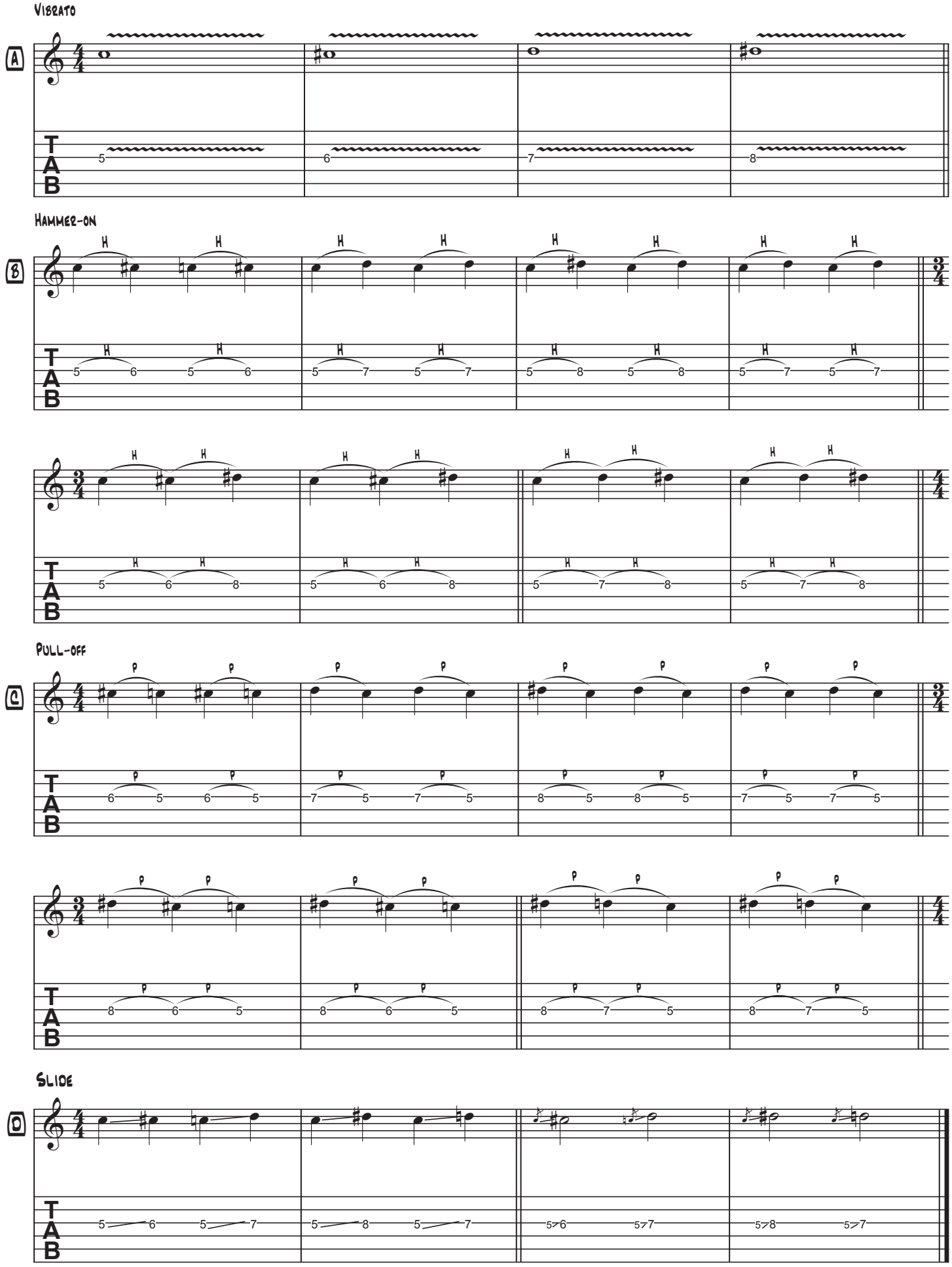Playing techniques