

Aural

Aural tests are designed to develop the candidate's abilities in the fields of musical perception, discrimination, memory, understanding, analysis and response. The questions, which are all based on one musical example, encourage a deepening of knowledge and are carefully graded from basic skills to more advanced understanding.

Tests meet the following parameters:

Grade	Parameters	Task	Response
Initial	major key 4 bars $\frac{2}{4}$	▶ Listen to the melody with a missing final note	Sing, hum or whistle the final tonic note
		▶ Listen to the melody twice	Clap the rhythm
		▶ Listen to the melody once	Identify the melody as mainly <i>legato</i> or <i>staccato</i>
		▶ Listen to three notes from the melody	Identify the highest or lowest note
Grade 1	major key 4 bars $\frac{2}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$	▶ Listen to the melody twice	i) Clap back the rhythm ii) Identify the melody as in $\frac{2}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ time
		▶ Listen to the melody once	Identify the last note as higher, lower or the same as the first note
		▶ Listen to the melody once	Identify the melody as mainly <i>legato</i> or <i>staccato</i>
		▶ Listen to the melody twice with a change of pitch in the second playing	Identify where the change occurs
Grade 2	major or minor key $\frac{2}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$	▶ Listen to the melody twice	Indicate a sense of the pulse and time signature during the second playing
		▶ Listen to the melody once	Identify the last note as higher, lower or the same as the first note
		▶ Listen to the melody once	i) Identify the melody as major or minor ii) Explain the dynamics during the piece, which may also include <i>crescendo</i> and <i>diminuendo</i>
		▶ Listen to the melody twice with a change of rhythm or pitch in the second playing	Identify the change as pitch or rhythm

Grade	Parameters	Task	Response
Grade 3	major or minor key $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{4}{4}$	▶ Listen to the melody twice	Indicate a sense of the pulse and time signature during the second playing
		▶ Listen to the first two notes played from low to high	Identify the interval formed as a major second, minor third, major third, perfect fourth or perfect fifth
		▶ Listen to a triad played with three notes sounding together	Identify the triad as major or minor
		▶ Study a copy of the melody and listen to it three times with a change of rhythm or pitch in the second and third playing	Identify in which bar the change occurred
Grade 4	major or minor key $\frac{4}{4}$ or $\frac{6}{8}$	▶ Listen to the accompanied melody twice	Indicate a sense of the pulse and time signature during the second playing
		▶ Listen to the first two notes played consecutively	Identify the interval as a unison, minor or major second, minor or major third, perfect fourth or fifth, minor or major sixth
		▶ Listen to the melody once	Identify the cadence as perfect or imperfect
		▶ Study a copy of the melody and listen to it three times with a change of rhythm and pitch in the second and third playing	Identify in which bars the changes to pitch and rhythm occurred
Grade 5	major or minor key $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{6}{8}$	▶ Listen to the piece twice	i) Identify the time signature ii) Identify the opening as major or minor iii) Identify any changes in tonality
		▶ Listen to the final part of the piece	Identify the cadence as perfect, imperfect or interrupted
		▶ Listen to two notes from the melody line played consecutively	Identify the interval as a unison, minor or major second, minor or major third, perfect fourth or fifth, minor or major sixth, minor or major seventh or an octave
		▶ Listen to the piece once	Explain the articulation and the dynamics
		▶ Study a copy of the piece and listen to it three times with a change of rhythm and of pitch in the melody line in the second and third playing	Locate and describe the changes of pitch and of rhythm

Grade	Parameters	Task	Response
Grade 6	major key 2, 3, 4, 6 4, 4, 4 or 8	▶ Listen to a piece twice	State the time signature and comment after either or both playings on the main features of the piece, e.g. phrasing, style and dynamics
		▶ Listen to the final part of the piece	Identify the cadence as perfect, imperfect, plagal or interrupted
		▶ Listen to part of the piece which modulates. The opening key will first be stated and the tonic chord played	Identify the key to which the music modulates as dominant, subdominant and relative minor. Answers may alternatively be given as key names
		▶ Study a copy of the piece and listen to it twice with two changes to the melody line	Locate and describe changes as rhythm, pitch or articulation
Grade 7	minor key, any time signature	▶ Listen to a piece twice	Comment, after either or both playings, on the main features of the piece, e.g. style, phrasing, articulation and dynamics
		▶ Listen to a passage from the piece once	Identify the cadence as perfect, imperfect, plagal or interrupted
		▶ Study a copy of the first section of the piece and listen to it twice with three changes	Locate and describe three changes of pitch (of the melody line) or rhythm
		▶ Listen to part of the piece once with a modified ending. The opening key will first be stated and the tonic chord played	Identify the key to which the music has modulated as sub-dominant minor, relative major or dominant of the relative major. Answers may alternatively be given as key names
Grade 8	major or minor key, any time signature	▶ Listen to a piece twice	Describe the significant features of the piece, e.g. style, rhythm, texture, dynamics, phrasing and articulation in the form of a short discussion with the examiner
		▶ Study a copy of the music and listen to it three times with three areas of changes in the second and third playing	Locate and describe, after either the second and/or the third playing, the three changes as rhythm, melody, harmony, articulation, dynamics or tempo