

ROCK
& **POP**

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON

ROCK
& **POP**

**INNOVATIVE QUALIFICATIONS
FOR ROCK & POP MUSICIANS**

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INTRODUCING OUR ROCK & POP MUSIC QUALIFICATIONS

Performance is at the core of these innovative Rock & Pop qualifications from Trinity College London – reflecting the way rock and pop musicians learn today. Whether they are self-taught or taking lessons, learning for fun or heading for a career in the music industry, these exams will help musicians develop valuable playing skills and achieve their musical ambitions.

With graded song lists spanning a range of artists from the Rolling Stones, David Bowie, the Kinks and Joni Mitchell through to Radiohead, Kings of Leon, Green Day and Jessie J, students can learn and have their achievements recognised while playing the music they love.

Songs have been selected to demonstrate specific technical skills, such as tremolando picking for guitar in 'Knights Of Cydonia' by Muse and R&B vocal techniques in Rihanna's smash hit 'Umbrella'.

Performance-based Group exams are available for bands at three levels: Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced. Bands can have anything from two members to the full line-up of bass, drums, guitar, keyboards and vocals.

Rock & Pop key facts:

- ✔ Graded exams for Initial (beginner's level) to Grade 8 (advanced) for Bass, Drums, Guitar, Keyboards and Vocals
- ✔ Exams that encourage individuality and creativity through options to include original tracks and to perform self-accompanied
- ✔ Group exams at Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced levels
- ✔ An extensive range of musical styles and well-known songs, ranging from the classics to recent releases
- ✔ Graded songbooks with demo and backing tracks, performance notes, and guidance on technique and Session Skills
- ✔ Online shop with additional song lists available as sheet music and audio tracks
- ✔ Teaching and learning support available online including tips, blogs and videos

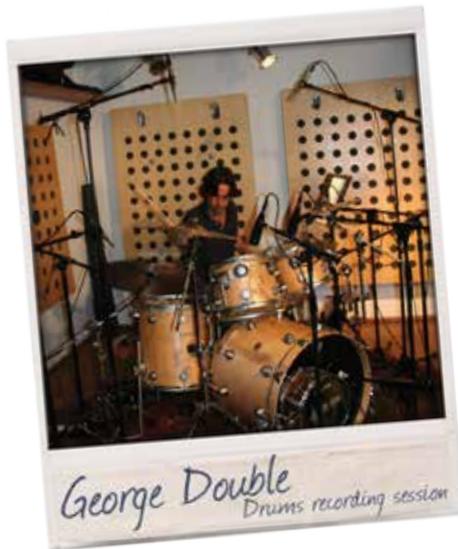
THE MUSIC

A full set of songbooks is available for all grades (Initial-Grade 8). Each book includes six fantastic songs along with professionally recorded backing and demo tracks, helpful background notes and performance hints and tips.

A selection of additional songs are available as download bundles from the online shop, including the sheet music, and backing and demo tracks as MP3 files. New songs will be released regularly and will include a range of exciting artists.

Each book also includes information about the two Session Skills which students choose from to complete in their exam – Improvising and Playback.

The books also include useful advice on choosing songs for the exam, writing original songs, copyright in songs, playing along to the backing and demo tracks and playing in a band.



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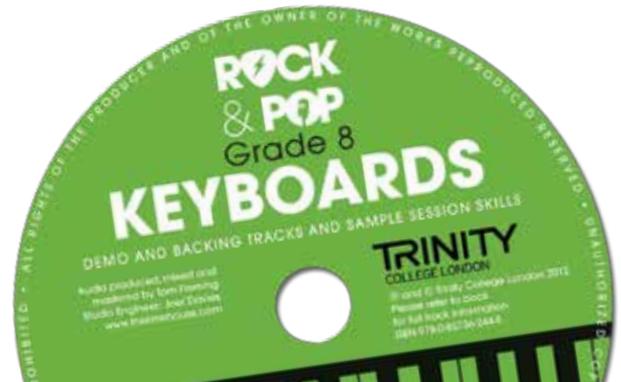
From Initial to Grade 5 at least one group song is included so students can get together with friends to play in a band; at Grade 2 they can jam a Blind Lemon Jefferson track and at Grade 4 they can play David Bowie's 'Heroes'. These songs can be used in the Group exams at Foundation and Intermediate levels.



Backing & demo tracks

Each songbook includes a CD with professionally recorded backing and demo tracks. A team of highly experienced musicians worked on the recordings, so students can listen to the songs being demonstrated by professionals. The backing tracks provide an authentic playing experience and make practising fun.

The tracks were recorded at The Limehouse Studios in London and mixed and mastered by music producer, session musician and performing guitarist Tom Fleming.



ABOUT THE SONGS

HEROES

David Bowie

'Heroes' - the title track from David Bowie's electronic-influenced album *Heroes* (1977) - was a worldwide hit. Bowie was hugely influential during his peak in the 1970s - effortlessly cool and with an ever-changing image, he achieved cult status, redefining himself of every turn.

During the late 1970s, Bowie lived in Berlin and worked with ex-Baby Music member Brian Eno. They experimented with electronic music, producing innovative songs. The synthesizer sounds on this album influenced a whole new generation of bands, including Human League and Gary Numan.

The mood of 'Heroes' is simultaneously both romantic and mournful. It uses quite a lot of stepwise movement and is based mainly around three chords, so it's quite easy to play. But the song's made up of short, separate phrases: the challenge is always to come in at the right time and to sing these short phrases musically.

The third verse of this song has a different character to the first two verses, bringing out the contrast between this verse and the earlier part of the song.

This song is also in the guitar, keyboards and bass books, so you can get together and play it in a band.



'I wish I could swim like the dolphins'

34 VOCALS GRADE 4

www.trinityrock.com

TECHNICAL FOCUS SONGS

BAND OPTION HEROES



demo backing

Words by David Bowie • Music by David Bowie and Brian Eno

$\text{♩} = 112$ Rock

D

G⁷

D

G⁷

9 (29) *mf*

1. | I wish I could swim, —
2. | I will be king. —

mf

Sample pages from the
Grade 4 Vocals songbook

22 VOCALS GRADE 4

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ROCK
& POP

THE EXAM AT A GLANCE

Rock & Pop exams from Trinity College London have been designed to reflect the way rock and pop musicians learn today, with an emphasis on performance, individuality and creativity. Students will progressively develop important musical skills including improvising and playback as well as songwriting skills and the ability to play with other musicians.

Students will perform a set of three songs in their exam, and complete one Session Skills assessment – either Improvising or Playback. The order of the set list is up to the student and songs can be chosen from the books or from the additional song lists on the website. One song can be an original track, or it can be the student's own cover version of a song. This song can be performed unaccompanied, self-accompanied or with a backing track which could be the student's own creation. This option allows the candidate to demonstrate their individual musical identity in the exam.

The third song is chosen from one of the Technical Focus songs for the grade. These songs include three specific technical skills which students will demonstrate through performing the song. Higher marks are available for this song to reflect this. Guidance on the preparation of these technical skills is included in the books, and demo videos are available online.

Component		Pass mark	Maximum mark
Song 1	Choose a song from the Rock & Pop songbook or from www.trinityrock.com/downloads .	15	25
Song 2	Choose a different song from the Rock & Pop songbook or from www.trinityrock.com/downloads or perform an original song or cover version of a song at the same level as the songs in the Rock & Pop songbook.	15	25
Song 3	Choose one of the Technical Focus songs from the Rock & Pop songbook, which cover three specific technical elements.	18	30
Session Skills	Choose either Playback or Improvising.	12	20
Total		60	100

THE SESSION SKILLS

Students will choose to complete one of two Session Skills in their exam – Improvising or Playback – two essential skills for rock and pop musicians. By developing these skills students will equip themselves with the tricks of the trade to help them in their careers.

Improvising

Students will improvise over a chord progression played on a backing track in their exam. They will be given a previously unseen song chart with the chord symbols and song style. These progress up through the grades and include blues, ballad, rock, reggae and more.

Playback

Students will perform a previously unseen song, presented as both a song chart and as an audio recording in their exam. They may use both resources – either by listening to the audio to repeat what they hear, sight-reading it from the song chart or both. This reflects the way rock and pop musicians work in many situations, particularly session musicians.

Guidance on both Session Skills options is in the songbooks, including practice samples in notation and on CD.





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Rock & Pop Bass exams develop important playing skills beginning with basic positions, picking and damping techniques, and moving on to instrumental techniques such as slapped and pulled notes, bends and slides, tapping techniques and harmonics. Session Skills will help to develop improvisation and playback skills – both important for bass guitarists.

Students play three songs and complete one of the two Session Skills. There are also options to include an original song, and to perform unaccompanied or with a backing track of their own creation, so students can make the exam their own and show off their individual talent.

Each exam is supported by a book with songs in both tab and staff notation, a CD with demo and backing tracks, performance notes, and guidance on technical skills and Session Skills.

Songs have been carefully chosen to help students develop specific skills such as slapping and popping and articulation in 'Ashes to Ashes' by David Bowie or grace note slides in 'YYZ' by Rush.

Graded song lists include music from the Ramones, Radiohead, Talking Heads, Muse, David Bowie, INXS, Johnny Cash, Leadbelly, Pink Floyd, the Kinks, Morrissey, Biffy Clyro and many more.



DRUMS

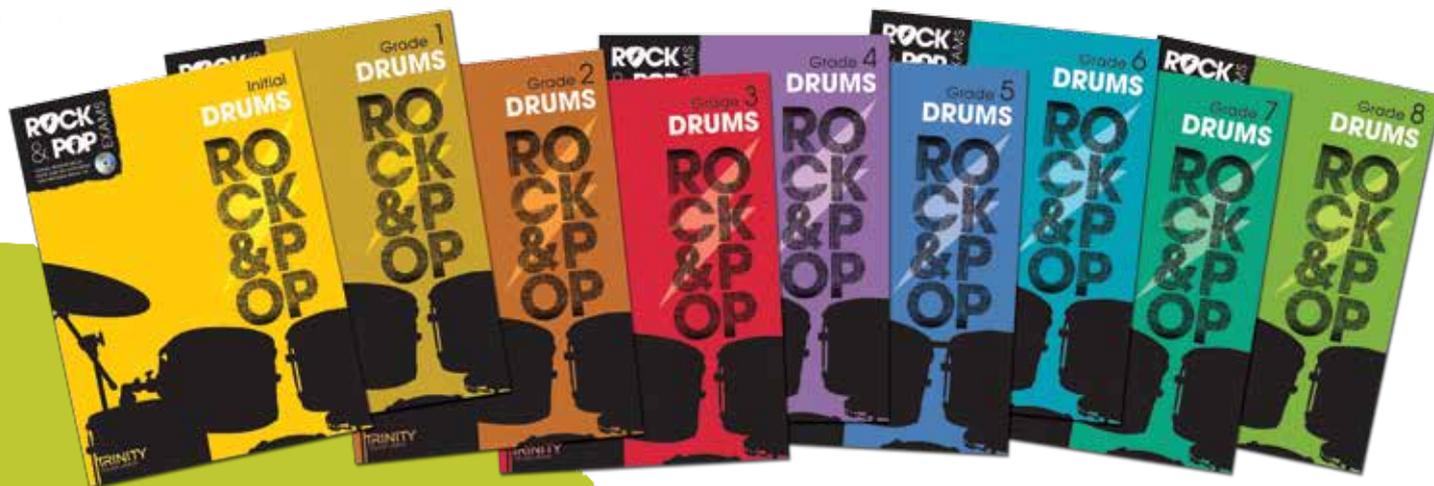
Rock & Pop Drums exams develop important playing skills beginning with basic grooves in a range of styles with different time signatures, tempos and strokes, solo breaks and fills, moving through to instrumental techniques including paradiddles, flams, drags, ruffs, rim shots and ratamacues. Session Skills will help to develop improvisation and playback skills – both important for drummers.

Students play three songs and complete one of the two Session Skills. There are also options to include an original song, and to perform unaccompanied or with a backing track of their own creation, so students can make the exam their own and show off their individual talent.

Each exam is supported by a book with drum charts, a CD with demo and backing tracks, performance notes, and guidance on technical skills and Session Skills.

Songs have been carefully chosen to help students develop specific skills such as rhythmic control in 'Airbag' by Radiohead or buzzes and fills in 'White Room' by Cream.

Graded song lists include music from Beyoncé, Kings of Leon, Cream, The Wombats, the Rolling Stones, Moby, Elbow, Green Day, New Order, James Brown and many more.







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GUITAR

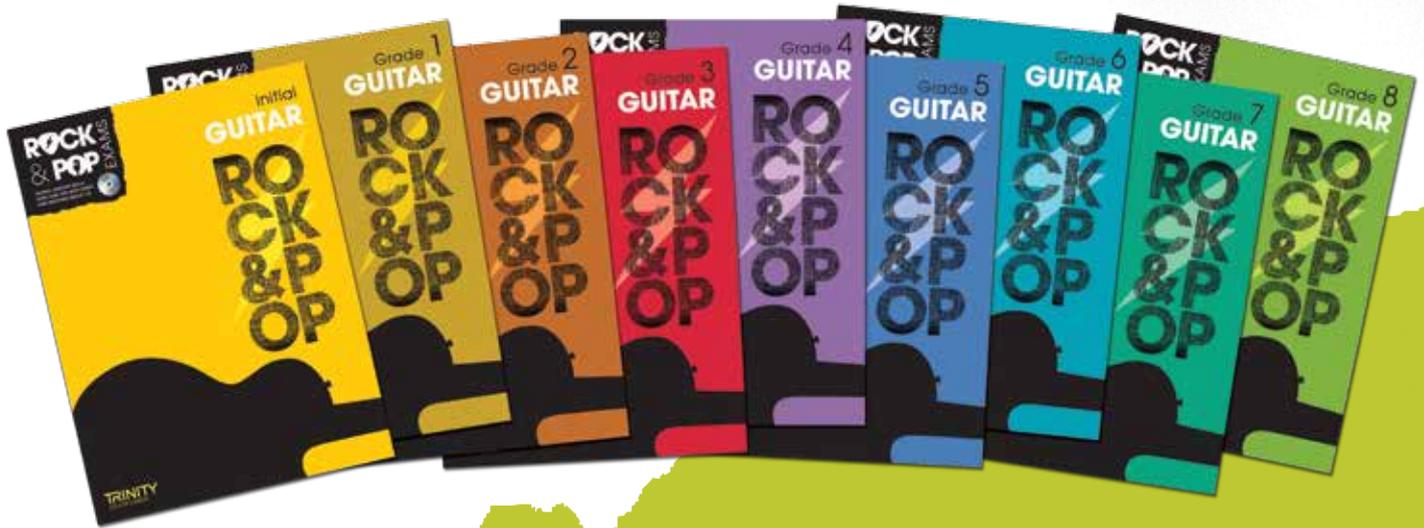
Rock & Pop Guitar exams develop important playing skills beginning with basic chords and positions, picking and damping techniques, and moving on to instrumental techniques such as hammer-ons and pull-offs, bends, slides and harmonics. Session Skills will help to develop improvisation and playback skills – both important for guitarists.

Students play three songs and complete one of the two Session Skills. There are also options to include an original song, and to perform unaccompanied or with a backing track of their own creation, so students can make the exam their own and show off their individual talent.

Each exam is supported by a book with songs in both tab and staff notation, a CD with demo and backing tracks, performance notes, and guidance on technical skills and Session Skills.

Songs have been carefully chosen to help students develop specific skills such as vibrato and balance in 'Boulevard of Broken Dreams' by Green Day or crossed note-heads in 'The Modern Age' by The Strokes.

Graded song lists include music from Jack Johnson, Leadbelly, The Proclaimers, The Strokes, Sex Pistols, Paolo Nutini, The Byrds, Kings of Leon, Mötley Crüe, Black Sabbath, Fleetwood Mac, Santana and many more.



KEYBOARDS

Rock & Pop Keyboards exams develop important playing skills beginning with simple melodies, common chords and simple rhythms in different styles and keys, and moving on to pedalling techniques, scale passages, improvising and playing more complex chords. Session Skills will help to develop improvisation and playback skills – both important for keyboards players.

Students play three songs and complete one of the two Session Skills. There are also options to include an original song, and to perform unaccompanied or with a backing track of their own creation, so students can make the exam their own and show off their individual talent.

Each exam is supported by a book with songs in staff notation, a CD with demo and backing tracks, performance notes, and guidance on technical skills and Session Skills.

Songs have been carefully chosen to help students develop specific skills such as pedalling in 'Riders on the Storm' by The Doors or changes of key signature in Whitney Houston's 'I Have Nothing'.

Graded song lists include music from Faithless, the Crystals, Miley Cyrus, Robert Johnson, Taj Mahal, Aqualung, Jamie Cullum, Nina Simone, the Carpenters, The Zombies, The Doors and many more.







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VOCALS

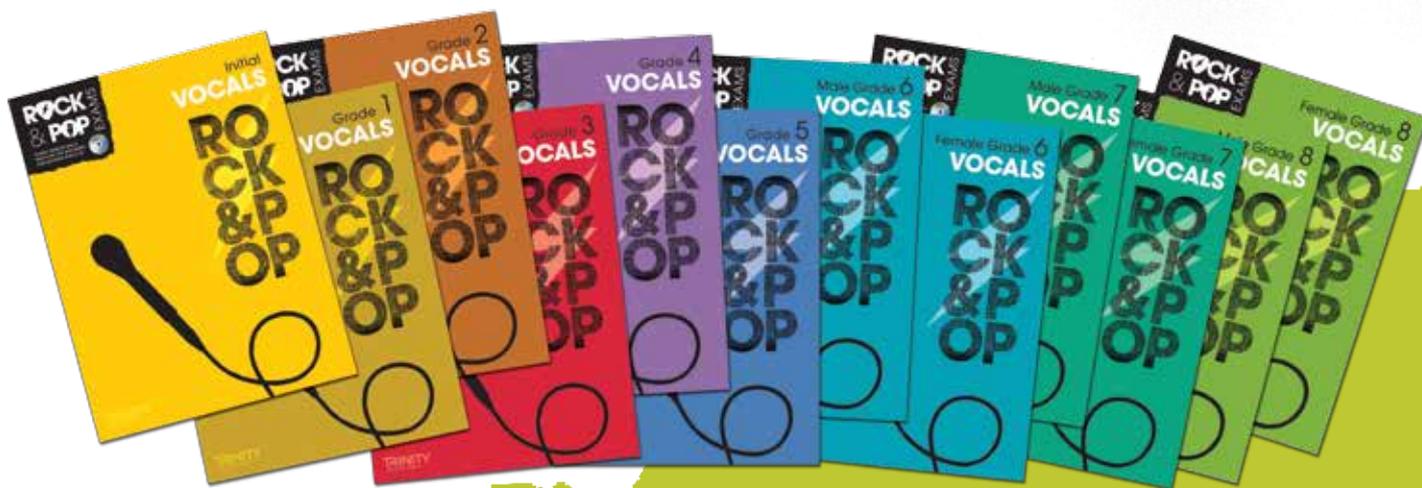
Rock & Pop Vocals exams help students develop their singing skills, teaching them how to sing in different styles and registers, improve their sound, widen their range, decorate and improvise and develop breathing techniques to support singing long notes and sustained phrases. Session Skills will help to develop improvisation and playback skills – both important for singers.

Students play three songs and complete one of the two Session Skills. There are also options to include an original song, and to perform unaccompanied or self-accompanied or with a backing track of their own creation, so students can make the exam their own and show off their individual talent.

Each exam is supported by a book with songs in staff notation, a CD with demo and backing tracks, performance notes, and guidance on technical skills and Session Skills.

Songs have been carefully chosen to help students develop specific skills such as rhythmic control in Aloe Blacc's song 'I need a Dollar' or improvising in 'Without You' by Mariah Carey.

Graded song lists include music from Justin Timberlake, Florence + The Machine, The Bee Gees, R.E.M., Jessie J, Beyoncé, Bruno Mars, Michael Bublé, Elbow and more.



GROUP EXAMS FOR BANDS

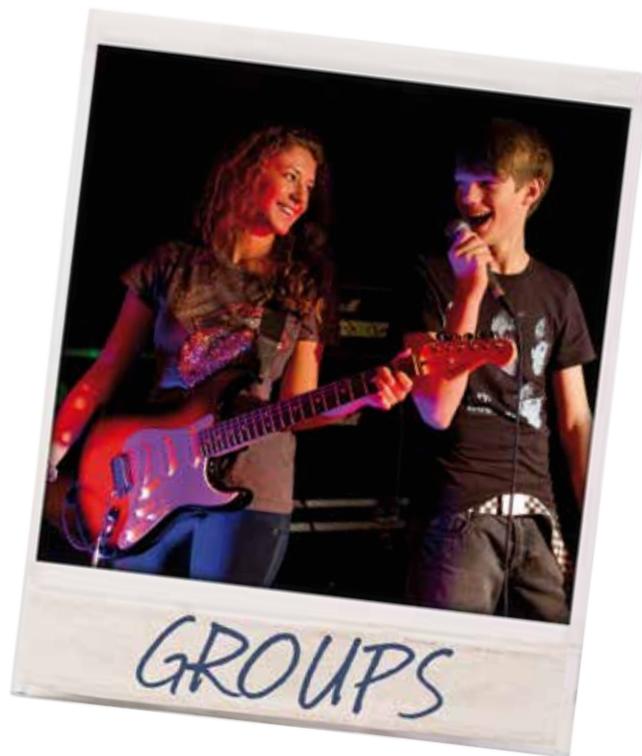
Rock & Pop Group exams are the ideal way for bands to get recognition for their skills as a group of performers. Available at three levels, these Certificate exams are designed for all sorts of bands and can include a full line-up of bass, drums, guitar, keyboards and vocals. However, any band formed of two or more musicians may enter for a Rock & Pop Group exam.

In each songbook from Initial to Grade 5 there is at least one song that is common across all instruments at each grade. This means that each individual part is at the same level of difficulty for all instruments. Band members can learn their parts individually, and then come together to play the songs as a band. As with the entire syllabus, these are well-known songs that bands will love to play.

For each Group exam, the band will create a set of the required length. In Foundation and Intermediate exams bands will need to play at least one of the group songs in the Rock & Pop syllabus (at Foundation the song will come from Grade 3 and at Intermediate the song will come from Grade 5). The rest of the set is free choice but songs need to be at the same technical and musical level.

Advanced exams are completely free choice but songs should be at the same level as Rock & Pop Grade 8.

At all levels, bands can include their own original songs or cover versions of songs to demonstrate their unique sound and identity.







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Teachers

Rock & Pop exams and supporting resources are the ideal tools for music teachers. With a flexible approach to assessments and a wide range of authentic music to choose from, Rock & Pop exams allow teachers to plan musical lessons that suit them and each of their students, while offering the chance to have achievements formally recognised through accredited qualifications.

The songbooks and additional song download bundles provide great teaching resources whether students are preparing for exams or not. All songs have been carefully chosen to help students develop important musical and technical skills. Each is supported by helpful background information with performance hints and tips. High quality demo and backing tracks are great for learning songs and make practising between lessons fun and easy.

Session Skills will help students develop essential musical skills and understanding such as aural development, improvisation, reading and musical interpretation, and support is offered in the books and online.

Musicians

The Rock & Pop syllabus and songbooks are suitable for all musicians – even those learning without a teacher or who don't read music notation. The songbooks and downloads provide a range of material that musicians can use to progress their instrumental skills at their own pace and in their own time.

Each song comes with a demo track and a backing track to play along to and there is plenty of information in the books and on the website to help with tricky techniques. The books are an excellent resource for progressive learning on their own, but if students want to take an exam and gain a qualification, they can enter online whenever they feel ready.

DOWNLOADS AND RESOURCES

Rock & Pop exams are supported by a range of resources, from the songbooks through to demo videos.

Songbooks and downloads

The songbooks not only offer a selection of great songs to learn with background information and hints and tips, but also a detailed help section covering important areas such as songwriting, playing in a band and copyright in songs.

An ever-growing online shop offers additional songs as digital download bundles, each including the sheet music, backing track and demo track for the song. New artists include Adele, Nirvana, Paul Weller, Arctic Monkeys, Take That, Taylor Swift and The Police. Songs will be added regularly so watch out for exciting tracks to come!

www.trinityrock.com/downloads

The website and demo videos

The Rock & Pop website is a valuable resource for all teachers and students, and includes detailed information about the exams including parameters, the mark scheme, guidance on Session Skills, accreditation and more. Online demo videos with professional musicians look at specific techniques in songs, and new videos will be added regularly.

News and social media

Regular e-bulletins keep teachers and students informed about events and news about songbooks, downloads, exams, events and competitions. To register for these e-bulletins, visit the website or contact Trinity.

Rock & Pop is on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and YouTube. Join us to be kept up to date with the latest Rock & Pop news, reviews, discussions, learning hints and tips, competitions and more. A range of videos are on the YouTube channel, including demonstrations of the music in the syllabus and videos from Rock & Pop events.



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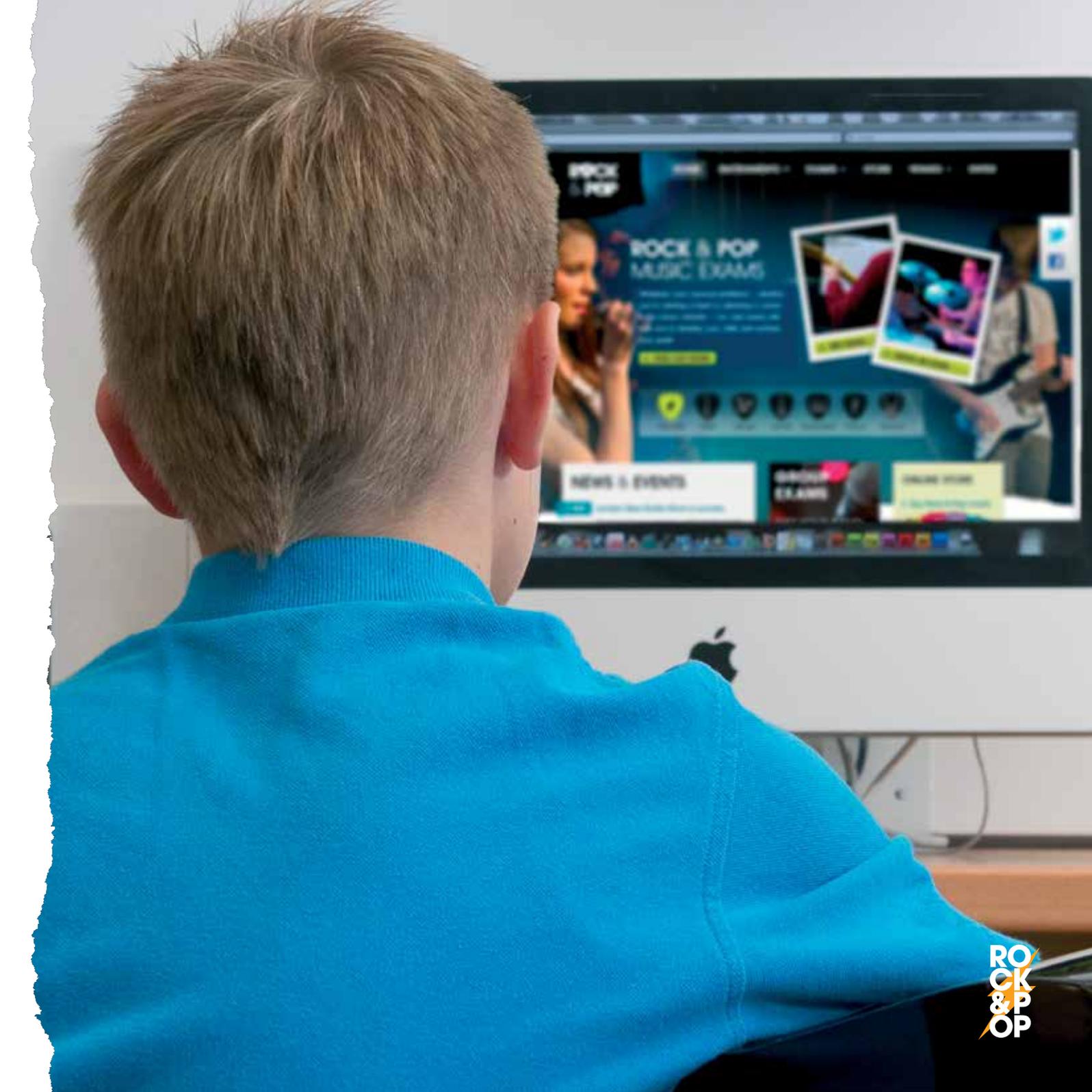
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Entering for an exam

Rock & Pop exams are available internationally and entering for the exam is easy. For more details about how to enter visit the website.

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Song lists subject to change.

