

Performance assessment grid 1: Technical control - Technique

In this grid, marks are awarded for the technical control of the instrument, for example, coordination between the hands, or of the bow/fingers; breath control; diction, pedalling; registration; intonation; tone quality; use of filters and effects and control of musical sources.

This will include making use of musical elements as appropriate to the requirements of the instrument(s) and piece performed. For ensemble performances, this grid assesses only the student's individual control of their instrument.

For performances up to difficulty level 2 please see the wording in italics in the grid below.

Level	Mark	Technique
	0	No rewardable material
Level 1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The performance overall demonstrates poor technical control, as heard in poor coordination, breath control, diction, and/or pedalling. The demands of the music are beyond the current ability of the performer. The handling of sonority is poor, as heard in a dull, thin, coarse tone quality across the range and/or poor intonation throughout and/or poor use of filters and effects. <p><i>If the difficulty of the music performed is pre-difficulty level 1 the mark awarded in this grid cannot exceed this level.</i></p>
Level 2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The performance demonstrates limited technical control, as heard in limited coordination, breath control, diction, and/or pedalling. There are a few places where the demands of the music are beyond the current ability of the performer. The handling of sonority is limited, as heard in a dull, thin, coarse tone quality in places and/or limited intonation in places and/or limited use of filters and effects. <p><i>If the difficulty of the music performed is at difficulty level 1 the mark awarded in this grid cannot exceed this level.</i></p>
Level 3	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The performance demonstrates basic technical control, as heard in basic coordination, breath control, diction, and/or pedalling. There are one or two moments where the demands of the piece are beyond the current ability of the performer. The handling of sonority is good, as heard in consistently good tone quality except at the extremities of the pitch range or at moments of technical difficulty and/or good intonation and/or good use of filters and effects. <p><i>If the difficulty of the music performed is at difficulty level 2 the mark awarded in this grid cannot exceed this level.</i></p>
Level 4	7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The performance demonstrates convincing technical control, as heard in convincing coordination, breath control, diction, and/or pedalling. The demands of the music are within the ability of the performer. The handling of sonority is convincing, as heard in very good tone quality across the pitch range (satisfying, interesting and even as the music demands), including, where appropriate, very good and sensitive tonal contrast throughout and/or very good intonation and/or very good use of filters and effects.