
Lead Guitar Essential Skills Assessment

Assessment of student progress is fundamental to responsive teaching. The music classroom is full of opportunities for real-time, formative assessments that can inform our teaching. In addition, more individualized, summative assessments can reveal individual strengths and gaps in our students' learning.

The following Essential Skills do not take into account factors like effort and teamwork with classmates. They are intended to help teachers assess student progress through their acquisition of fundamental musicianship skills and guitar technique. This can be used as the basis for a summative, graded exam and/or simply as a means to inform the teacher about student readiness to move ahead or what skills/concepts need to be reinforced.

Book I, Level I – Essential Skills

Name: _____

Date: _

Check off skills as students exhibit them.

SET-UP	Sitting with the guitar and basic technique:	Check:
	4 points of contact between body and guitar	
	Right thumb on low E string	
	Wrist straight with space between wrist and guitar	
	m finger resting on B string at back of soundhole	

READING	Reading and playing each note:	Check:
	G on the 3rd (G) string	
	A on the 3rd (G) string	
	B on the 2nd (B) string	
	C on the 2nd (B) string	
	D on the 2nd (B) string	
	E on the 1st (E) string	

PLAYING	Counting and clapping each piece:	Check:
	<i>Duerme mi Tesoro</i> Rhythmic accuracy	
	<i>Fire Dance (solo)</i> Rhythmic accuracy	
	Reading and playing: Un Elefante or Chant	
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Free Choice Piece, Student Composition or Improv	
	Tone production	
	Variation in pitch, rhythm and timbre	
	Maintaining pulse	

Book I, Level 2 – Essential Skills

Name: _____

Date: _

Check off skills as students exhibit them.

READING	Answering each question accurately:	Check:
	What do the two numbers in a time signature mean?	
	How many beats does an eighth-note get in 4/4 time?	
	How many beats does a quarter-note get in 4/4 time?	
	How many beats does a half-note get in 4/4 time?	
	How many beats does a whole-note get in 4/4 time?	
	How does a dot after a note change its rhythmic value?	
	How does a tie between two notes change their rhythmic value?	

PLAYING	Counting and clapping each piece:	Check:
	<i>Sundance Opera</i> Rhythmic accuracy	
	Reading and playing: Freight Train	Check:
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	Free Choice Piece, Student Composition or Improv	
	Tone production	
	Variation in pitch, rhythm and timbre	
	Maintaining pulse	

Book I, Level 3 – Essential Skills

Name: _____

Date: _

Check off skills as students exhibit them.

READING	Reading and playing each note:	Check:
	Read and play D on the 4th (D) string	
	Read and play E on the 4th (D) string	
	Read and play F on the 4th (D) string	
	Read and play F# on the 4th (D) string	
	Read and play F# on the 1st (E) string	
	Read and play G# on the 3rd (G) string	
	Read and play A on the 1st (E) string	
	Read and play D# on the 2nd (B) string	

PLAYING	Reading and playing each scale:	Check:
	<i>Transposable Major Scale in 3 positions</i>	
	Rhythmic and note-playing accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining LH position and finger pattern	
	Reading and playing: Minuet in G	
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	Free Choice Piece, Student Composition or Improv	
	Tone production	
	Variation in pitch, rhythm and timbre	
	Maintaining pulse	

Book I, Level 4 – Essential Skills

Name: _____

Date: _

Check off skills as students exhibit them.

SET-UP	Basic technique:	Check:
	Play thumb free strokes with m finger anchored and same hand position as with finger rest strokes	

READING	Reading and playing each note:	Check:
	Read and play F# on the 6th (E) string	
	Read and play A minor chord	
	Read and play E major chord	
	Read and play all ledger line notes	

PLAYING	Reading and playing each:	Check:
	<i>Any Two of the Six Rock Riffs</i>	
	Rhythmic and note-playing accuracy	
	Good RH thumb free stroke technique	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	Reading and playing: Leyenda (full version)	
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Good RH thumb free stroke technique	
	Alternating finger rest strokes with thumb free strokes	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	Free Choice Piece, Student Composition or Improv	
	Tone production	
	Variation in pitch, rhythm and timbre	
Maintaining pulse		

Book I, Level 5 – Essential Skills

Name: _____

Date: _

Check off skills as students exhibit them.

SET-UP	Basic technique:	Check:
	Show free stroke hand position and finger movement as described on page 74	
	Play exercises on page 75	
PLAYING	Reading and playing: Study in G	
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	Right hand free strokes	
	Accurate reading of string markings (playing B on the 3 rd string)	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	Free Choice Piece, Student Composition or Improv	
	Tone production	
	Variation in pitch, rhythm and timbre	
	Maintaining pulse	