and has a strong sense of pulse
- 2.2** Perform confidently with a consistent sense of performance and engagement with the audience
- 3.1** Perform with a solid command of technique, good intonation and a musical control of other instrumental/vocal resources
- 3.2** Perform with consistently good production, flexibility and projection of sound
- 4.1** Respond to a quick study piece with fluency, accurate notes and tonality, and detailed phrasing, articulation and dynamics
- 4.2** Improvise with well-controlled and imaginative melodic development, strong planning and structure, appropriate harmonic vocabulary, and full use of instrumental/vocal resources relevant to Grade 5

GRADE 6

(RQF Level 3)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learner will:

- 1.**
Produce a secure and sustained performance that demonstrates a stylistic awareness and mature grasp of the material
- 2.**
Perform with confidence and a sense of ownership and self-awareness that engages the audience wholeheartedly
- 3.**
Show familiarity with the full compass of the instrument/voice and use some advanced techniques
- 4.**
Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or improvisation

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The learner can:

- 1.1** Perform with attention to dynamics, articulation and phrasing
- 1.2** Perform with general evidence of stylistic awareness and some attempt to convey individual musical intent and commitment
- 2.1** Demonstrate an overall sense of performance with general confidence and a recognisable capacity for audience engagement
- 3.1** Give a performance that is technically reliable with generally secure intonation and a good quality of tone
- 4.1** Respond to a quick study piece with mostly accurate notes and tonality, adequate continuity, musical development, and well-planned use of instrumental/vocal resources
- 4.2** Improvise with imaginative melodic development, appropriate harmonic procedures, well-planned length, and use of instrumental/vocal resources

GRADE 7

(RQF Level 3)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learner will:

- 1.**
Produce a secure and sustained performance that demonstrates a sensitive stylistic interpretation

- 2.**
Perform with confidence and a sense of ownership and self-awareness, which engages the audience

- 3.**
Show familiarity with the full compass of the instrument/voice and employ advanced techniques

- 4.**
Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or improvisation

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The learner can:

- 1.1** Perform with a good standard of dynamics, articulation and phrasing
- 1.2** Perform with a clear awareness of appropriate style, with an individual musical personality

- 2.1** Demonstrate a comfortable sense of performance with consistent audience engagement

- 3.1** Give a performance that is fluent and accurate, with a strong technical facility and a high quality of tone and intonation

- 4.1** Respond to a quick study piece with general accuracy in notes and tonality, with continuity and creative musical development, and with a wide use of instrumental/vocal resources
- 4.2** Improvise with creative melodic development, harmonic awareness, appropriate length and a wide use of instrumental/vocal resources

GRADE 8

(RQF Level 3)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learner will:

- 1.**
Produce a secure and sustained performance that demonstrates a discriminating and sensitive personal interpretation

- 2.**
Perform with confidence and a sense of authority and control that engages the audience wholeheartedly

- 3.**
Show familiarity with the full compass of the instrument/voice and employ advanced techniques with even control across all registers

- 4.**
Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or improvisation

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The learner can:

- 1.1** Perform with keen attention to dynamics, articulation and phrasing
- 1.2** Perform with a high level of musical sensitivity and a convincing grasp of appropriate style, with a clear, distinctive and authoritative musical personality

- 2.1** Perform with confidence and effective engagement with the audience

- 3.1** Perform with a strong command of technique with musical and sensitive control of intonation and other instrumental/vocal resources

- 4.1** Respond to a quick study piece with accuracy in notes and tonality, fluency, imaginative musical development, strong planning and construction, and full and creative use of instrumental/vocal resources
- 4.2** Improvise with well-controlled and imaginative melodic development, clear and appropriate harmonic vocabulary, appropriate length and full and creative use of instrumental/vocal resources

STRUCTURE

Candidates perform three songs, including a technical focus song.

In addition to the assessment of individual performance items, examiners use a separate set of overarching criteria to assess key musical skills across the entire performance and award a mark out of 20 for 'overall performance'.

STRUCTURE AND MARK SCHEME

Component	Summary of requirements	Maximum marks
SONG 1	A song chosen from the relevant Trinity songbook, played to the Trinity backing track	25
SONG 2	<p>Either a different song chosen from the relevant Trinity songbook and played to the Trinity backing track</p> <p>Or a song from the additional Trinity arrangements at trinityrock.com/extra-songs, played to the Trinity backing track</p> <p>Or an own-choice song</p> <p>Or a song composed by the candidate</p> <p>If song 2 is an own-choice song or one composed by the candidate it may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Be unaccompanied ✔ Be played to a backing track (which can be recorded by the candidate) ✔ <i>For bass, drums, guitar, keyboards:</i> Include added vocals, performed live by the candidate ✔ <i>For vocals:</i> Include a live self-played accompaniment on any instrument ✔ Include an accompaniment played or sung live by any one other musician 	25
SONG 3	A technical focus song chosen from the relevant Trinity songbook, containing specific technical elements, played to the Trinity backing track	30
OVERALL PERFORMANCE		20
TOTAL		100

SONGS

The Rock & Pop arrangements have been designed to be as authentic as possible to the original songs. They have been created to develop the candidate's technique, musicianship, ensemble skills, timekeeping and stylistic awareness, while providing the opportunity to improvise, embellish and vary the line creatively when appropriate, just as the player would on stage or in the studio.

Candidates should familiarise themselves with the technical demands of each song, particularly when preparing for song 3 (technical focus). Some songs specify certain requirements, and candidates must make sure they do this.

Songs 1 and 3 must be played along with the Trinity backing track. Only song 2 may be played unaccompanied (if appropriate – see further details below).

SONG 1

Song 1 must be selected from the current Trinity Rock & Pop songbook for the grade, and must be performed with the Trinity backing track. Please ensure that you have playback equipment that you can use for your video performance. You should ask someone to help you operate this so that you can concentrate on playing.

Make sure you check the volume balance of the backing track and your instrument before you start recording.

SONG 2

Song 2 may be selected from the current Trinity Rock & Pop songbook for the grade and performed with the Trinity backing track, or it can be an own-choice song.

Own-choice songs must be equivalent in standard to the songs in the Trinity Rock & Pop songbook for the grade. Parameters indicating the length and level of difficulty required at each grade are listed in the relevant syllabus.

The own-choice song can be:

- ✔ Sheet music from a printed or online source
- ✔ An original song that the candidate has written
- ✔ A cover version that the candidate has arranged

Own-choice songs can:

- ✔ Be unaccompanied
- ✔ Be played to a backing track (not including the solo part) – this can be self-created
- ✔ *For bass, drums, guitar, keyboards:* Include added vocals, performed live by the candidate
- ✔ *For vocals:* Include added accompaniment, performed live by the candidate on any instrument
- ✔ Be accompanied by one live musician, either playing or singing – the additional musician may be a teacher

A song from the relevant 2015–2017 Trinity Rock & Pop syllabus may be selected as an own-choice song, provided that it meets the current own-choice parameters. A list of suitable songs may be found at trinityrock.com/extra-songs

SONG 3

Three of the songs in each Trinity Rock & Pop songbook are identified as technical focus songs, and these are marked with [TF] in the song list sections in the relevant syllabus. One of these should be chosen for song 3, and it must be performed with the Trinity backing track.

These songs are designed to develop technical skills, and each song has two technical elements specifically identified. Guidance on the preparation of these technical skills is included in the songbooks.

For the technical focus song, higher marks are available in the technical control component to reflect the increased emphasis on this area. Examiners will refer to the technical elements in their comments.

If a candidate includes two or three technical focus songs in their set list, they should clearly indicate on the list of songs which one is to be marked as the technical focus song.

PERFORMANCE AND INTERPRETATION

Trinity's Rock & Pop exams are designed to encourage musical performances that reflect a candidate's own personal style and approach. This is because we understand that contemporary music is flexible in its stylistic interpretation, particularly at the higher grades. However, performances should not be simplified and musical integrity should always be maintained.

REPEATS, EXPRESSIVE TECHNIQUES AND TEMPI

All songs should be prepared in full with all repeats, *da capo* and *dal segno* instructions and 1st and 2nd time bars observed.

Candidates are encouraged to include a range of expressive techniques appropriate to their instrument and the style of the song, particularly in the higher grades. Candidates should observe terms showing tempo, character and style of the music.

BACKING TRACKS

The official Trinity backing tracks must be used for all songs unless an own-choice is selected. Backing tracks for own-choice songs must be of good quality and must not include the solo part.

Please be aware of the balance between the candidate and the backing track, ensuring that both are audible on the submitted video.

The inclusion of a click track is only permitted for Drums exams, using the official backing tracks provided.

MICROPHONES (VOCALS EXAMS)

The use of a microphone is optional in digital Vocals exams. Please be aware of the balance between voice and backing track to ensure the candidate can be heard clearly at all times.

PERFORMING FROM MEMORY

Candidates may perform any or all of their songs from memory. However, this is not compulsory and no additional marks are given for this.

COPYRIGHT IN A SONG

Points to remember:

- ✔ Candidates can create a cover version of a song and perform it in an exam or other non-public performance.
- ✔ Candidates own the copyright of any songs they have written themselves.

Further information is available at trinityrock.com/syllabus

OBTAINING MUSIC FOR THE EXAM

Trinity's Rock & Pop songbooks contain eight songs (including three technical focus songs), plus background information on the songs and performance tips. They are available from trinityrock.com/shop or from your local music shop.

PARAMETERS FOR OWN-CHOICE SONGS

Own-choice songs should match the standard of songs in the Trinity songbook for the appropriate grade. Please refer to the relevant Trinity Rock & Pop syllabus for guidelines for what might be included at each grade. All techniques are cumulative, but it is not expected that songs will contain everything in the list; this is intended to be a general guide to the type of techniques appropriate at each grade.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

There is a section on the online portal where you can provide any supporting documentation.

- ✔ Fill in the upload form with full details of your songs, indicating which is your technical focus song and (if applicable) your own-choice song.
- ✔ Upload a scanned copy or photograph of the written sheet music of your own-choice song (if applicable). All pages of the song should be in one single file. If you need to combine images into one file, there are many apps that can help you and you will find them on your device's application store.

SUBMITTING YOUR EXAM FOR ASSESSMENT

Please read the following closely before you submit your video performance to our online platform via trinitycollege.com/digital-rp-grades:

- ✔ Play back your video to ensure that the sound and visual quality is sufficient for an examiner to mark it.
- ✔ Ensure your video is one continuous recording from start to finish and you have not edited this into different sections or paused or stopped the video at any point.
- ✔ Only submit one take of your performance.
- ✔ Audio and video may be recorded using separate devices, as long as they are recorded simultaneously.
- ✔ No pre- or post-production techniques may be applied.
- ✔ A single external microphone may be used but multiple microphone set-ups are not permitted. Please keep additional unused microphones away from your instrument to avoid unnecessary referral.
- ✔ Do not provide any information at the beginning of your performance, such as your name or the titles of songs – simply start recording and begin your performance.
- ✔ **Your files should be labelled with your name, subject and grade, for example: `FirstnameSurname_Rock&Pop(Instrument)_Grade(Number)`.**
- ✔ Fill in the upload form, detailing your chosen songs in the order that you are playing them, indicating your technical focus song and (if applicable) your own-choice song.
- ✔ If applicable, remember to upload a scan or photograph of your own-choice song.
- ✔ You may record your video as an mp4 or mov file. Please remember to turn off HD settings, or select the lowest available HD setting, on your device before you begin. Your exam does not need to be recorded in high definition and this will result in files that are too large for upload.
- ✔ If uploading directly from a phone or tablet, you might need to compress the video first, so that it doesn't take too long to upload. There are many apps that can help you do this and you will find them on your device's application store.
- ✔ Do not delete your performance video until you have received your feedback and certificate just in case there are any technical issues and you are required to resubmit.
- ✔ Your books/legally downloaded copies must be in shot when you film your performance. Please make sure they will be visible to the examiner so that they can confirm that you are playing from a legal copy – even if you choose to perform from memory. In the case that you have purchased a digital copy and are playing from a tablet or eReader, please show the copy on screen to the camera, ensuring that the watermark is clearly legible, so the examiner can confirm the purchase.
- ✔ Full details of how to film your performance, what should be in shot and instrument-specific guidance can be found at trinitycollege.com/music-filming-guidance
- ✔ You are allowed to have someone filming your performance, and another person can be present to operate your backing tracks. A count-in at the start of a pre-recorded track is permitted. However, indications of pulse, verbal or non-verbal entry cues during the songs, or the playing of an additional instrument (unless for own-choice songs), will result in a syllabus infringement.
- ✔ You may not enter the same performance video for the same exam more than once, unless Trinity requires you to resubmit your video.

- ✔ You may not use the video from your original entry for any other Trinity exam entries. Subsequent submissions with the same video may be invalidated.
- ✔ We strongly advise candidates not to share their performance videos online. Pieces in the music and drama syllabuses are under copyright, and many of those rights are not owned by Trinity. Trinity only has the required permissions for usage of these pieces in TCL Press published books and in relation to Trinity exams. As such, if you would like to share your videos online, you should apply to the copyright owner(s) to obtain synchronisation licences. Any candidate sharing performances of copyrighted material will be personally liable for any breach of copyright law.

MARKING

HOW THE EXAM IS MARKED

Examiners give comments and marks for each section of the exam, up to the maximums listed on page 14.

It is not necessary to pass all sections or any particular section in order to achieve a pass overall.

The total mark for the exam corresponds to different attainment levels as follows:

Overall mark	Attainment level
87-100	DISTINCTION
75-86	MERIT
60-74	PASS
45-59	BELOW PASS 1
0-44	BELOW PASS 2

HOW THE SONGS ARE MARKED

Each song is awarded three separate marks corresponding to three specific musical components, allowing candidates to receive precise feedback about specific aspects of their performance. These marks combine to give an overall mark for the song.

The three components are:

Fluency & security

Fluency, synchronisation with the backing track, security in notes and rhythm.

Technical control

Ability to control the instrument effectively, achieving the various technical demands of the song; sound quality.

Communication & style

Stylistic understanding (eg mood and character), musical detail (eg dynamics and articulation), audience engagement.

Marks are awarded for these components to form a maximum total mark for each song as follows:

Songs 1 & 2	Song 3	Component
8	8	FLUENCY & SECURITY
8	12	TECHNICAL CONTROL
9	10	COMMUNICATION & STYLE
25	30	TOTAL MAXIMUM MARK FOR EACH SONG

The marks for song 3 are different because higher marks are awarded under technical control to reflect the two areas of technical focus.

Total marks awarded for songs correspond to the attainment levels as follows:

Songs 1 & 2	Song 3	Attainment level
22-25	26-30	DISTINCTION
19-21	22-25	MERIT
15-18	18-21	PASS
11-14	14-17	BELOW PASS 1
0-10	0-13	BELOW PASS 2

Examiners use the criteria below to decide on the mark:

Fluency & security	8 MARKS Excellent fluency and synchronisation. Very high level of security in notes and rhythm.	7 MARKS Very good sense of fluency and synchronisation with only momentary lapses. High level of security in notes and rhythm with minimal inaccuracies.	6 MARKS Good sense of fluency and synchronisation though with occasional lapses. Good level of security in notes and rhythm despite occasional inaccuracies.
Technical control (Songs 1 & 2)	8 MARKS Technical demands fulfilled to a very high degree. Excellent sound quality.	7 MARKS Technical demands fulfilled with only momentary insecurities. Very good sound quality with minimal blemishes.	6 MARKS Technical demands largely fulfilled though with occasional insecurities. Good sound quality despite occasional lapses.
Technical control (Song 3)	12 MARKS Technical focus elements fulfilled to a very high degree. Excellent sound quality.	10-11 MARKS Technical focus elements fulfilled with only momentary insecurities. Very good sound quality with minimal blemishes.	8-9 MARKS Technical focus elements largely fulfilled though with occasional insecurities. Good sound quality despite occasional lapses.
Communication & style	9 MARKS (SONGS 1 & 2) 10 MARKS (SONG 3) Highly convincing communication and engagement. Excellent stylistic understanding and realisation of musical detail.	8 MARKS (SONGS 1 & 2) 9 MARKS (SONG 3) Very good communication and engagement with only momentary insecurities. Very good stylistic understanding and realisation of musical detail with minimal lapses.	6-7 MARKS (SONGS 1 & 2) 7-8 MARKS (SONG 3) Good communication and engagement overall though with occasional insecurities. Good stylistic understanding and realisation of musical detail despite occasional lapses.

Examiners use the criteria below to decide on the mark:

Fluency & security	5 MARKS Generally reliable level of fluency and synchronisation though with some lapses. Reasonable level of security in notes and rhythm despite some inaccuracies.	3-4 MARKS Unreliable fluency and synchronisation. Unreliable level of security in notes and rhythm.	1-2 MARKS Little or no sense of fluency or synchronisation. Extremely unreliable level of security in notes and rhythm.
Technical control (Songs 1 & 2)	5 MARKS Technical demands generally fulfilled though with some insecurities. Basic sound quality achieved despite some lapses.	3-4 MARKS Technical demands often not fulfilled. Unreliable sound quality.	1-2 MARKS Technical demands hardly or not at all fulfilled. Basic sound quality not achieved.
Technical control (Song 3)	7 MARKS Technical focus elements generally fulfilled though with some insecurities. Basic sound quality achieved despite some lapses.	4-6 MARKS Technical focus elements often not fulfilled. Unreliable sound quality.	1-3 MARKS Technical focus elements hardly or not at all fulfilled. Basic sound quality not achieved.
Communication & style	5 MARKS (SONGS 1 & 2) 6 MARKS (SONG 3) Generally reliable level of communication and engagement though with some insecurities. Reasonable stylistic understanding and realisation of musical detail despite some lapses.	3-4 MARKS (SONGS 1 & 2) 4-5 MARKS (SONG 3) Unreliable communication and engagement. Unreliable stylistic understanding and realisation of musical detail.	1-2 MARKS (SONGS 1 & 2) 1-3 MARKS (SONG 3) Little or no communication and engagement. Extremely unreliable stylistic understanding and realisation of musical detail.

HOW OVERALL PERFORMANCE IS MARKED

The candidate's entire performance is awarded two separate marks corresponding to two assessment areas, as follows. Further information about the adaptation of the session skills requirements can be found at trinitycollege.com/digital-rp-grades

Performance delivery and focus (10 marks)

- ✔ Assurance and continuity of delivery
- ✔ Consistency of focus

Musical awareness (10 marks)

- ✔ Demonstration of musical personality
- ✔ Ability to work within, move between, or maintain styles

Examiners use the criteria below to decide on the mark:

	DISTINCTION 9-10 MARKS	MERIT 8 MARKS
Performance delivery and focus	The performances are delivered with assurance, and transition between items is smooth. Focus is maintained throughout the presentation.	The performances are mostly delivered with assurance, and transition between items is mainly smooth. Focus is maintained throughout the presentation for the most part.
Musical awareness	There is a convincing level of personal investment and commitment in the performances. The ability to maintain or move between styles is well-developed.	There is a good level of personal investment and commitment in the performances. The ability to maintain or move between styles is mostly well-developed.

Examiners use the criteria below to decide on the mark:

	PASS 6-7 MARKS	BELOW PASS 1 4-5 MARKS	BELOW PASS 2 1-3 MARKS
Performance delivery and focus	The performances are delivered with reasonable assurance, and transition between items is moderately smooth. Focus is adequately maintained throughout the presentation.	Assurance in performance delivery is limited, with unreliable continuity between items. Focus is inconsistently maintained throughout the presentation.	There is little or no assurance in performance delivery with limited continuity between items. Focus is not maintained throughout the presentation.
Musical awareness	There is an adequate level of personal investment and commitment in the performances. The ability to maintain or move between styles is reasonably well-developed.	There is a limited level of personal investment and commitment in the performances. The ability to maintain or move between styles is limited.	Personal investment and commitment are not demonstrated. The ability to maintain or move between styles is not yet evident.

ACCESS ALL AREAS...

Get the full Rock & Pop experience online at trinityrock.com

Digital resources are available to support learning, including advice and content on:

✔ Songs, performance and technique

You can access:

- ✔ Bite-sized videos that include tips from professional musicians on techniques featured in the songs
- ✔ Producer's notes on the tracks, to increase your knowledge of rock and pop
- ✔ Articles on performance tips, musical styles, developing technique and advice from the music industry

For further help please contact your local representative.

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