

## Musical Knowledge

These questions test the candidate's understanding of their chosen pieces, the context of their performance and their knowledge of their instrument and its technical demands, including best practice for rehearsal and performance.

Five questions, each worth 2 marks, will normally be asked.

### Grade 3

As for previous grades, and additionally:

- 1 Identify and demonstrate an understanding of the keys, (together with their relative major/minor), in which the pieces played are written.
- 2 Identify any common musical devices such as scale or arpeggio patterns in the pieces played.
- 3 Show an understanding of the reasons for, and methods employed in, the instrumental or vocal warm up (of both instrument and performer).
- 4 The difference between sounding pitch of their instrument (transposing instruments only, including guitar, double bass and other octave transposing instruments).

### Station to Station

**Key:** A major (relative minor - F# minor) A major has 3 sharps - F#, C# and G# in the key signature and the piece is composed with notes of the A major scale. It also has some added 'blue' notes - G natural and C natural.

**Time Signature:** 4/4 time. (4 crotchet beats per bar)

**Style:** Blues piece. **Form:** 12 Bar Blues (2 choruses)

**Features:** 1) Swing quaver rhythm 2) Chord riff 3) Half barré chords 4) Harmonics 5) rolled chords (also called arpeggiated chords) 6) medium tempo 7) poco rit.- slow down a little

### À pas de loup

**Key:** E minor (relative major - G major) E minor has 1 sharp F# in the key signature and the piece is composed with notes from the E minor scale. It also has some chromatic passing notes.

**Time Signature:** 4/4 time. (4 crotchet beats per bar)

**Style:** Modern piece. À pas de loup means 'stealthily' (cautious manner, in secret)

**Features:** 1) Syncopated rhythms 2) arpeggiated accompaniment 3) 2 note chords 5) echo effects with forte phrases followed by piano phrases.

### Allegretto

**Key:** C major (relative minor - A minor) There is no key signature in C major and the piece is composed with notes from the C major scale.

**Time Signature:** 2/4 time. (2 crotchet beats per bar)

**Style:** Late Classical/early Romantic **Form:** Ternary form (ABA) 24 Bars. 3 sections where A and C sections are the same. B section is a contrasting section.

**Features:** 1) arpeggiated chords and scales 2) 2 parts - bass and treble (thumb and fingers) 3) poco rit.- slow down a little 4) 'Allegretto' - moderately quick tempo

### Identify scale and arpeggio patterns in the pieces.

**Question:** "What pattern of notes do you see here?"

**Answer:** 'scale' or 'arpeggio' depending on which it is

### **Reasons and method for the instrumental warm up:**

- To establish good coordination between the left and right hands, i.e. the synchronisation of the pressing of the string and the plucking of the note.
- To warm up muscles and loosen up fingers.
- To focus on relaxation of whole body and establish good playing posture
- To focus on the techniques used in the pieces one is working on...i.e. arpeggios or scales or chords or slurs

**Scales and arpeggios** are especially useful, especially if they relate to the pieces one is working on.

**Question:** How do you warm up for a piece like this?

**Answer:** By playing a selection of scales and arpeggios in related keys

### **Sounding pitch of guitar**

The guitar is a transposing instrument which sounds an octave lower than written. (Often, in guitar music, the treble clef has a small "8" attached to the lower loop to show this)