



# RSL Guitar Exam Checklist

Warning, these exams are hard and require serious commitment

Task	Completed
Read entire exam book cover to cover and circle anything you don't understand, which we'll cover in lessons (you won't need to read about the songs you're not playing, but everything else yes)	
Download and store your audio tracks in an organised folder: You'll find the link and download code on page 4 in the Welcome to Rockscool Guitar section, 3 paragraphs from the bottom	You'll need your RSL account details to do this, any problems email me immediately, if I don't have them contact RSL.
Pick your 3 pieces based on what you like the most, then put them in a playlist (Spotify, apple music, etc) which you listen too regularly so you know what they sound like	
<p><b>Grade 1-5</b> watch first 13 videos on link </p> <p>Bookmark this and return to it if you forget stuff</p> <p><b>Grade 6-8</b> watch everything </p>	<p><a href="https://www.lukeaylwardmusician.co.uk/what-things-mean-in-music.html">https://www.lukeaylwardmusician.co.uk/what-things-mean-in-music.html</a></p> <p><b>Some of it you might not understand and that's fine if it's "not" included in your exam, grade 5-8 students will need to understand everything here</b></p>
Save and print this, and *use it*. Look for those symbols in the exam and apply their meaning	<a href="https://www.lukeaylwardmusician.co.uk/uploads/1/1/6/2/11624106/common-notes-and-symbols-in-music.pdf">https://www.lukeaylwardmusician.co.uk/uploads/1/1/6/2/11624106/common-notes-and-symbols-in-music.pdf</a>
<p>Start learning the entire technical section immediately and always use them as your warm up, no excuses!</p> <p><b>Grade 1-5</b> Scales, arpeggios (if applicable), chords, riff exercise</p> <p><b>Grade 6-8</b> Scales, arpeggios, chords, stylistic study</p>	
<p>Buy the RSL companion guide immediately, download the audio, and start practising:</p> <p><b>Grade 1-5</b></p> <p>Sight reading <b>or</b> Improvisation &amp; interpretation, and ear tests</p> <p>Don't memorise the sight reading tests, give yourself 90 seconds to prepare then play it w the backing track and do a different test the next day</p> <p><b>Grade 6-8</b></p> <p>Quick study and ear tests</p> <p>Don't memorise the quick study tests, give yourself 3 mins to prepare then play it w the track and do a different test the next day</p>	

Pick your first piece and write out the rhythm for every single bar	
Clap and count the entire piece until confident	
Then play and count the entire piece, if its easier P&C with the demo track slowed down to a comfortable speed	
Play track slowed down on YT at a speed where it is accurate 4 out of 5 times, gradually increase the speed by 5% (use a computer for this)	
Do the same thing with the 2nd piece, but continue practicing the first piece	
Do the same thing for your 3rd piece, keep practicing all 3 pieces very carefully not letting bad habits creep in, keep looking at the music regularly no matter how well you think you know it	
Read the page before each piece and study the bands/guitarists/artists the song is based on, read about the style and do the recommended listening (try to add techniques from that style to your solo)	
Read the walk through of each piece (the page after the piece), memories the amp settings and write them on the first page of the piece above the title, so you're not turning pages and wasting time	
Read the questions and answers at the back of the RSL companion guide for your grade. Then look at all 3 pieces and come up with your own questions they might ask you and answer them fast, google it, or ask me in the lesson	Pick a random note on the page and figure it out quickly, find a symbol or dynamic marking and ask yourself what it is, ask who is this style based on (band, guitarist). And ask other questions similar to the ones in the books. Mock test yourself regularly.
If the piece has more than 2 pages, print or photocopy all the following pages (3,4,5,6 etc), you DON'T wanna be turning pages in the middle of an exam!	
Obviously do this for all your pieces if needs be	
All technical exercises confident/accurate at <b>full speed</b> :  Scales, arps, & the chords played in a continuous sequence w metronome at the required speed  <b>1-5</b> Riff exercise w backing track <b>6-8</b> stylistic study w BT	
All 3 pieces confident at full speed (no recurring errors)	
Grade 6-8 internalise all 12 keys using the circle of fifths chart	<a href="https://www.lukeaylwardmusician.co.uk/uploads/1/1/6/2/11624106/notes_and_keys.pdf">https://www.lukeaylwardmusician.co.uk/uploads/1/1/6/2/11624106/notes_and_keys.pdf</a>
<b>Grade 2-5</b> memorise all notes on the fretboard up-to fret 12	<a href="https://www.lukeaylwardmusician.co.uk/graphics.html">https://www.lukeaylwardmusician.co.uk/graphics.html</a>
<b>Grade 6-8</b> memories all notes up-to fret 19, and read music notation up-to fret 12 (without tab)	<a href="https://amzn.to/3xMfHEX">https://amzn.to/3xMfHEX</a>

<p><b>Grade 6 - 8</b>  Regularly sight read treble clef music from other books/sources, violin books, guitar books, etc...</p> <p>5-6 X per week</p>	<p>These are serious professional level 3 qualifications equivalent to A levels, it's not a hobby and I will not do all the heavy lifting here.</p> <p>You must behave like a professional musician, do most of the work yourself outside of lessons, I'll correct anything you get wrong and teach you any *new* concepts, but I should not have to explain basics at this point.</p>
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I commit to doing all of the above tasks and following the exact instructions, and fully understand every missed task will have negative consequences, I take full responsibility for any low marks given due to ignoring instructions/tasks.

I also acknowledge there is a 3 strike rule for not putting in sufficient effort or sticking to the tasks we've agreed upon, resulting in the project being cancelled.

I understand there will be challenges, things I don't enjoy doing, days I don't feel like playing, but I will do it anyway.

I confirm that I DO have the time and the discipline to complete the assignment I have chosen to do, and I take full responsibility for MY decision

Name: ..... Date: .....

I understand this is a lot, don't get overwhelmed, don't do it all at once, go through the list and pick 1-3 task you definitely can tick off today. Some of these are short term tasks like the videos you could probably watch 1-2 per day depending on how complex the theory is, if it's very heavy just watch 1 video over and over until you do understand it, I don't expect you to watch all of them in 1 day. Other tasks will be long term and take months of grind.

Do: enjoy the process and get excited about learning new skills and theories, be very excited about the musician you'll become as it really will change you.

Don't: let these tasks stack up and then cram them into the last 4 weeks, that's incredibly irresponsible and may result in this mission being aborted.

Do: keep moving forward steadily at a good pace that is manageable, consistency is everything. Grade 1-3: 40 minutes a day 5-6 X per week for 3-6 months, Grade 4-7 an hour a day 5-6 days per week 6 months. NOT 5 hours a day 3 weeks before the exam.

Grade 8 students must practice 10-12 months minimum 1 hour per day 5-6 X per week.

You must have a solid system of practice, for example: I will practice in X place, X time, on X day. Anything less than that won't work.

Do: enjoy yourself, music is fun.