

# CLASSICAL GUITAR



2022 Syllabus  
GRADED CERTIFICATES  
Debut – Grade 8

**RSL CLASSICAL**

## Welcome to the RSL Awards 2022 syllabus for Classical Guitar – Graded Certificates Guidance

This guide is a supplement to the main syllabus specification, and is designed to give teachers, learners and candidates guidance on preparing for their graded certificate examination.

### This guide covers the following qualifications:

- Graded certificates: Debut to Grade 8

For more information about other types of classical guitar examination, please download the main classical guitar syllabus guide from [www.rslawards.com](http://www.rslawards.com).

### Period of operation

This syllabus specification covers graded qualifications in Classical Guitar from 2022.

## GRADED CERTIFICATES | GENERAL GUIDANCE

For a graded certificate, candidates must perform

- Three performance pieces
- The contents of the technical exercises sections as detailed in this document

### Technical Exercise submission list

- All groups are played unaccompanied (without metronome or click).
- Candidates will be marked on tone quality and consistency, maintenance of pulse, and accuracy. Performances slower than the stated minimum tempo may not be able to achieve the full range of marks.

At each grade candidates should choose **one** technical study to perform.

## GRADED CERTIFICATES | GRADING CRITERIA

The grading criteria for RSL Classical Guitar Graded Certificates can be downloaded here:

[www.rslawards.com/graded-music-exams/recorded-digital-exams/](http://www.rslawards.com/graded-music-exams/recorded-digital-exams/)

## DEBUT

### Graded Certificate | Technical List

Candidates are to perform **all** of the following:

#### Group A: Scales

Scale	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
C major, A minor	Tonic up to 5th, back to Tonic	♩ = 70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i> or <i>apoyando</i> (candidate choice)</li><li>▪ fingers only</li></ul>
G major pentatonic	1 octave	♩ = 70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i> or <i>apoyando</i> (candidate choice)</li><li>▪ fingers only</li></ul>

#### Group B: Technical Studies

Candidates are to perform **their choice** of **one** of the three technical studies given in the grade book.

## GRADE 1

### Group A: Scales & Double-Stopped Exercise

Candidates are to perform **all** of the following:

Scale	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major scales</b>			
G, F, C major	1 octave	♩ = 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i> or <i>apoyando</i> (candidate choice)</li><li>▪ fingers only</li></ul>
<b>Minor scales</b>			
A minor, E minor <i>Natural or harmonic minor (candidate choice)</i>	1 octave	♩ = 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb only</li></ul>
<b>Double-Stopped Exercise</b>			
G major Double-Stopped Exercise	<i>As shown in grade book</i>	♩ = 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb and fingers</li></ul>

### Group B: Arpeggios

Candidates are to perform **all** of the following, in even crotchets. Over-ringing of notes is acceptable at this grade.

Scale	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major arpeggios</b>			
G major	1 octave	♩ = 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ fingers only</li></ul>
F major	1 octave	♩ = 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb only</li></ul>
<b>Minor arpeggios</b>			
E minor	1 octave	♩ = 100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb and fingers</li></ul>

### Group C: Technical Study

Candidates are to perform **their choice** of **one** of the three technical studies given in the grade book.

## GRADE 2

### Group A: Scales & Double-Stopped Exercise

Candidates are to perform **all** of the following:

Scale	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major scales</b>			
D major	Root to the 12th	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i> or <i>apoyando</i> (candidate choice)</li><li>▪ fingers only</li></ul>
C major	1 octave	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb only</li></ul>
<b>Minor scales</b>			
D harmonic minor	1 octave	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i> or <i>apoyando</i> (candidate choice)</li><li>▪ fingers only</li></ul>
<b>B minor:</b> <i>Natural or harmonic minor (candidate's choice)</i>	1 octave	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb only</li></ul>
<b>Chromatic scale</b>			
Chromatic scale starting on A	1 octave	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb only</li></ul>
<b>Double-stopped exercise</b>			
G minor double-stopped exercise	1 octave	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb and fingers</li></ul>

### Group B: Arpeggios

Candidates are to prepare **all** of the following, in even quavers. Over-ringing of notes is acceptable at this grade.

Scale	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major arpeggios</b>			
D major	Root to the 12th	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb and fingers</li></ul>
C major	1 octave	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb and fingers</li></ul>
<b>Minor arpeggios</b>			
D minor	1 octave	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb and fingers</li></ul>

### Group C: Technical Study

Candidates are to perform **their choice** of **one** of the three technical studies given in the grade book.

## GRADE 3

### Group A: Scales & Double-Stopped Exercise

Candidates are to perform **all** of the following:

Scale	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major scales</b>			
C major	1 octave	♩ = 65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i> or <i>apoyando</i> (candidate choice)</li> <li>▪ fingers only</li> </ul>
G major	2 octaves	♩ = 65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> </ul>
<b>Minor scales</b>			
E harmonic minor	2 octaves	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> </ul>
B harmonic minor B natural minor	2 octaves	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i> or <i>apoyando</i> (candidate choice)</li> <li>▪ fingers only</li> </ul>
<b>Chromatic scale</b>			
Chromatic scale starting on D	1 octave	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i> or <i>apoyando</i> (candidate choice)</li> <li>▪ fingers only</li> </ul>
<b>Double-stopped exercises</b>			
A minor double-stopped exercise in 3rds	As shown in grade book	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> </ul>
C major double-stopped exercise in 6ths	As shown in grade book	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> </ul>

### Group B: Arpeggios & Broken Chords

Candidates are to perform all of the following, in even quavers. The arpeggios should be performed in even quavers, without over-ringing. Broken chords must be played as shown in the grade book, with over-ringing of notes.

Arpeggio	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major &amp; minor arpeggios</b>			
G major E, B minor	2 octaves	♩ = 65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> </ul>
<b>Broken Chords</b>			
Broken chords in the key of D major (II <sup>m</sup> , V <sup>7</sup> , I), <i>tirando</i> , thumb and fingers	As shown in grade book	♩ = 130	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> </ul>

### Group C: Technical Study

Candidates are to perform **their** choice of **one** of the three technical studies given in the grade book.

## GRADE 4

### Group A: Scales

Candidates are to perform **all** of the following:

Scale	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major scales</b>			
D, A major	2 octaves	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i> or <i>apoyando</i> (candidate choice)</li><li>▪ fingers only</li></ul>
<b>Minor scales</b>			
F# harmonic minor	2 octaves	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb and fingers</li></ul>
C melodic minor	2 octaves	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i> or <i>apoyando</i> (candidate choice)</li><li>▪ fingers only</li></ul>
<b>Chromatic scales</b>			
Chromatic scale starting on E	2 octaves	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb and fingers</li></ul>
<b>Harmonised Scale</b>			
F major in 6ths	1 octave	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb and fingers</li></ul>

### Group B: Arpeggios & Broken Chords

Candidates are to perform **all** of the following, in even quavers. The arpeggios should be performed in even quavers, without over-ringing. Broken chords must be played as shown in the grade book, with over-ringing of notes.

Arpeggio / Broken Chord	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major &amp; minor arpeggios</b>			
D major F# minor, B minor	2 octaves	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb and fingers</li></ul>
<b>Dominant 7 arpeggios</b>			
D dominant 7th	2 octaves	♩ = 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb and fingers</li></ul>
<b>Broken Chords</b>			
Broken chords in the key of C major (I, V7, I)		♩ = 160	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li><li>▪ thumb and fingers</li></ul>

### Group C: Technical Study

Candidates are to perform **their** choice of **one** of the three technical studies given in the grade book.

## GRADE 5

### Group A: Scales

Candidates are to perform **all** of the following:

Scale	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major scales</b>			
E, B $\flat$ major	2 octaves	$\text{♩} = 96$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One scale must be performed <i>apoyando</i></li><li>The other scale must be performed <i>tirando</i></li><li>fingers only</li></ul>
<b>Minor scales</b>			
C harmonic minor	2 octaves	$\text{♩} = 96$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One scale must be performed <i>apoyando</i></li><li>The other scale must be performed <i>tirando</i></li><li>fingers only</li></ul>
G melodic minor			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>fingers only</li></ul>
<b>Chromatic scales</b>			
Starting on A	2 octaves	$\text{♩} = 96$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>tirando</i></li><li>fingers only</li></ul>
<b>Harmonised scales</b>			
C major in 6ths	As shown in grade book	$\text{♩} = 96$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>tirando</i></li><li>thumb and fingers</li></ul>
A harmonic minor in 6ths			
G major in 10ths			

### Group B: Arpeggios & Broken Chords

Candidates are to perform **all** of the following, in even quavers. The arpeggios should be performed in even quavers, without over-ringing. Broken chords must be played as shown in the grade book, with over-ringing of notes.

Arpeggio	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major &amp; minor arpeggios</b>			
E, B $\flat$ major	2 octaves	$\text{♩} = 96$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>tirando</i></li><li>thumb and fingers</li></ul>
C, G minor	2 octaves	$\text{♩} = 96$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>tirando</i></li><li>thumb and fingers</li></ul>
<b>Broken Chords</b>			
Broken chords in the key of E minor	as shown in grade book	$\text{♩} = 96$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>tirando</i></li><li>thumb and fingers</li></ul>
G major broken chords	as shown in grade book	$\text{♩} = 96$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>tirando</i></li><li>thumb and fingers</li></ul>

### Group C: Technical Study

Candidates are to perform **their** choice of **one** of the three technical studies given in the grade book.



## GRADE 6

### Group A: Scales

Candidates are to perform **all** of the following:

Scale	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major &amp; minor scales</b>			
A <sup>b</sup> , E <sup>b</sup> major	2 octaves	♩ = 112	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>fingers only</li><li>Three of the scales must be performed <i>apoyando</i></li><li>Three of the scales must be performed <i>tirando</i></li></ul>
C <sup>#</sup> , G <sup>#</sup> harmonic minor C <sup>#</sup> , G <sup>#</sup> melodic minor	2 octaves	♩ = 112	
<b>Chromatic scale</b>			
Chromatic scale starting on C	2 octaves	♩ = 112	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>tirando</i> or <i>apoyando</i> (candidate choice)</li><li>fingers only</li></ul>
<b>Harmonised Scales</b>			
D major in 3rds F major in octaves E harmonic minor in 6ths	1 octave	♩ = 112	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>tirando</i></li><li>thumb and fingers</li></ul>

### Group B: Arpeggios & Broken Chords

Candidates are to perform all of the following, in even quavers. The arpeggios should be performed in even quavers, without over-ringing. Broken chords must be played as shown in the grade book, with over-ringing of notes.

Arpeggios & Broken Chords	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major &amp; minor arpeggios</b>			
A <sup>b</sup> , E <sup>b</sup> major	2 octaves	♩ = 112	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>tirando</i></li><li>thumb and fingers</li></ul>
C <sup>#</sup> minor, G <sup>#</sup> minor	2 octaves	♩ = 112	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>tirando</i></li><li>thumb and fingers</li></ul>
<b>Dominant seventh arpeggio</b>			
B <sup>b</sup> dominant seventh arpeggio	2 octaves	♩ = 112	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>tirando</i></li><li>thumb and fingers</li></ul>
<b>Broken Chords</b>			
Exercise 1: E minor Exercise 2: A major	As shown in grade book	♩ = 112	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>tirando</i></li><li>thumb and fingers</li></ul>

### Group C: Technical Study

Candidates are to perform **their choice** of **one** of the three technical studies given in the grade book.

## GRADE 7

### Group A: Scales

Candidates are to perform all of the following:

Scale	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Major scales</b>			
Major scale, root 6, in the keys of G, A <sup>b</sup> , A, B <sup>b</sup> and B major	2 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ fingers only</li> <li>▪ Five of the scales must be performed <i>apoyando</i></li> <li>▪ Five of the scales must be performed <i>tirando</i></li> </ul>
Major scale, root 5, in the keys of C, D <sup>b</sup> , D, E <sup>b</sup> and E major	2 octaves	♩ = 144	
G major scale	3 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ fingers only</li> </ul>
<b>Minor scales</b>			
Harmonic OR melodic minor scales, root 6, in the keys of G, A <sup>b</sup> , A, B <sup>b</sup> and B minor	2 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ fingers only</li> <li>▪ Five of the scales must be performed <i>apoyando</i></li> <li>▪ Five of the scales must be performed <i>tirando</i></li> </ul>
Harmonic OR melodic minor scales, root 5, in the keys of C, C <sup>#</sup> /D <sup>b</sup> , D, D <sup>#</sup> /E <sup>b</sup> and E minor	2 octaves	♩ = 144	
G harmonic minor scale G melodic minor scale	3 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of the scales must be performed <i>apoyando</i></li> <li>▪ The other scale must be performed <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ fingers only</li> </ul>
<b>Chromatic scale</b>			
Starting on E	3 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i> or <i>apoyando</i> (examiner choice – candidates must prepare for both technical requirements)</li> <li>▪ fingers only</li> </ul>

## Group B: Arpeggios & Broken Chords

Candidates are to perform all of the following, in even quavers. The arpeggios should be performed in even quavers, without over-ringing. Broken chords must be played as shown in the grade book, with over-ringing of notes.

Arpeggio	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Two-octave major &amp; minor arpeggios</b>			
Root 6 Starting notes: G, G#/A <sup>b</sup> , A, A#/B <sup>b</sup> , B	2 octaves	♩ = 126	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> </ul>
Root 5th Starting notes: C, C#/D <sup>b</sup> , D, D#/E <sup>b</sup> , E			
<b>Three-octave major &amp; minor arpeggios</b>			
Root 6th Starting on G	3 octaves	♩ = 126	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> </ul>
<b>Two-octave diminished 7th &amp; dominant 7th arpeggios</b>			
Root 6th Starting notes: G, G#/A <sup>b</sup> , A, A#/B <sup>b</sup> , B	2 octaves	♩ = 126	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> <li>▪ For each starting note, candidates can perform one arpeggio type (diminished or dominant 7)</li> </ul>
Root 5th Starting notes: C, C#/D <sup>b</sup> , D, D#/E <sup>b</sup> , E			
<b>Broken Chords</b>			
Exercise 1 in D major  Exercise 2 in A minor	As shown in grade book	♩ = 126	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> </ul>

## Group C: Technical Study

Candidates are to perform **their choice** of **one** of the three technical studies given in the grade book.

## GRADE 8

### Group A: Scales

Candidates are to perform all of the following:

Scale	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Two-octave major scales</b>			
Major scale, root 6th, in the keys of F#–B (chromatically)	2 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ fingers only</li> <li>▪ Six of the scales must be performed <i>apoyando</i></li> <li>▪ Six of the scales must be performed <i>tirando</i></li> </ul>
Major scale, root 5th, in the keys of B–E (chromatically)	2 octaves	♩ = 144	
<b>Three-octave major scale</b>			
E major scale	3 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ fingers only</li> </ul>
<b>Two-octave minor scales</b>			
Harmonic minor OR melodic minor scales, root 6th, in the keys of F#–B (chromatically)	2 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ fingers only</li> <li>▪ Candidates can choose to play <b>either</b> a harmonic <b>or</b> melodic minor scale for each starting note</li> <li>▪ Six of the scales must be performed <i>apoyando</i></li> <li>▪ Six of the scales must be performed <i>tirando</i></li> </ul>
Harmonic OR melodic minor scales, root 5th, in the keys of B–E (chromatically)	2 octaves	♩ = 144	
<b>Three-octave minor scales</b>			
E harmonic minor scale E melodic minor scale	3 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of the scales must be performed <i>apoyando</i></li> <li>▪ The other scale must be performed <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ fingers only</li> </ul>
<b>Chromatic scale</b>			
Starting on G	3 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ fingers only</li> </ul>

## Group B: Arpeggios & Broken Chords

Candidates are to perform all of the following, in even quavers. The arpeggios should be performed in even quavers, without over-ringing. Broken chords must be played as shown in the grade book, with over-ringing of notes.

Arpeggio	Range	Tempo	Fingering requirements
<b>Two-octave major &amp; minor arpeggios</b>			
Major OR minor arpeggio, root 6th, in the keys of F#-B (chromatically)	2 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> <li>▪ Candidates can choose <b>either</b> a major <b>or</b> minor arpeggio for each starting note</li> </ul>
Major OR minor arpeggio, root 5th, in the keys of B-E (chromatically)	2 octaves	♩ = 144	
<b>Three-octave major &amp; minor arpeggios</b>			
Major OR minor arpeggio, root 6th, from the starting notes of E-G (chromatically)	3 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> <li>▪ Candidates can choose <b>either</b> a major <b>or</b> minor arpeggio for each starting note</li> </ul>
	3 octaves	♩ = 144	
<b>Two-octave Dominant 7 &amp; Diminished 7 arpeggios</b>			
Dominant 7 OR diminished 7 arpeggio, root 6th, starting notes of F#-B (chromatically)	2 octaves	♩ = 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> <li>▪ Candidates can choose <b>either</b> a diminished 7 <b>or</b> dominant 7 arpeggio for each starting note</li> </ul>
Dominant 7 OR diminished 7 arpeggio, root 5th, starting notes of B-E (chromatically)	2 octaves	♩ = 144	
<b>Broken Chords</b>			
Exercise 1: A minor	As shown in grade book	♩ = 70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>tirando</i></li> <li>▪ thumb and fingers</li> </ul>
Exercise 2: A minor			

## Group C: Technical Study

Candidates are to perform **their choice** of **one** of the three technical studies given in the grade book.

## REVISION HISTORY

**15th September 2020**

No revisions.