

## 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. Questions will include discussions on most of the areas mentioned below, but not all parameters will be relevant to all disciplines and pieces, and examiners will select questions as appropriate. Candidates must ensure that copies are not so heavily annotated that a reasonable range of questions for the grade is precluded. For melody line instrumentalists, questions will be based only on the instrumental line, and not on the accompaniment.

### Initial

1. The pitch names, and durations of any notes (excluding those with leger lines except middle C) in the pieces played.
2. To identify, but not to explain clefs, stave, bar lines and key/time signatures in the pieces played.
3. Very simple musical terms and signs in the pieces, such as  $\hat{\sim}$ , 'repeat', *f* and *p*.
4. Questions about the connection between the titles of the pieces and the music played (e.g. what is a Minuet? Why is this piece called 'Squabble'?)

### Grade 1

1. Pitch names, note types (e.g. minim) and durations of any notes in the pieces played, including dotted notes and any leger lines.
2. Clefs, time/key signatures and any common musical term/sign encountered.
3. Identify and explain *p/f*, accidentals, phrase marks, 1st & 2nd time bars and *staccato/legato*, when appearing in the pieces played.
4. Comment on any significant, interesting or unusual features of piece(s) played. Show a basic understanding of the instrument, including the names of its main parts (e.g. tone holes, reed, ligature etc) and maintenance.

### Grade 2

As for Grade 1, and additionally:

1. Show an understanding of any term, sign or mark of expression in the pieces played.
2. Identify and explain any metronome marks, grace notes, ornaments etc. appearing in the pieces played.
3. The numerical value (only) of any interval (within an octave) between any two successive notes appearing in the pieces played. (e.g. 'a second' not 'a minor second'). Intervals may be asked from a lower to a higher note or vice versa.
4. Be aware of appropriate basic posture when playing.

### 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 descant recorder, double bass and other octave transposing instruments).

### Grade 4

As for previous grades, and additionally:

1. Identify/explain any main key encountered throughout the pieces played, though no detailed knowledge of modulatory processes will be expected.
2. Name the tonic and the dominant (and the 3 notes of their triads) of any of the keys in which the pieces are written.
3. The full name of any interval (within an octave) between any two successive notes appearing in the pieces played. (e.g. 'major second' not 'second'). Intervals may be asked from a lower to a higher note or vice versa.
4. Comment on any particular technical or musical challenges encountered in the preparation of the pieces played.

### Grade 5

As for previous grades, and additionally:

1. Comment on any significant features of the musical style and period, (e.g. Baroque, Romantic, Bebop) of the pieces played.
2. Point out any interesting or noteworthy structural/formal aspects of the pieces played.
3. Show an understanding of the keys used in the pieces played, including an understanding of modulations and a knowledge of tonic, dominant and subdominant of the keys in which the pieces are written.

### Grades 6-8

Musical Knowledge questions are not available at these grades.