

Technical Requirements & Discussion Questions for Recorded Exams

The following list of requirements should be performed to make up the Technical Work and Discussion components of the exam.

Drum Kit: pp. 1-5
Snare Drum: pp. 6-10
Timpani: pp. 11-13
Tuned Percussion: 14-18

Further guidelines on specific requirements for each grade can be found in the LCME Percussion Repertoire List.

Drum kit

Grade 1

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook:

1. Single Stroke Roll
2. Double Stroke Roll
3. Paradiddles

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the mood of this piece?
- Identify (by pointing) all the names of the drums in the kit

Grade 2:

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook:

1. Single Stroke Roll
2. Double Stroke Roll
3. Paradiddles
4. Flams
5. Drags
6. Ruffs

7. Five Stroke Roll
8. Seven Stroke Roll
9. Nine Stroke Roll

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- How did the snare drum get its name? Name its components
- Explain the use of each part of the drum kit

Grade 3:

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

1. Single Strokes
2. Double Strokes
3. Paradiddles
4. Flams
5. Drags
6. Ruffs
7. Five Stroke Roll
8. Seven Stroke Roll
9. Nine Stroke Roll
10. Flam Tap
11. Double Paradiddle
12. Paradiddle Diddle

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- How would you describe the different moods of the pieces you chose to play today?
- Explain the use of each part of the drum kit

Grade 4

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

1. Single Strokes
2. Double Strokes
3. Paradiddles
4. Flams
5. Drags
6. Ruffs
7. Five Stroke Roll

8. Seven Stroke Roll
9. Nine Stroke Roll
10. Flam Accent
11. Flamacue
12. Flam Tap
13. Drag and Stroke
14. Double Drag and Stroke
15. Double Paradiddle
16. Paradiddle Diddle

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Which was the trickiest part of the piece to learn and why?
- Demonstrate what you know about two of these rhythmic styles: March, Latin, Shuffle, Rock and Swing

Grade 5

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

1. Single Strokes
2. Double Strokes
3. Paradiddles
4. Flams
5. Drags
6. Ruffs
7. Five Stroke Roll
8. Seven Stroke Roll
9. Nine Stroke Roll
10. Flam Accent
11. Flamacue
12. Flam Tap
13. Flam Paradiddles
14. Drag Paradiddles
15. Drag and Stroke
16. Double Drag and Stroke
17. Double Paradiddles
18. Paradiddle Diddle

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece, were there any particular difficulties you had to overcome? (musical or technical)
- What is the structure of this piece?

- Demonstrate what you know about two of these rhythmic styles: March, Latin, Shuffle, Rock and Swing

Grade 6

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

1. Single Strokes
2. Double Strokes
3. Paradiddles
4. Flams
5. Drags
6. Ruffs
7. Five Stroke Roll
8. Seven Stroke Roll
9. Nine Stroke Roll
10. Eleven Stroke Roll
11. Flam Accent
12. Flamacue
13. Flam Tap
14. Flam Paradiddles
15. Drag Paradiddles
16. Drag and Stroke
17. Double Drag and Stroke
18. Double Paradiddles
19. Paradiddle Diddle
20. Swiss Army Triplets

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- What is the structure of this piece?
- Tell me about the construction and use of one particular type of specialist drum kit.

Grade 7

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?

- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- What is the structure of this piece?
- Demonstrate what you know about two of these rhythmic styles: March, Latin, Shuffle, Rock and Swing
- Tell me about the construction and use of one particular type of specialist drum kit.

Grade 8

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

1. Single Strokes
2. Double Strokes
3. Paradiddles
4. Flams
5. Drags
6. Ruffs
7. Five Stroke Roll
8. Seven Stroke Roll
9. Nine Stroke Roll
10. Eleven Stroke Roll
11. Flam Accent
12. Flamacue
13. Flam Tap
14. Flam Paradiddles
15. Drag Paradiddles
16. Drag and Stroke
17. Double Drag and Stroke
18. Double Paradiddles
19. Paradiddle Diddle
20. Swiss Army Triplets

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- Have any certain styles or performers been influential in the development of your playing?
- What is the structure of this piece?
- Tell me about the history of the development of the drum kit

Snare Drum

Grade 1

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook:

- Single Stroke Roll
- Double Stroke Roll
- Paradiddles

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- What is the style of the piece you have chosen?
- Identify (by pointing) all the key parts of the snare drum

Grade 2:

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook:

- 1. Single Stroke Roll
- 2. Double Stroke Roll
- 3. Paradiddles
- 4. Flams
- 5. Drags
- 6. Ruffs
- 7. Five Stroke Roll
- 8. Seven Stroke Roll
- 9. Nine Stroke Roll

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Describe the note values in the first bar of your piece.
- Identify (by pointing) all the key parts of the snare drum. How did it get its name?

Grade 3:

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

- Single Strokes
- Paradiddles
- Drags
- Ruffs
- Five Stroke Roll
- Nine Stroke Roll
- Flam Accent
- Flamacue
- Flam Tap

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Explain the time signatures used in your 3 pieces.
- What do you know about the history of the snare drum?

Grade 4

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

- Double Strokes
- Paradiddles
- Drags
- Ruffs
- Seven Stroke Roll
- Nine Stroke Roll
- Flam Accent
- Flamacue
- Drag and Stroke
- Double Drag and Stroke
- Double Paradiddle
- Paradiddle Diddle

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Which was the trickiest part of the piece to learn and why?
- Talk me through each component of the snare drum and the materials that can be used to make them. What do you know about the history of the instrument?

Grade 5

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

- Single Strokes
- Double Strokes
- Paradiddles
- Drags
- Ruffs
- Five Stroke Roll
- Seven Stroke Roll
- Flam Accent
- Flamacue
- Flam Tap
- Drag Paradiddles
- Double Drag and Stroke
- Double Paradiddle
- Paradiddle Diddle

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning the piece - were there any particular difficulties you had to overcome? (musical or technical)
- Talk me through each component of the snare drum and the materials that can be used to make them. What are the different drum sizes?
- What do you know about the history of the instrument?

Grade 6

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

- Single Strokes
- Paradiddles
- Flams
- Drags
- Ruffs
- Five Stroke Roll
- Seven Stroke Roll
- Eleven Stroke Roll
- Swiss Army Triplets
- Flam Accent
- Flamacue
- Flam Paradiddles
- Drag Paradiddles
- Drag and Stroke

- Double Paradiddles
- Paradiddle Diddle

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- What is the structure of this piece?
- Talk me through each component of the snare drum and the materials that can be used to make them. What are the different drum sizes?
- What do you know about the history of the instrument?

Grade 7

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

- Single Strokes
- Paradiddles
- Flams
- Drags
- Ruffs
- Five Stroke Roll
- Seven Stroke Roll
- Eleven Stroke Roll
- Thirteen Stroke Roll
- Flam Accent
- Flamacue
- Flam Paradiddles
- Drag Paradiddles
- Drag and Stroke
- Double Paradiddles
- Paradiddle Diddle
- Swiss Army Triplets

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- Tell me about the period of music that one of your pieces originally came from.
- Talk me through each component of the snare drum and the materials that can be used to make them. What are the different drum sizes?

- What do you know about the history of the instrument?

Grade 8

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

- Single Strokes
- Double Strokes
- Flams
- Drags
- Ruffs
- Five Stroke Roll
- Seven Stroke Roll
- Eleven Stroke Roll
- 17 Stroke Roll
- Flam Accent
- Flamacue
- Flam Tap
- Drag Paradiddles
- Drag and Stroke
- Double Paradiddles
- Paradiddle Diddle
- Swiss Army Triplets

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- What is the structure of this piece?
- Talk me through each component of the snare drum and the materials that can be used to make them. What are the different drum sizes?
- Tell me about the history and the development of the snare drum
- Name examples of military and orchestral pieces that feature the snare drum prominently

Timpani

Grade 1

Technical Requirements

- Without using gauges, tune the higher drum to a 'D' from a given 'D' (either from a tuned instrument or a tuning fork)

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Describe one of the note values used in the first bar of this piece
- Identify (by pointing) all the key parts of the timpani

Grade 2:

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook:

- Without using gauges, tune the higher drum to a 'D' and the lower drum to an 'A'. The pitches may be given.

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Describe one of the note values used in the first bar of this piece
- Identify (by pointing) all the key parts of the timpani

Grade 3:

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

- Without using gauges, tune the lower drum to an 'A' and the higher drum to a perfect 5 above. Only the 'A' may be audible in the exam room.

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Explain the time signatures used in your 3 pieces.
- Identify (by pointing) each part of the timpani

Grade 4

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

- Without using gauges, tune the lower drum to an 'A' and the higher drum to a major 3rd above. Only the 'A' may be audible in the exam room.

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Which was the trickiest part of the piece to learn and why?
- Explain any musical terms or dynamics on the first page of the piece

Grade 5

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

- Without using gauges, tune the lower drum to an 'A' and the higher drum to a minor 3rd above. Only the 'A' may be audible in the exam room.

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning the piece - were there any particular difficulties you had to overcome? (musical or technical)
- What is the structure of the piece?
- Explain any musical terms or dynamics on the first page of the piece

Grade 6

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

- Without using gauges, tune the lower drum to an 'A' and the higher drum to the Eb above. Only an 'A' may be audible in the exam room, which may be sounded up to 3 times.

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- What is the structure of this piece?

- Explain the different components of the timpani, what they can be made from and the standard drum sizes.

Grade 7

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

- Without using gauges, tune the lower drum to a 'G#' and the higher drum to the D# above. Only an 'A' may be audible in the exam room, which may be sounded up to 3 times.

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- Discuss your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- Explain the history of the timpani
- Talk through the different components of the timpani, materials they are made from (including alternative materials) and standard drum sizes.

Grade 8

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

- Without using gauges, tune the lower drum to a 'G' and the higher drum to the Eb above. Only an 'A' may be audible in the exam room, which may be sounded up to 3 times.

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- Give examples of two orchestral pieces where timpani feature prominently
- Tell me about the history and the development of timpani
- Talk through the different components of the timpani, materials they are made from (including alternative materials) and standard drum sizes.

Tuned Percussion

Grade 1

Technical Requirements

Scales

C Major

F Major

D Minor

Arpeggios

F Major

A Minor

D Minor

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Describe one of the note values in the first bar of this piece
- Identify (by pointing) all the key parts of your instrument

Grade 2:

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook:

Scales

G Major

E Harmonic Minor

E Melodic Minor

Arpeggios

D Major

E Minor

B Minor

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Describe one of the note values in the first bar of this piece
- Identify (by pointing) all the key parts of your instrument

Grade 3:

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

Scales

Bb Major

A Major

F# Harmonic Minor

C Harmonic Minor

G Melodic Minor

Chromatic on C

Arpeggios

Eb Major

C Minor

G Minor

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Explain the time signatures used in your 3 pieces.
- Identify (by pointing) each part of your instrument

Grade 4

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

Scales

Ab major

E major

C# harmonic minor

F harmonic minor

C melodic minor

Chromatic on F#

Arpeggios

E major

C# minor

F# minor

Broken Scales

Broken 3rds in A minor

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Were there any rhythmical or technical challenges when you were learning any of your pieces?
- Which was the trickiest part of the pieces to learn and why?
- Explain any musical terms or dynamics on the first page of the piece

Grade 5

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

Scales

B major

Db major

G# harmonic minor

Eb harmonic minor

C# melodic minor

Chromatic on A

Contrary Motion Chromatic on C

Arpeggios

B major

Bb minor

Broken Scales

Broken 3rds in D major

Broken 3rds in B minor

Broken Octaves in

Eb major

Broken Octaves in C# minor

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning the piece - were there any particular difficulties you had to overcome? (musical or technical)
- What is the structure of the piece?
- Explain any musical terms or dynamics on the first page of the piece

Grade 6

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

Scales

C major

E harmonic minor

A harmonic minor

Bb melodic minor

Chromatic on Eb

Contrary Motion Chromatic on F#

Arpeggios

G major

A minor

E minor

Broken Scales

Broken 3rds in A major

Broken 3rds in F# minor

Broken Octaves in

Ab major

Broken Octaves in G# minor

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- Discuss any technical, rhythmical or musical challenges to learning the piece
- Identify one prominent cadence or modulation from one of your pieces

Grade 7

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

Scales

C major

Db major

E harmonic minor

G harmonic minor

Bb melodic minor

Chromatic on D

Contrary Motion Chromatic on A

Arpeggios

C major

D major

F minor

Bb minor

Dominant 7th in the key of G

Diminished 7th on B

Broken Scales

Broken 3rds in Eb major

Broken 3rds in C# minor

Broken Octaves in Db major

Broken Octaves in Bb minor

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- Discuss any technical, rhythmical or musical challenges you faced when learning your pieces
- What is the form of the piece?
- Identify one prominent cadence or modulation from one of your pieces

Grade 8

Technical Requirements

To be played from memory, as shown in the handbook

Scales

C major

F# major

Ab major

C# harmonic minor

G# harmonic minor

C melodic minor

Contrary Motion Chromatic on Eb

Arpeggios

D major

B major

E minor

C# minor

Eb minor

Dominant 7th in the key of Bb

Diminished 7th on G

Broken Scales

Broken 3rds in Eb major

Broken 3rds in C# minor

Broken Octaves in

Db major

Broken Octaves in Bb minor

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the performance section:

- Which of the pieces you played today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to play? If so, why?
- What is the musical style of this piece and which musical era was it written in?
- Tell me about your approach to learning this piece such as use of certain techniques and aspects of interpretation.
- Describe the use of tuned percussion in three contrasting orchestral pieces where it features prominently
- Discuss the history and the development of tuned percussion
- Identify one prominent cadence or modulation from one of your pieces