

AURAL TESTS: included in the Practical examination of all subjects

- a Examples of the tests are given in *Specimen Aural Tests*, published in two books, one for Grades 1–5 and one for Grades 6–8. These books may only be purchased through a music dealer. In case of any difficulty in obtaining them, the Board’s publishing company should be consulted.
- b For any test which requires a ‘sung’ response, pitch rather than vocal quality is the object. The examiner will keep within the vocal compass of the candidate, who may sing ‘lah’ or any vowel sound or may hum. Boys with changing voices may whistle or may hum an octave lower.
- c Deaf or hearing-impaired candidates may opt to respond to alternative tests in place of the standard tests, if requested at the time of entry. The syllabus for these alternative tests is available free on request from the Access Co-ordinator. Specimens of *Alternative Aural Tests for Candidates with Hearing Impairment* are published in two books, one for Grades 1–5 and one for Grades 6–8, obtainable as indicated in a above.

Candidates will be asked to respond to the following tests played by the examiner:

Aural Tests GRADE 1

- A To tap the pulse of a passage of music in 2 or 3 time played by the examiner. The examiner will commence playing the passage, and the candidate will be expected to join in as soon as possible by tapping the beat, stressing where the strong beat falls. The candidate will then be asked to state the time.
- B To sing, as an echo, three short phrases limited to a range of three notes in a major key played by the examiner. The echoes should follow each phrase in strict time without an intervening pause. The key-chord and tonic will first be sounded and the pulse indicated.
- C To recognize a rhythmic change to a two-bar phrase played twice by the examiner, with the change being made in the second playing. Candidates will be required to recognize and tap or describe the change. The pulse will first be indicated. The examiner will be prepared to play both versions of the phrase a second time if necessary.
- D To identify certain features of a piece played by the examiner. The features will be confined to contrasted dynamics (*p/f*), gradation of tone (*crescendodiminuendo*), and articulation (*staccatollegato*), of which the examiner will select one or two and advise the candidate accordingly before playing the piece. Questions on the selected features will then follow. Candidates are encouraged to use Italian terms in their answers where appropriate.

Aural Tests GRADE 2

- A To tap the pulse of a passage of music in 2 (including $\frac{6}{8}$) or 3 time played by the examiner. The examiner will commence playing the passage, and the candidate will be expected to join in as soon as possible by tapping the beat, stressing where the strong beat falls. The candidate will then be asked to state the time.
- B To sing, as an echo, three short phrases limited to a range of five notes in a major key played by the examiner. The echoes should follow each phrase in strict time without an intervening pause. The key-chord and tonic will first be sounded and the pulse indicated.
- C To recognize a rhythmic or melodic change to a two-bar phrase in a major key played twice by the examiner, with the change being made in the second playing. Candidates will be required to recognize and tap, sing or describe the change. The key-chord and tonic will first be sounded and the pulse indicated. The examiner will be prepared to play both versions of the phrase a second time if necessary.
- D To identify certain features of a piece played by the examiner. The features will be confined to contrasted dynamics (*p/f*), gradation of tone (*crescendodiminuendo*), articulation (*staccatollegato*), and recognition of tempo changes (*rallentandolaccelerando*, etc.), of which the examiner will select one or two and advise the candidate accordingly before playing the piece. Questions on the selected features will then follow. Candidates are encouraged to use Italian terms in their answers where appropriate.

Aural Tests GRADE 3

- A To tap the pulse of a passage of music in 2 (including $\frac{6}{8}$), 3 (including $\frac{9}{8}$) or 4 time played by the examiner. The examiner will commence playing the passage, and the candidate will be expected to join in as soon as possible by tapping the beat, stressing where the strong beat falls. The candidate will then be asked to state the time.
- B To sing, as an echo, three short phrases limited to a range of one octave in a major or minor key played by the examiner. The echoes should follow each phrase in strict time without an intervening pause. The key-chord and tonic will first be sounded and the pulse indicated.
- C To recognize a rhythmic or melodic change to a four-bar phrase in a major or minor key played twice by the examiner, with the change being made in the second playing. Candidates will be required to recognize and tap, sing or describe the change. The key-chord and tonic will first be sounded and the pulse indicated. The examiner will be prepared to play both versions of the phrase a second time if necessary.
- D To identify certain features of a piece played by the examiner. The features will be confined to contrasted dynamics (*p/f*), gradation of tone (*crescendodiminuendo*), articulation (*staccatollegato*), recognition of tempo changes (*rallentandolaccelerando*, etc.), and recognition of major and minor tonality, of which the examiner will select one or two and advise the candidate accordingly before playing the piece. Questions on the selected features will then follow. Candidates are encouraged to use Italian terms in their answers where appropriate.

Aural Tests GRADE 4

- A To sing or play from memory a four-bar melody played twice by the examiner. The key-chord and starting note will first be sounded and named, and the pulse indicated. A second attempt will be allowed if necessary.
- B To sing five notes from score in free time within the range of a third above and below the tonic in the key of C, F or G major. The test will begin and end on the tonic and will not contain any intervals greater than a third. The examiner will play and name the key-chord and tonic, and, if necessary, play each note after it has been attempted. Candidates may choose to sing the test from the treble or bass clef.
- C1 To identify certain features of a piece played by the examiner. The features will be confined to dynamics (*p/f*), gradation of tone (*crescendodiminuendo*), articulation (*staccatollegato*), tempo changes (*rallentandolaccelerando*, etc.), recognition of major and minor tonality, and general perception of the character of the piece, of which the examiner will select one or two and advise the candidate accordingly before playing the piece. Questions on the selected features will then follow. Candidates are encouraged to use Italian terms in their answers where appropriate.
- 2 To clap the rhythm of a short extract played twice by the examiner from the above piece and state whether it is in 2, 3 or 4 time.

Aural Tests GRADE 5

- A To sing or play from memory a short melody played twice by the examiner. The key-chord and starting note will first be sounded and named, and the pulse indicated. A second attempt will be allowed if necessary.
- B To sing six notes from score in free time within the range of a fifth above and a fourth below the tonic in any major key up to two sharps or flats. The test will begin and end on the tonic and will not contain any intervals greater than a third, except for the rising fourth from dominant to tonic. The examiner will play and name the key-chord and tonic, and, if necessary, play each note after it has been attempted. Candidates may choose to sing the test from the treble or bass clef.
- C1 To identify certain features of a piece played by the examiner. The features will be confined to dynamics (*plf*), gradation of tone (*crescendodiminuendo*), articulation (*staccatollegato*), tempo changes (*rallentandolaccelerando*, etc.), recognition of major and minor tonality, and general perception of texture, rhythm, form, style and period, of which the examiner will select one or two and advise the candidate accordingly before playing the piece. Questions on the selected features will then follow. Candidates are encouraged to use Italian terms in their answers where appropriate.
- 2 To clap the rhythm of a short extract played twice by the examiner from the above piece and state whether it is in 2, 3 or 4 time.

Aural Tests GRADE 6

- A To sing or play from memory the *upper* part of a two-part phrase played twice by the examiner. The key-chord and starting note will first be sounded and named, and the pulse indicated. A second attempt will be allowed if necessary.
- B To sing a short melody from score, with an accompaniment played by the examiner, in any major or minor key up to three sharps or flats. The key-chord and starting note will first be sounded and the pulse indicated. Candidates may choose to sing the test from the treble or bass clef. A second attempt will be allowed if necessary.
- C To identify the cadence at the end of a phrase, played twice by the examiner, as perfect or imperfect, and to state whether it is in a major or minor key. The key-chord will first be sounded.
- D1 To answer questions on the features of a piece played by the examiner, including the general perception of texture, form (including phrase structure), style and period, of which the examiner will select one or two and advise the candidate accordingly before playing the piece. Candidates will be expected to use Italian terms in their answers where appropriate.
- 2 To clap the rhythm of a short extract played twice by the examiner from the above piece and state whether it is in 2, 3, or 4 time.

Aural Tests GRADE 7

- A** To sing or play from memory the *lower* part of a two-part phrase played twice by the examiner. The key-chord and starting note will first be sounded and named, and the pulse indicated. A second attempt will be allowed if necessary.
- B** To sing a short melody from score, accompanied by a lower part played by the examiner, in any major or minor key up to four sharps or flats. The key-chord and starting note will first be sounded and the pulse indicated. Candidates may choose to sing the test from the treble or bass clef. A second attempt will be allowed if necessary.
- C1** To identify a cadence at the end of a phrase, played twice by the examiner, as perfect, imperfect or interrupted. The key-chord will first be sounded.
- 2** To identify the two chords forming the above cadence as tonic, subdominant, dominant, dominant seventh or submediant in root position, or tonic in second inversion. Candidates may alternatively use the equivalent roman notation. The key-chord will first be sounded and each chord will be played again.
- 3** To identify whether a short passage, played once by the examiner, beginning in a major key modulates to its dominant, subdominant, or relative minor. The key-chord will first be sounded and named. Candidates may alternatively state the letter name of the new key.
- D1** To answer questions on the features of a piece played by the examiner, including the general perception of texture, form (including phrase structure), style and period, of which the examiner will select one or two and advise the candidate accordingly before playing the piece. Candidates will be expected to use Italian terms in their answers where appropriate.
- 2** To clap the rhythm of a short extract played twice by the examiner from the above piece and state whether it is in 2, 3, 4 or 6/8 time.

Aural Tests GRADE 8

- A1** To sing or play from memory the *lowest* part of a short three-part phrase played twice by the examiner. The key-chord and starting note will first be sounded and named, and the pulse indicated. A second attempt will be allowed if necessary.
- 2** To identify the cadence at the end of a further (following) phrase, played twice by the examiner, as perfect, imperfect, interrupted or plagal. The key-chord will first be sounded.
- 3** To identify up to four chords in the above cadential progression, played twice by the examiner, as tonic (root position, first or second inversions), supertonic (root position or first inversion), subdominant (root position), dominant (root position, first or second inversions), dominant seventh (root position), or submediant (root position). Candidates may alternatively use the equivalent roman notation. The key-chord will first be sounded.
- B** To sing a short melody from score, accompanied by a higher part played by the examiner, in any major or minor key up to four sharps or flats. The key-chord and starting note will first be sounded and the pulse indicated. Candidates may choose to sing the test from the treble or bass clef. A second attempt will be allowed if necessary.
- C** To identify two modulations, each played once by the examiner, beginning in a major or minor key. The passages may modulate to the dominant (including dominant minor if in a minor key), subdominant, relative minor or major, or (from a major key only) to the supertonic minor. Candidates will also be required to name the new keys. In each instance the key-chord will first be sounded and the key named.
- D** To discuss matters relating to any of the musical features of a piece played by the examiner.