

Rockschool Acoustic Debut Grade Scale, Chord and Etude Review

From the worksheet/lessons looked at over the past few weeks you should now have learned all of the scales and chords required for the Rockscool Acoustic Debut Grade and feel comfortable playing them from memory. With the Half-Term break next week this is an excellent time to review and make sure you know all of them. If there are some that you don't feel confident in playing, spend some more time with them this week until you can play them from memory. Remember to take one chord or scale at a time and practise it slowly until you feel comfortable.

At this grade there are three scales you need to know and the most important thing is that you practise to play them in time with the correct fingers - In time means a note of the same length every beat and the correct fingers means that you should use the same finger number as the fret number: first fret/first finger, second fret/second finger and third fret/third finger. This does seem hard at first but it is well worth the effort to improve your instrumental technique and ease of playing melodies in the future.

In regard to chords, there are six you need to know at this grade and the the two Chord Etudes we have looked at over the last few weeks (Rockscool Acoustic Debut Grade Chord Etude and Chord Melody Etude) use all of these chords and are an excellent way to find out which chord shapes you need to spend a little bit more time on. Practise playing through them until you can smoothly go from one chord to the next in time.

Just like the scale practise with the correct fingers, this will prove extremely beneficial to you later on when we look at some more pieces and will greatly improve your instrumental technique.

Therefore the things you need to review for this grade and should feel comfortable with for after Half-Term are as follows:

Chords

- A D C G
- Am Em

Scales

- C Major Scale
- E Minor Pentatonic Scale
- A Minor Pentatonic Scale

Once you can play all of the scales and chords above smoothly and play through the Chord Etudes, look over some of the performance pieces we have done this year.