

## GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL TEACHING

TIP

The word for a group of musicians playing together is an '**ENSEMBLE**'.

Just as there are different learning styles, there are differences between teaching groups and **INDIVIDUALS**. Here are some examples.

How would you alter a session for one person to a session for a group?



### SOME ADVANTAGES OF **ENSEMBLE** TEACHING

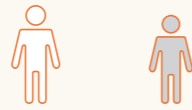
students get a feel for how well they are doing in relation to others and give each other positive feedback.

students can be more confident playing with others.

you can teach parts at different levels of difficulty to students, but the overall sound is good.

you can teach people with a range of different instruments.

students can learn more about playing music with others, a very important skill.



### SOME ADVANTAGES OF **INDIVIDUAL** TEACHING

students have the whole concentration of the teacher in a lesson designed just for them, moving at their own pace.

more chance to concentrate on areas of difficulty.

less confident students can prefer to be taught on their own.

choice of pieces and styles is more individual.

TIP

Look at the new schemes of work for music at Key Stages 1 and 2 based on ensemble teaching [www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes](http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes)

## WHAT DO I TEACH?

What you teach students is down to a number of things:

### ARE YOU WORKING TO A SET SYLLABUS?

Example of syllabi are; Key Stages of the National Curriculum; Associated Board (ABRSM), Trinity College (TCL) or Rockschool grades. You need to make yourself familiar with the standard skills required at different grades. If you are a DJ, you might develop your own syllabus or perhaps use elements of courses such as in Music Technology.

### GRADE EXAMS

There are generally grades 1 - 8 in instrumental exams. Grade 1 is the easiest, Grade 8 the most advanced. Most people classify Grade 5 as equivalent difficulty to GCSE (grade A - C result) and Grade 8 as equivalent difficulty to A Level (grade A - E result), but these are very different exams. There are sometimes 'entry level' exams which are easier than grade 1 and there are more advanced exams for students taking teaching or performance Diplomas, or similar higher level qualifications.

Grade exams almost always contain the following:

Performance of set pieces  
(chosen from that year's book of exam pieces)

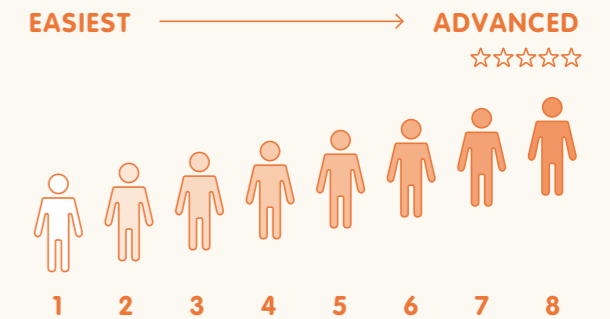
Technical exercises  
(a mixture of scales, arpeggios, paradiddles for example, depending on the instrument and grade)

Playing at sight / sight reading  
(Studying a piece of music which is easier and shorter than the performance pieces, then playing it for the examiner)

### INSTRUMENTAL SKILLS

Take your lead from the skills and knowledge table at the start of notes and guidance. You know what skills you have developed yourself. You will be developing the same skills for your students.

➤ WORKBOOK 4 - PERFORMING



There are also specialist 'grade exams' in other subjects, including:

Music Theory or Theory of Popular Music  
Jazz Piano  
Ensemble performance