

Musical Knowledge (Initial-Grade 5 only)

The examiner will ask candidates five questions in the exam, which test their understanding of the pieces played, their knowledge of the notation and their instrument.

The examiner will first ask candidates to choose their favourite piece from the ones performed in the exam and will then ask some of the questions on that piece. The examiner will then choose one of the other pieces performed to complete the questions.

The printed score should be free of annotations except for essential markings such as fingerings, breath marks etc. as appropriate. The examiner will usually point to part of the score when asking the questions.

Sample questions and answers are included in the table below:

Grade	Parameters (cumulative*)	Sample question	Sample answer
Initial	Pitch names	What is the pitch name of this note?	G
	Note durations	How many beats are there for this note?	Two
	Clefs, stave, barlines	What is this sign?	Treble clef
	Identify key/time signatures	What is this called?	Time signature
	Musical terms and signs (simple)	What is this called?	A pause mark
Grade 1	Note values	What is this note value?	Quaver
	Explain key/time signatures	What does $\frac{4}{4}$ mean?	Four crotchet beats in a bar
	Notes on ledger lines	What is the name of this note?	B \flat
	Musical terms and signs (more comprehensive)	What is the meaning of <i>da capo</i> ?	Go back to the start
	Parts of the instrument	What is this part called?	A bridge
Grade 2	Metronome marks, grace notes and ornaments	Explain the sign $\downarrow = 72$	72 crotchet beats per minute
	Intervals (numerical only)	What is the interval between these notes?	3rd
	Basic posture	Show me a good left hand position for your instrument	<i>Candidate demonstrates</i>

* Tests may also include requirements from preceding grades.

Grade	Parameters (cumulative*)	Sample question	Sample answer
Grade 3	Relative major/minor	What is the relative major/minor of this piece?	D minor
	Scale/arpeggio pattern	What pattern of notes do you see here?	Scale
	Transposition (for transposing instruments)	When you play this note, which note actually sounds?	D
	Warm up	How do you warm up for a piece like this?	Sustaining long breaths
Grade 4	Modulation to closely related keys	What key does this music change to?	A minor
	Tonic/dominant triads	Name the notes of the tonic triad	C, E, G
	Intervals (full names)	What is the interval between these notes?	Perfect 5th
	Technical challenges	Show me the most challenging part of this piece and tell me why	Here [<i>candidate indicates</i>], because of the awkward leaps
Grade 5	Musical style	What is the style of this piece?	Blues
	Musical period	What period of music does this come from?	Baroque
	Musical structures	What is the form of this piece?	Rondo
	Subdominant triads	Name the notes of the subdominant triad	F, A, C

* Tests may also include requirements from preceding grades.