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# IPMA

INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL  
MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## ELECTRIC GUITAR SYLLABUS

### PERFORMANCE EXAMINATION

QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATIONS FOR  
GRADED EXAMS 2022-2025

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# Introduction

Welcome to the International Professional Music Education Association (IPMA) Electric Guitar Performance Exam Syllabus Grade Debut - Grade 8. This syllabus was produced by a committed team of guitarists, teachers, and examiners and provides an in-depth look at all aspects of your exam.

Our Performance music exams are designed for students to focus on developing their performance skills and to expand their repertoire knowledge. Our qualifications enable students to receive formal acknowledgement of their level of expertise as well as to gain feedback to help them continue on their learning journey.

## VISION

At the International Music Education Association (IPMA), we believe that music is an invaluable gift for all, playing an important role in social development, human civilization, and improvement in the quality of life. We also believe that music education is one of the most effective ways to cultivate this gift among all.

## MISSION

IPMA's mission is to advance the music profession through:

- Building a worldwide community of music enthusiasts as well as music performers and music educators.
- Fostering the value of music.
- Popularize music education for people of all ages throughout the world.

## CORE VALUES

In order to build and maintain a worldwide community of music education, IPMA affirms that:

- Well-trained and qualified teachers are vital to development in music education.
- Curricula and resources updates designed by professional educators via a collaborative platform are essential to music education development.
- Both local and international music should be recognized and respected.
- Traditional and innovative teaching approaches should be integrated in order to serve the learning needs of all learners, including those with special needs.

Technology plays an indispensable role in music education and is important in allowing easy access to music by all.

## SYLLABUS UPDATES

This syllabus is valid from 1 September 2022.

Please check our website [ipma-global.org](http://ipma-global.org) to ensure you are using the latest version of the syllabus and for any updates on our electric guitar performance exams.

## HIGHLIGHTED FEATURES:

1. All rounded and balanced assessment.
2. Balanced and various exam repertoire.
3. Various choices of exam pieces, either solo or ensemble pieces.
4. Memorisation is not required.
5. Reduced anxiety.
6. Online exams can be taken anytime and anywhere.

# Officially Recognised Qualifications

Our music exams are powered by Online Music Exams and accredited by the awarding organisation “The Learning Machine” (TLM) which is regulated by OFQUAL (British Government). This enables our students to receive qualifications that are recognized world-wide by educational and employment establishments.

IPMA Electric Guitar Exams	RQF* level	EQF** level	Qualification title	Qualification number	Other equivalent qualifications
Debut	Entry Level 3	1	TLM Entry Level Award in Musical Performance Debut (Entry 3)	610/1051/0	
Grade 1	1	2	TLM Level 1 Award in Musical Performance Grade 1	603/4575/5	
Grade 2	1	2	TLM Level 1 Award in Musical Performance Grade 2	603/4576/7	G.C.S.E. (D-G)
Grade 3	1	2	TLM Level 1 Award in Musical Performance Grade 3	603/4577/9	
Grade 4	2	3	TLM Level 1 Award in Musical Performance Grade 4	603/4578/0	G.C.S.E (A*-C)
Grade 5	2	3	TLM Level 1 Award in Musical Performance Grade 5	603/4579/2	
Grade 6	3	4	TLM Level 1 Award in Musical Performance Grade 6	603/4580/9	
Grade 7	3	4	TLM Level 1 Award in Musical Performance Grade 7	603/4581/0	AS/A Level
Grade 8	3	4	TLM Level 1 Award in Musical Performance Grade 8	603/4582/2	

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

\*\* European Qualifications Framework

# UCAS Points

For those applying to colleges and universities in the UK, Grades 6–8 IPMA Qualifications are now eligible for UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) points as shown below:

Grade 6 UCAS Points	Grade 7 UCAS Points	Grade 8 UCAS Points
Pass: 8	Pass: 12	Pass: 18
Merit: 10	Merit: 14	Merit: 24
Distinction: 12	Distinction: 16	Distinction: 30

# Duration of Study

The duration of study needed to gain a qualification is dependent on each individual. Regulated qualifications are all assigned a total qualification time as set out below. The total qualification time is an estimate of the hours spent learning with a teacher and the hours spent learning individually.

	Guided learning hours	Independent learning hours	Total qualification time (hours)
Debut	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

# Exam Guidance

## How to Take Your Exam Online

Online Music Exams enables candidates to take their exams anytime and from anywhere.  
No booking required!

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:



A Computer, Laptop or Mobile phone

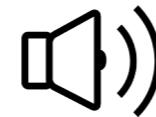


Stable wi-fi or Ethernet  
For best results



### Camera

Built in camera or external HD camera with microphone



### Sound

Any speaker system that you can hear comfortably (not available for headphones)

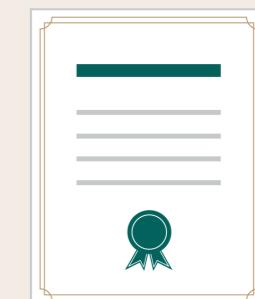
1



2



3



At the start of an exam, an audio-visual recording will be taken of the candidate and they will be asked to provide information that will verify their identity. If the candidate is under the age of eighteen, a parent or legal guardian must be present at the exam recording and must verify their identity.

An automated assistant will lead the candidate through each section of their exam. The candidate will need to introduce the name and composer of each song before each performance.

Your exam will then be marked by an instrument specific examiner and you will receive your results within 1-5 working days later.

### IMPORTANT!

The candidate's full head, shoulders and entire guitar must be clearly seen. We recommend standing if it is possible.

### HOW IT WORKS:



To purchase and take music exam, go to  
[ipma-global.org](http://ipma-global.org)



# Exam Duration

Debut	Grade 1	Grade 2
<b>12-15</b> minutes	<b>15-18</b> minutes	<b>15-18</b> minutes
Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
<b>15-18</b> minutes	<b>17-20</b> minutes	<b>17-20</b> minutes
Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
<b>20-25</b> minutes	<b>25-30</b> minutes	<b>25-36</b> minutes

## INSTRUMENTS

From Debut to Grade 2, candidates may use an electric, electro-acoustic, or acoustic/classical guitar. Only an electric guitar is permitted from Grade 3 onwards.

## AGE GROUPS

IPMA Electric Guitar performance exams are open to all ages.

## SONGS

### Grade Debut

Candidates must perform **2 Songs** from the IPMA Electric Guitar performance exam song list (in corresponding grade).

### Grades 1-3

Candidates must perform **3 Songs** from the IPMA Electric Guitar performance exam song list (in corresponding grade).

### Grades 4-5

Candidates must perform **4 Songs** from the IPMA Electric Guitar performance exam song list (in corresponding grade).

### Grades 6-8

Candidates must perform **5 Songs** from the IPMA Electric Guitar performance exam song list (in corresponding grade).

## BACKING TRACKS

All performance songs must be played to a backing track. Please note that backing tracks must not contain the guitar track and it is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that the volume between the backing track and guitar is appropriate. We recommend practicing first in the mock exam practice page to test volume levels. Backing track choices are left to the candidate's preference and can be sourced in different ways. For example:

1. Backing tracks websites such as <https://guitarbackingtrack.org>
2. YouTube
3. Apps such as the app MOISES ([www.moises.ai](http://www.moises.ai)), where you can take out the guitar track.

## PERFORMING SONGS FROM MEMORY

Performing songs from memory is optional. No extra points will be awarded for memorisation.

## REPEATS

All da capo and dal segno indications should be followed but other repeats (including first-time bars) should not be played.

## PAGE-TURNS

Candidates may use a photocopy of a section of the song to help with particularly awkward page-turns. Candidates at Grades 6-8 may bring a page-turner to their exam.

## PHOTOCOPIES

IPMA expects students to obtain music legally. Photocopies are prohibited, except in the circumstance where a section of music has been photocopied to help with a difficult page-turn.

## ONLINE EXAM AUDIO EQUIPMENT

It is recommended that candidates use at least one microphone (USB-Microphone) or use an audio interface or a micro-phoned guitar amplifier to ensure a good quality sound.

# IPMA Performance Exams

## Marking Criteria

## Exam Structure

**GRADE DEBUT** chosen from the IPMA Electric Guitar performance exam song list (in corresponding grade)

Songs	Max. marks
Song 1	20
Song 2	20
Total Marks	40

**GRADE 1-3** chosen from the IPMA Electric Guitar performance exam song list (in corresponding grade)

Songs	Max. marks
Song 1	20
Song 2	20
Song 3	20
Total Marks	60

**GRADE 4-5** chosen from the IPMA Electric Guitar performance exam song list (in corresponding grade)

Songs	Max. marks
Song 1	20
Song 2	20
Song 3	20
Song 4	20
Total Marks	80

**GRADE 6-8** chosen from the IPMA Electric Guitar performance exam song list (in corresponding grade)

Songs	Max. marks
Song 1	20
Song 2	20
Song 3	20
Song 4	20
Song 5	20

**Total Marks** 100

According to the candidate's performance, the total mark given corresponds to various attainment levels, as shown below:

**GRADE DEBUT-8**

Each exam is marked with the percentage boundaries for each certification as follows:

85-100% 75-84% 60-74% 59% OR LOWER

Distinction Merit Pass Below Pass

## Marking Scheme for Songs

**MAXIMUM MARK: 20**

Total Marks Attainment level: 17-20 15-16 12-14 11 OR LOWER

Distinction Merit Pass Below Pass

# How Songs are marked

Each song is marked based on the following criteria:

5 marks	4 marks	3 marks	2 marks
<b>ACCURACY AND RHYTHM:</b>  <i>The ability to realise the notation accurately, to maintain a steady pulse, and to control the specific rhythmic patterns within the work.</i>	  An excellent level of accuracy with secure control of notation and pulse. The rhythm is executed with precision and is suitable for the style and character.	  A very high level of accuracy with only insignificant slips in notation and slight fluctuations in the pulse. The rhythm is mostly well executed and reflects the style and character.	  A generally good degree of accuracy with some slips. Good fluency of the pulse with occasional inconsistencies in rhythmic control.
<b>DYNAMICS AND ARTICULATION:</b>  <i>The ability to control and execute dynamic contrasts and articulation details of the work, not only at a technical level but also showcases an understanding of the expressive qualities.</i>	  An excellent use and control of dynamics that vividly reflects the character of the music. The articulation was very clean, and fulfills the musical requirements to a very high degree.	  A high level of dynamic contrasts that reflect the character of the music with only minor imperfections. The articulation was mostly clean and fulfills the musical requirements.	  A generally good use of dynamic contrasts with consideration of the character of the music. The articulation was controlled but with occasional inconsistencies.
<b>TONE COLOUR AND BALANCE:</b>  <i>The ability to produce and control tone colour that is suitable for the expressions of the music, and to maintain proper balance to highlight the musical texture.</i>	  An excellent level of tone control with clear projections and acute awareness of balance.	  A high level of tone control with mostly clear projections and sensitive awareness of balance.	  A generally reliable tone control with occasional lapses and adequate awareness of balance.
<b>STYLE AND INTERPRETATION:</b>  <i>The ability to showcase an understanding of the appropriate musical styles and interpret with an acute awareness of the character.</i>	  An excellent level of stylistic details and a highly effective interpretation.	  A high level of stylistic details and an effective interpretation.	  A generally good level of stylistic details and mostly effective interpretation.

# Song List

**1 mark**

**0 marks**

## ACCURACY AND RHYTHM:

*The ability to realise the notation accurately, to maintain a steady pulse, and to control the specific rhythmic patterns within the work.*

A limited degree of accuracy with intrusive errors and sporadic slips. A lack of basic control of the pulse and unsuccessful realisation of the rhythm.

Very limited degree of accuracy with many significant errors. Little to no control of the pulse and incapable of executing the rhythm.

## DYNAMICS AND ARTICULATION:

*The ability to control and execute dynamic contrasts and articulation details of the work, not only at a technical level but also showcases an understanding of the expressive qualities.*

A limited degree or over exaggeration of dynamic contrasts with very limited consideration to the musical content. The articulation lacked a basic level of control.

Dynamic contrasts either not managed or used in a disruptive manner. The articulation was not controlled and included significant flaws.

## TONE COLOUR AND BALANCE:

*The ability to produce and control tone colour that is suitable for the expressions of the music, and to maintain proper balance to highlight the musical texture.*

A limited degree of tone control with many inconsistencies and very little awareness of balance

No tone control with many significant flaws and no awareness of balance.

## STYLE AND INTERPRETATION:

*The ability to showcase an understanding of the appropriate musical styles and interpret with an acute awareness of the character.*

A limited degree of stylistic details and inconsistent interpretation.

Stylistic details not shown and ineffective interpretation.

## Debut

	<b>Song</b>	<b>Artist/Arranged by</b>
1	Born in the USA	Bruce Springsteen
2	Chasing Cars	Snow Patrol
3	Eleanor Rigby	The Beatles
4	Give Peace a Chance	John Lennon
5	Horse With No Name	America
6	I Don't Wanna Live Forever	Taylor Swift
7	I've got a feeling	The Beatles
8	Jane Says	Jane's Addiction
9	Just the way you are	Bruno Mars
10	Lively Up Yourself	Bob Marley
11	Paperback Writer	The Beatles
12	Radioactive	Imagine Dragons
13	Sing	Ed Sheeran
14	Something In The Way	Nirvana
15	Songbird	Oasis
16	Stay Stay Stay	Taylor Swift
17	Stop whispering	Radiohead
18	Sweet home alabama	Lynyrd Skynyrd
19	Therefore I Am	Billie Eilish
20	We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together*	Taylor Swift
21	You never can tell	Chuck Berry
22	Zombie	The Cranberries

\*Rhythm guitar required only

# Grade 1

	Song	Artist/Arranged by
1	21 Guns	Greenday
2	A Place In This World	Taylor Swift
3	Back To December	Taylor Swift
4	Basket Case	Greenday
5	Boulevard Of Broken Dreams	Greenday
6	Counting Stars	One Republic
7	Good Riddance (Time Of Your Life)	Greenday
8	I Hate Myself for Loving You	Joan Jett
9	I Love Rock 'N Roll	Joan Jett
10	Imagine	John Lennon
11	It's My Life	Bon Jovi
12	Let It Be	The Beatles
13	Mean	Taylor Swift
14	Numb	Linkin Park
15	Shake It Off	Taylor Swift
16	Soul to Squeeze	Red Hot Chili Peppers
17	Teardrops on My Guitar	Taylor Swift
18	Wake Me Up When September Ends*	Greenday
19	When You're Gone	Avril Lavigne
20	Wonderful tonight	Eric Clapton
21	You Belong With Me	Taylor Swift
22	You're Not Sorry	Taylor Swift

\*Rhythm guitar required only

# Grade 2

	Song	Artist/Arranged by
1	All the small things	Blink 182
2	Amazing 了不起	KOLOR
3	Californication*	Red got Chili peppers
4	Cocaine	Eric Clapton
5	Come As You Are	Nirvana
6	Don't Let Me Down	The Beatles
7	Fighter	Christina Aguilera
8	Fortress Besieged圍城	KOLOR
9	Girlfriend	Avril Lavigne
10	Hey Jude	The Beatles
11	I'm With You	Avril Lavigne
12	In My Life	The Beatles
13	Longview	Greenday
14	Lost Star	Maroon 5
15	Love Story	Taylor Swift
16	My Happy Ending	Avril Lavigne
17	Otherside	Red Hot Chili Peppers
18	Paradise 遙遠的Paradise	Beyond
19	Rocking in a free world*	Neil Young
20	Rolling in the Deep	ADELE
21	Safe and Sound	Taylor Swift
22	Shape of you	Ed Sheeran
23	Sk8er Boi	Avril Lavigne
24	Smoke on the water	Deep purple
25	Stand by me	Ben E King
26	State Of Grace	Taylor Swift
27	Take it easy	Eagles
28	When I Come Around	Greenday
29	Wonderwall	Oasis
30	Yellow	Coldplay

\*Rhythm guitar required only

# Grade 3

	Song	Artist/Arranged by
1	A Hard Day's Night	The Beatles
2	All Apologies	Nirvana
3	All My Loving	The Beatles
4	Apache (instrumental)	The Shadows
5	Back in Black	AC/DC
6	Back In The U.S.S.R.	The Beatles
7	Best of You	Foo Fighters
8	Come Together	The Beatles
9	Complicated	Avril Lavigne
10	Don't Go Away	Oasis
11	Have A Nice Day	Bon Jovi
12	Heart Shaped Box	Nirvana
13	Holiday	Greenday
14	In And Out Of Love	Bon Jovi
15	Jet Lag 時差	KOLOR
16	Lithium	Nirvana
17	Love Yourself	Justin Bieber
18	Master Plan	Oasis
19	Suck My Kiss	Red got Chili peppers
20	The Adventures Of Rain Dance Maggie	Red got Chili peppers
21	Treacherous	Taylor Swift
22	Waiting On The World To Change	John Mayer
23	We are the Champions	Queen

\*Rhythm guitar required only

# Grade 4

	Song	Artist/Arranged by
1	Time Flies Soundlessly 歲月無聲	Beyond
2	A Million Little Things 最重要的小事	Mayday 五月天
3	All the Way North 一路向北	Jay Chau 周杰倫
4	American Idiot	Greenday
5	Blackbird	The Beatles
6	Bring Me To Life	Evanescence
7	Discovery 發現號	Rubberband
8	Don't Look Back In Anger	Oasis
9	Get Back	The Beatles
10	Get up	Planetshakers
11	Gravity	John Mayer
12	Iron Man	Black Sabbath
13	James Bond Theme	Monty Norman
14	Lake Of Fire	Nirvana
15	Livin' On A Prayer	Bon Jovi
16	Manic Depression	Jimi Hendrix
17	Moves like Jagger	Maroon 5
18	New Divide	Linkin Park
19	Paranoid	Black Sabbath
20	Revolution	The Beatles
21	Smells Like Teen Spirit	Nirvana
22	Sunshine Nerd 陽光宅男	Jay Chau 周杰倫
23	Sunshine of your Love	Cream
24	The Thrill is gone	B.B King
25	Time is running out	Muse
26	Under The Bridge	Red got Chili peppers
27	Vultures	John Mayer
28	Way Maker	Leeland
29	Wherever you are	ONE OK ROCK
30	Yesterday	The Beatles
31	Your love never fails	Jesus Culture

\*Rhythm guitar required only

# Grade 5

	Song	Artist/Arranged by
1	Appolo阿波羅	Rubberband
2	By The Way	Red got Chili peppers
3	Can't Stop	Red got Chili peppers
4	Cloud Atlas雲圖	KOLOR
5	Eye of the Tiger	Survivor
6	Fire	Jimi Hendrix
7	Glorious Years 光輝歲月	Beyond
8	Great Wall長城	Beyond
9	Heartbreak Warfare	John Mayer
10	Highway to the Stars公路之星	KOLOR
11	Hosanna	Hillsong United
12	I Really Love You真的愛妳	Beyond
13	Johnny B. Goode	Chuck Berry
14	Kaibutsu/Monster怪物	YOASOBI
15	Kanzen Kankaku Dreamer 完全感覺ドリーマー	ONE OK ROCK
16	Li Bai李白	Ronghao Lee李榮浩
17	Misirlou	Dick Dale
18	Parisienne Walkways	Gary Moore
19	Purple Haze	Jimi Hendrix
20	Runaway	Bon Jovi
21	Scar Tissue	Red got Chili peppers
22	Sun Wu Kong孫悟空	Mayday五月天
23	Tears	X Japan
24	Tell Me Baby	Red got Chili peppers
25	This Love	Maroon 5
26	Ultra Soul	B'z
27	Uptown Funk	Mark Ronson, Bruno Mars
28	Used To Love Her	GunsNRoses
29	Wanted Dead Or Alive	Bon Jovi
30	While My Guitar Gently Weeps	The Beatles

# Grade 6

	Song	Artist/Arranged by
1	All Along The Watchtower	Jimi Hendrix
2	Bad Medicine	Bon Jovi
3	Belief	John Mayer
4	Dani California	Red got Chili peppers
5	Don'ts Don'ts傷心的人別聽慢歌	Mayday五月天
6	Driver's High	L'Arc~en~Ciel
7	Endless Rain	X Japan
8	Enter Sandman	Metallica
9	Foxy Lady	Jimi Hendrix
10	Fuel	Metallica
11	Ghostbusters Theme	Ray Parker Jr.
12	Gloomily Breathing黑之呼吸	Anson Kong@Mirror
13	Heaven and Earth Society天地會	KOLOR
14	I'm Angry我是憤怒	Beyond
15	Immigrant Song	Led Zeppelin
16	In The Mood	Glenn Miller
17	It's So Easy	GunsNRoses
18	Lay Your Hands On Me	Bon Jovi
19	No longer hesitate不再猶豫	Beyond
20	Paradise 遙遠的Paradise	Beyond
21	Party Animal派對動物	Mayday五月天
22	Sad but True	Metallica
23	Sayanything	X Japan
24	Slam Dunk 世界が終るまでは	Slam Dunk
25	Slow Dancing In A Burning Room	John Mayer
26	Smoke on the water	Deep purple
27	Smooth	Santana
28	Song of battle入陣曲	Mayday五月天
29	Superstition	Stevie Wonder
30	The Beginning	ONE OK ROCK
31	The Boundless Sea and Sky海闊天空	Beyond
32	The Loner	Gary Moore
33	Three fools三個傻瓜	Mayday五月天
34	Time Flies Soundlessly歲月無聲	Beyond
35	Vulfpeck	Cory Wong
36	Welcome to the Black Parade	My Chemical Romance

# Grade 7

	Song	Artist/Arranged by
1	Almost Famous 成名在望	Mayday五月天
2	ButterFly デジモンアドベンチャー 數碼暴龍 OP	Wada Koji和田光司
3	Confortable Numbly	Pink Floyd
4	Crazy Train	OZZY OSBOURNE
5	Europa (Earth's Cry Heaven's Smile)	Santana
6	Give it away	Red hot Chili Peppers
7	Grey Track 灰色軌跡 (Clean solo + Lead solo)	Beyond
8	Hey Joe	Jimi Hendrix
9	leave the earth's surface離開地球表面	Mayday五月天
10	Link	L'Arc~en~Ciel
11	Little Wing	Jimi Hendrix
12	Ready Steady Go	L'Arc~en~Ciel
13	Rusty Nail	X Japan
14	Samba Pa Ti	Santana
15	Slam Dunk 君が好きだと叫びたい	Slam Dunk
16	Spanish Castle Magic	Jimi Hendrix
17	Still got the blues	Gary Moore
18	Stone Free	Jimi Hendrix
19	Sweet Child O' Mine	GunsNRoses
20	TENDERNESS (Free Verison)溫柔(還你自由版)	Mayday五月天
21	The Wind Cries Mary	Jimi Hendrix
22	Voodoo Child (Slight Return)	Jimi Hendrix
23	Walk this way	Aerosmooth
24	Who Knows	Jimi Hendrix

# Grade 8

	Song	Artist/Arranged by
1	Bohemian Rhapsody	Queen
2	Bold As Love	Jimi Hendrix
3	Burn	Deep Purple
4	Don't Dream It's Over	Mateus Asato
5	G.O.A.T	Polythia
6	Goose	Polyphia
7	Highway Star	Deep Purple
8	Hotel California	The Eagles
9	Hysteria	Muse
10	Kurenai紅	X Japan
11	Machine Gun	Jimi Hendrix
12	Mr. Brownstone	GunsNRoses
13	Mr. Crowley	OZZY OSBOURNE
14	Nightrain	GunsNRoses
15	Pride and Joy	SRV
16	Red House	Jimi Hendrix
17	Rising Force	Yngwie J.Malmsteen
18	Rocket Queen	GunsNRoses
19	Room 335	Larry Carlton
20	Silent Jealousy	X Japan
21	Surfing with aliens	Joe Satriani
22	Weekend	X Japan
23	Who Did You Think I Was	John Mayer Trio
24	X	X Japan
25	Yesterday's Footprints 舊日的足跡	Beyond
26	YYZ	Rush

# PARAMETER GUIDELINES

The following tables serve as a guide on which structural and technical elements are expected to be demonstrated per grade. All techniques are cumulative. We recommend that minimum levels should always be met when choosing songs but it is not expected that each song will contain everything on the list.

	Duration	Rhythm & meter	Fundamental techniques	Expression & articulation	Performance considerations		Duration	Rhythm & meter	Fundamental techniques	Expression & articulation	Performance considerations
<b>Grade Debut</b>	1 - 3 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note values and equivalent rests: crotchets, quavers, semibreves, minims and dotted minims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple open chords and dyads</li> <li>• 2-note power chords</li> <li>• Simple single-note melodies, may use basic alternate picking</li> <li>• A capo may be used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynamics: p to f simple contrasts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Songs should feature a simple melody section, for instance a single-note riff or a guitar solo</li> </ul>	<b>Grade 3</b>	1.5 - 3.5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All rhythmic devices and note values from previous grades, with higher frequency of more complex values such as semiquavers, dotted notes, and triplets</li> <li>• Time signatures – all time signatures from previous grades, now with 6/8 &amp; 12/8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open chords and full bar chords</li> <li>• Melodies using techniques such as double-stops, ghost notes, and simple bends</li> <li>• Range up to and including 9th position</li> <li>• Slides, fretting hand vibrato, simple bends</li> <li>• A capo may be used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All articulation from previous grades</li> <li>• Dynamics: pp to ff, crescendos/decrescendos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Songs should include a short improvised solo section, using major, minor, or pentatonic scales</li> </ul>
<b>Grade 1</b>	1 - 3 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note values and equivalent rests: crotchets, quavers, minims, semibreves, dotted crotchets, and dotted minims</li> <li>• Time signatures - 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple open chords and dyads</li> <li>• Simple single-note melodies, may use basic alternate picking</li> <li>• Range up to and including 5th position</li> <li>• 2-note power chords</li> <li>• A capo may be used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynamics: p to f simple crescendos/decrescendos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Songs should feature a simple melody section, for instance a single-note riff or a guitar solo</li> </ul>	<b>Grade 4</b>	2 - 4 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All rhythmic devices and note values from previous grades</li> <li>• All time signatures from previous grades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complex open chords</li> <li>• Melodies using techniques from all previous grades, now with natural harmonics</li> <li>• Range up to and including 12th position</li> <li>• A capo may be used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All articulation from previous grades</li> <li>• Dynamics: pp to ff, crescendos/decrescendos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Songs may include structural forms such as da capo, dal segno, and D.C./D.S. al coda</li> <li>Songs may call for changes in electric guitar settings, i.e. pickup selector switching, volume/tone knob, swells, etc. Songs should include a short improvised solo section, using major, minor, or pentatonic scales</li> </ul>
<b>Grade 2</b>	1.5 - 3 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All note values and equivalent rests from previous grades, now with semiquavers, dotted quavers and triplets</li> <li>• May use swing rhythm</li> <li>• Time signatures - 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open chords and triads. Chords may use 2-string bars/ partial bar chords</li> <li>• Single-note melodies using alternate picking</li> <li>• Range up to and including 7th position</li> <li>• 3-note power chords</li> <li>• A capo may be used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynamics: p to f, simple crescendos/decrescendos</li> <li>• Basic staccato and legato (hammer-ons/pull-offs) palm muting, slides and vibrato</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Songs should feature a melody section using the aforementioned articulation, for instance a single-note riff or guitar solo</li> </ul>						

	Duration	Rhythm & meter	Fundamental techniques	Expression & articulation	Performance considerations		Duration	Rhythm & meter	Fundamental techniques	Expression & articulation	Performance considerations
<b>Grade 5</b>	2.5 - 4 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All rhythmic devices and note values from previous grades</li> <li>More common irregular time signatures may feature, such as 5/4 or 7/8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All open chords and simple bar chords from previous grades, now with extended bar chords.</li> <li>Melodies using techniques from all previous grades, with a higher frequency of more complex techniques such as double-stop bends, harmonics, fluidly moving between chordal and melodic playing, etc.</li> <li>Range of the entire fretboard may be used</li> <li>A capo may be used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All articulation from previous grades</li> <li>Dynamics: pp to ff, crescendos/decrescendos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Songs may include structural forms such as da capo, dal segno, and D.C./D.S. al coda</li> <li>Songs may call for changes in electric guitar settings, i.e. pickup selector switching, volume/tone knob, swells, etc.</li> <li>Songs should include an improvised solo section, using major, minor, or pentatonic scales. Songs may also include an ad-libbed chord comping section</li> </ul>	<b>Grade 7</b>	3 - 5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All rhythmic devices and note values from previous grades. Songs may include frequent use of more complex devices such as hemiolas, heavy syncopation, tuplets, etc.</li> <li>Songs may feature changes in time signature, including time signatures from all previous grades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All chords from previous grades and may include minor 9th, dominant 9th, dominant 11th and dominant 13th</li> <li>Melodies make use of extended techniques, such as hybrid picking, tapping, tremolo picking, natural/artificial harmonics, and whammy-bar techniques</li> <li>A capo may be used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All articulation from previous grades</li> <li>All dynamics and dynamic devices from previous grades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Songs may include structural forms such as da capo, dal segno, and D.C./D.S. al coda</li> <li>Songs may call for changes in electric guitar settings, i.e. pickup selector switching, volume/tone knob, swells, etc.</li> <li>Songs should include an improvised solo section, using major, minor, pentatonic, and/or modal scales. Songs may also include an ad-libbed chord comping section</li> </ul>
<b>Grade 6</b>	3 - 4.5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All rhythmic devices and note values from previous grades. Songs may include more complex devices such as hemiolas, heavy syncopation, etc.</li> <li>Songs may feature changes in time signature, including time signatures from all previous grades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All chords from previous grades, and may include min7b5 and diminished chord positions</li> <li>Melodies may begin to feature extended techniques, such as hybrid picking, tapping, tremolo picking, and harmonics</li> <li>A capo may be used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All articulation from previous grades</li> <li>All dynamics and dynamic devices from previous grades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Songs may include structural forms such as da capo, dal segno, and D.C./D.S. al coda</li> <li>Songs may call for changes in electric guitar settings, i.e. pickup selector switching, volume/tone knob, swells, etc.</li> <li>Songs should include an improvised solo section, using major, minor, pentatonic, and/or modal scales. Songs may also include an ad-libbed chord comping section</li> </ul>	<b>Grade 8</b>	3 - 5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All rhythmic devices, note values and time signatures from previous grades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All chords from previous grades, and may include dominant b9, b13, and b9b13 chords</li> <li>Melodies make frequent use of extended techniques, such as hybrid picking, tapping, tremolo picking, natural/artificial harmonics, and whammy-bar techniques</li> <li>A capo may be used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All articulation from previous grades</li> <li>All dynamics and dynamic devices from previous grades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Songs may include structural forms such as da capo, dal segno, and D.C./D.S. al coda</li> <li>Songs may call for changes in electric guitar settings, i.e. pickup selector switching, volume/tone knob, swells, etc.</li> <li>Songs should include an improvised solo section, using major, minor, pentatonic, and/or modal scales. Songs may also include an ad-libbed chord comping section</li> </ul>

# Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

## GRADE DEBUT

**The candidate will:**

**The candidate can:**

**1** Perform musical works in a variety of styles set for the specific grade

**1.a** Showcase an understanding of the music with some evidence of personal interpretation  
**1.b** Demonstrate generally adequate accuracy and technical fluency

**2** Demonstrate skills and technical control on the instrument

**2.a** Showcase a basic command of the instrument  
**2.b** Demonstrate a basic control and facility of technique according to the musical content  
**2.c** Perform with an adequate tone and balance

## GRADES 6 - 8

**The candidate will:**

**The candidate can:**

**1** Perform musical works in a variety of styles set for the specific grade

**1.a** Incorporate musical knowledge and stylistic awareness in a personal interpretation  
**1.b** Demonstrate a secure performance with great accuracy and fluency  
**1.c** Communicate musical characters and emotions with attention to detail beyond dynamics and articulations

**2** Demonstrate skills and technical control on the instrument

**2.a** Showcase a solid command of the instrument  
**2.b** Demonstrate excellent control and facility of technique across a plethora of musical styles  
**2.c** Perform with expressive tone and acute balance

## GRADES 1 - 5

**The candidate will:**

**The candidate can:**

**1** Perform musical works in a variety of styles set for the specific grade

**1.a** Showcase an understanding of the music with a personal interpretation  
**1.b** Demonstrate control of general accuracy and technical fluency  
**1.c** Convey musical characters in a variety of styles, with attention to musical details such as dynamics and articulations

**2** Demonstrate skills and technical control on the instrument

**2.a** Showcase a developing command of the instrument  
**2.b** Demonstrate control and facility of technique according to the musical content  
**2.c** Perform with good tone and balance

# Policies

# Contact Details

## CANDIDATE PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING:

IPMA music is wholly committed to the protection and safeguarding of all participating candidates. All staff members and examiners have been subject to vetting checks of criminal records in order to ensure a safe recruitment process. The safeguarding policies are reviewed regularly, and safe working practice is promoted in all aspects of the exam.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES:

IPMA is fully committed to providing equal opportunities and treatments for all people regardless of ethnic background and sexual orientations. No one will be discriminated and treated unfairly or unlawfully under any circumstances.

## CANDIDATES WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS:

IPMA is committed to providing a welcoming and accessible exam environment for candidates with special needs. As each candidate has a specific request, IPMA aims to tailor the exam to assist each individual in his/her demonstration of musical skills. All candidates can be assured that the quality of grading and the standardization of marking are not compromised in any way. The request for special needs and provisions should be made prior to the exam. In an effort to create the most accessible environment, candidates should provide detailed and explicit explanations for the required provision.

## INFRINGEMENTS:

An examiner will refer any exam infringements to the head office and seek further consideration. These may include the performance of unlisted pieces, reluctant to perform all sections of an exam, etc. The exam report and mark will be withheld until the outcome has been considered. Depending on the severity of the infringement, the exam mark may be penalized or the candidate may be disqualified.

## MALPRACTICE:

In the rare occasion when a candidate, examiner or staff member may be suspected of malpractice, IPMA music demands the registered exam centre to report immediately and may suspend all of the related exams until the problem is identified and resolved. IPMA will aim to uphold the quality and integrity of the exam process and minimize any inconvenience caused to any affected candidates.

## RESULTS RE-MARK AND APPEAL:

In a situation where the candidate is dissatisfied with the exam results and wishes to file for a re-mark, the request must be made within 7 days after receiving the original results. IPMA will send the same recordings to an externally moderated examiner for the same fee. If you receive a mark that changes your certification level to a higher level, then we will refund your re-entry fee. If we give you the same certification level again, or even lower, then unfortunately that will be your mark and you will lose your fee. Your final mark will be your retake mark.

**IPMA**  
International Professional  
Music Education Association

Website: [ipma-global.org](http://ipma-global.org)  
Email enquiries: [mailto@ipma-global.org](mailto:mailto@ipma-global.org)

