

MTB Grade 8 Contemporary Drums

Section One: Recital (80 marks)

Select **four** pieces from the following list (20 marks each)

As an alternative to the pieces below, candidates may perform up to 4 free choice pieces.
For guidance on selecting and approving free choice pieces please [click here](#)

Composer/Artist	Title	Book/Cat. Ref	Publisher/ Buy Here
Dream Theatre	Erotomania	cat. ref: 175140	sheetmusicdirect.com
Paul Simon (Steve Gadd)	Late in The Evening	cat. ref: 176311	sheetmusicdirect.com
Rush	Spirit of Radio	cat. ref: 443434	sheetmusicdirect.com
Jimi Hendrix (Mitch Mitchell)	Fire	cat. ref: 174632	sheetmusicdirect.com
Toto (Jeff Porcaro)	Rosanna	cat. ref: 378895	sheetmusicdirect.com
N/A	Funk Shuffle No.40	Graded solos for Drumkit Book 2	Woodsmoor Press
N/A	Afro Cuban Nanigo No.42	Graded solos for Drumkit Book 2	Woodsmoor Press
N/A	5/8 Rock No.47	Graded solos for Drumkit Book 2	Woodsmoor Press
N/A	7/8 Rock No.48	Graded solos for Drumkit Book 2	Woodsmoor Press

Section Two: Technical (20 marks)

Prepare the Technical Exercises below

Technical Option 1

Technical Exercises:

Perform all the technical exercises
required for this grade

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Technical Option 2

Technical Exercises:

Perform all the technical exercises
required for this grade

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Technical Exercises

Technical Exercise 1

Single Strokes in quarter notes, eighth note triplets, 16th notes, quintuplet 16th notes, sextuplet 16th notes, 32nd notes and double quintuplet 32nd notes. Five, seven and nine stroke rolls. Left handed players may wish to reverse the sticking patterns indicated. This is to be presented played to an audible click or metronome.

♩ = 70

Technical Exercise 1 consists of seven staves of drum notation, each starting with a half note (♩) equal to 70 BPM. The notation is as follows:

- Staff 1:** 4/4 time signature. Pattern: Quarter note (mp), Quarter note, Eighth note triplet (3) (mp), Eighth note triplet (3) (ff).
- Staff 2:** Pattern: Quarter note (mp), Quarter note, Eighth note triplet (3) (mp), Eighth note triplet (3) (ff).
- Staff 3:** Pattern: Quarter note (mp), Quarter note, Eighth note triplet (3) (mp), Eighth note triplet (3) (ff).
- Staff 4:** Pattern: Quarter note (mp), Quarter note, Eighth note triplet (3) (mp), Eighth note triplet (3) (ff).
- Staff 5:** Pattern: Quarter note (mp), Quarter note, Eighth note triplet (3) (mp), Eighth note triplet (3) (ff).
- Staff 6:** Pattern: Quarter note (mp), Quarter note, Eighth note triplet (3) (mp), Eighth note triplet (3) (ff).
- Staff 7:** Pattern: Quarter note (mp), Quarter note, Eighth note triplet (3) (mp), Eighth note triplet (3) (ff).

Option 1

Three staves of musical notation for Option 1. Each staff begins with a half note on the middle line (C4) marked *mp*. The first staff has a half note on the first space (E4) marked *ff*. The second staff has a half note on the second space (G4) marked *ff*. The third staff has a half note on the second space (G4) marked *ff*. Above the staves, foot patterns are indicated: R R L L R L L R R L R. Above the first staff, there are accents (>) over the R notes. Above the second staff, there are accents (>) over the L notes. Above the third staff, there is an accent (>) over the R note. A bracket connects the first two staves, and another bracket connects the second and third staves.

Technical Exercise 2

The first two bars are to be played as notated with the repeat, 4 bars in all. The notated ride cymbal is the bell of the cymbal, the snare is a rimshot, the small note in parentheses is a ghost snare. Following this, a 4 bar development in character with solo/fills and stylistic use of voices is to be given.

Musical notation for Technical Exercise 2. The first staff is in 9/8 time, marked with a tempo of 90 (♩ = 90). It contains a 4-bar development with a repeat sign at the beginning and a fill at the end. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The second staff is a single bar of notation, marked with a repeat sign at the beginning and a double bar line at the end.

Development of the groove, solo and fills.

Technical Exercise 3

This exercise is a study of the movement of rhythmic elements from Drum Kit to other percussion instruments, namely hand percussion or other stylistically appropriate mediums. The previous technical exercise in the grade, Technical Exercise 2, is to be held as a "Rhythmic template" for a developed percussion accompaniment/solo. The following notation serves as an indication of the primary elements in the pattern to be captured. However, this is only a basic indication and the full interpretation/development of the groove is the creative responsibility of the candidate. All repeats are to be played, 8 bars in total.

♩ = 90

Fill

Development of the groove, solo and fills.

Technical Exercises

Technical Exercise 1

Single Strokes in quarter notes, eighth note triplets, 16th notes, quintuplet 16th notes, sextuplet 16th notes, 32nd notes and double quintuplet 32nd notes. Five, seven and nine stroke rolls.

Left handed players may wish to reverse the sticking patterns indicated. This is to be presented played to an audible click or metronome.

♩ = 70

The exercise consists of seven staves, each representing a different rhythmic pattern. Each staff begins with a quarter note, followed by an eighth note triplet, then 16th notes, and finally a five-stroke roll. The notation includes dynamic markings (*mp* and *ff*), accents (>), and bracketed groups with numbers (3, 5, 6, 7, 5) indicating the number of strokes in the rolls. The time signature is 4/4.

Option 2

Three staves of musical notation for a drum exercise. Each staff starts with a half note on the first line (H) marked *mp*. The first staff has a 4-bar development with notes marked *R R L L*, *R*, *L L R R*, and *L*, with a '2' at the end. The second staff has notes marked *R R*, *L L*, *R R*, *L L*, and *R*. The third staff has notes marked *R R*, *L L*, *R R*, *L L*, and *R*. All staves end with a half note marked *ff*.

Technical Exercise 2

The first two bars are to be played as notated with the repeat, 4 bars in all. The notated ride cymbal is the bell of the cymbal, the snare is a rimshot, the small note in parentheses is a ghost snare. Following this, a 4 bar development in character with solo/fills and stylistic use of voices is to be given.

Musical notation for a 4-bar development in 9/8 time. The tempo is marked $\text{♩} = 90$. The notation includes a repeat sign, a 'Fill' label, and various rhythmic patterns including eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and a ghost snare note in parentheses.

Development of the groove, solo and fills.

Musical notation for a 4-bar development in 9/8 time, showing a groove, solo, and fills.

Technical Exercise 3

A development within the style and character of the notated groove is to be given for the repeat. A variety of fills should be presented. The solo is an opportunity to showcase a creative approach and this remains the responsibility of the candidate. The elements of fills and solo are to display individual stylistic awareness and expression.

$\text{♩} = 100$

Fill / solo

Solo on cymbals and hi hat whilst maintaining bass and snare as notated

Continue solo