

Indian Raga

Hindustani Percussion Curriculum

Level 1

Practical

1. Basic strokes: individual & combination
2. Basic phrases: at the discretion of the teacher
Suggested: Thirakita, thirakitathaka, thirakitathaka tha
3. Phrases with variations: at the discretion of the teacher
Suggested: Gege thita gege nana, dhadha thita dhadha thina
Dha dha thirakita dha dha thina etc.
4. Teental basic pattern (Theka) in 3 speeds
5. Basic Qaida, Rhela based patterns : at the discretion of the teacher

Theory Requirements

1. Building blocks of tala and counting
2. Recitation of all the above practical requirements

Evaluation

Adherence to Laya (proper tempo, rhythm), Posture, precision of strokes as well as proper recitation.

Sample Question Set

1. Play the basic phrases with some variations – gegethita, thirakitathaka etc as advised by teacher
2. Play teental theka in 3 speeds and recite with beat
3. Play a small qaida
4. Tell us about the different parts of the tabla and what they are made of

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Practical & Theory Requirements

1. Tala dadra, roopak, jhaptaal – recite and play in 3 speeds
2. 3 finger tirkit (& more complex thirkit phrases)
3. Further development of basic phrases from level 1
4. 2 qaidas with 3 variations each – thi ta, thirakita based and more at the discretion of teacher
5. 3 thihais and 2 simple tukdas in Teental

Evaluation

Adherence to Laya (proper tempo, rhythm), Posture, precision of strokes as well as proper recitation.

Level 2

Sample Questions set

1. Play thekas of Dadra, roopak and Teental in 3 speeds
 2. Play some thirkit based phrases
 3. Play a qaida based in thi ta with some variations
 4. Play some thihais in Teental
 5. Play a tukda in teental
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Level 3

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Practical & Theory Requirements

1. **Vilambit (slow teenal):** 3 Qaidas with 4 variations and thihai. (Thita, Thirakita, dhathidhagedhinagena)
2. **Ektaal in 3 speeds**
3. **Introduction to thisra jaathi** - basic phrases at discretion of teacher
4. **Recitation exercises** for improved recitation clarity (Thirakitathaka etc. at higher speeds)
5. 3 Tukdas and 3 thihais in Teental.
6. One Rhela in Teental

Evaluation

Adherence to Laya (proper tempo, rhythm), Posture, precision of strokes as well as proper recitation.

Sample Question Set

1. Play a qaida including phrase dhathidhagedhin agena with some variations in Teental
2. Play and recite Ektaal in 3 speeds
3. Play some phrases in thisra jaathi
4. Repeat some of these simple recitations
5. Play 2 tukdas in teental

Level 4

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Practical

1. **Bhajani/Keharwa** with some variations (Laggis).
2. **Ati Vilambith (ultra slow)** rendition of Ektaal (12 Beats) – like how Khayal vocal is accompanied
3. **Vilambith (slow teenal):** Peshkar + 2 Qaidas and Rhela. All with at least 5 variations and thihai. At least one qaida must use thraka.
4. **Dhrut (Fast) Teental: (quadruples) Chatusra: 3** Thukdas (at least 2 tala cycles (avartans) in length) and 3 Chakradars, compositions as appropriate for gharana. 1 thripalli/Chowpalli and 1 Gath Qaida **Thisra:** At least 1 Thukda and 1 Chakradhar.
5. 2 compositions in Anagat (finishing before down beat) and some thihais at least 2 cycles (avartans) in length.
6. **Optional:** One Raon development – thirakit or dhathigin/dhingin or dhintak
7. Ability to play with Lehra/nagma (melodic accompaniment) is not necessary but would be a bonus.
8. Tuning Tabla to a relevant pitch.

Sample Question set

1. Play and recite Tala Pancham sawari in 3 speeds. Explain its identity – sum, khali, divisions etc.
2. Explain any 3 elements of Tala.
3. Tune tabla to a relevant pitch
4. Play peshkar, 1 qaida and rhela in vilambit teental. Play at least one thisra jaathi.
5. Play & recite chakradar and thukda in drut teental.
6. Play Bhajan Theka/Keharwa with some variations

Level 4

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Theory Requirements

1. 10 elements of Tala (Dasha prana).
2. Proper recitation with Beat for all of the above.
3. **Tala Basics** – Play and recite with proper beat (in 3 speeds – and double speed of basic – ekgun, dugun), indicating the first beat and all divisions the talas: Pancham Sawari (15 beats), Matt Taal(9 Beats), Deepchandi (14 Beats) and the earlier talas covered (Jhaptaal, Roopak, Dadra and Ektaal)

Evaluation

Adherence to Laya (proper tempo, rhythm), Posture, precision of strokes as well as proper recitation. Proper knowledge of all theory required so far. Clarity in recitation. Proper tuning of tabla.