



MUSICIANSHIP AND THEORY TEST – CRITERIA

As part of the audition process, applicants who are recalled for an in-person audition will also complete a 60-minute written musicianship and theory test.

Questions range from less challenging to more challenging allowing students to attempt as many questions as possible, based on their current level of musicianship and theory.

STUDENTS AUDITIONING FOR YEARS 7-9

1. Intervals

Aural recognition of intervals (quality and size) within the range of an octave ascending and descending.

2. Chords

Aural recognition of chord types including major, minor, augmented and diminished triads in root position and the dominant 7th chord in root position.

3. Scales

Aural recognition of major, harmonic and melodic minors, and major and minor pentatonic scales.

4. Rhythmic Dictation

Rhythmic dictation in simple time (2/4, 3/4, 4/4) using note values from semibreve to semiquavers.

5. Melodic Dictation

Melodic transcription in simple time using notes from the pentatonic and diatonic major scale. Rhythmic values used: crotchets, quavers and minims.

6. Time Signatures

Ability to add time signature and bar lines to a given written passage. In simple or compound time (2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8, 9/8, 12/8).

7. Scale/Triad Writing

Write scales and their tonic triads in Major and minor keys up to and including three sharps and three flats in treble and bass clef.

8. Key Signatures

Write and identify major and minor key signatures up to and including three sharps and three flats.

9. Written Intervals

Write all major and minor diatonic intervals within the range of an octave in treble and bass clef.

10. Cadences

Aurally recognise perfect, plagal, interrupted and imperfect cadences in major and minor keys.

11. Transposition

Transpose a major melody into a given key (up to 3 sharps or flats).

STUDENTS AUDITIONING FOR YEARS 10-12

1. Intervals

Aural recognition of intervals (quality and size) within the range of an octave ascending and descending.

2. Chords

Aural recognition of chord types including major, minor, diminished and augmented triads in root position the major 7th, dominant 7th and minor 7th chords in root position.

3. Scales

Aural recognition of major, natural, harmonic and melodic minors, and major and minor pentatonic scales.

4. Chord Progressions

Aural recognition of a chord progression in major or minor using chords I, IV, V and ii and vi in root position.

5. Rhythmic Dictation

Rhythmic dictation in simple or compound time using note values from semibreve to semiquavers.

6. Melodic Dictation

Melodic transcription in simple or compound time using notes from the major or melodic minor scale. Rhythm will be provided.

7. Time Signatures

Ability to add time signature and bar lines to a given written passage in simple and compound time.

8. Cadences

Aurally recognise perfect, plagal, interrupted, and imperfect cadences in major and minor keys.

9. Written Scales

Write major, natural, harmonic and melodic minors, and major and minor pentatonic scales in keys up to and including five sharps and five flats. Bass and treble clef.

10. Written Triads

Write scales and their tonic triads in major and minor keys up to and including five sharps and five flats. Bass and treble clef.

11. Written Intervals

Write all major and minor diatonic intervals within the range of an octave. Bass and treble clef.

12. Written Chords

Write all major and minor triads and major 7th, minor 7th and dominant 7th chords in root position in keys up to and including five sharps and five flats. Bass and treble clef.

13. Key Signatures

Write and identify major and minor key signatures up to and including five sharps and five flats.

14. Transposition

Transpose a major or minor melody into a given key (up to 5 sharps or flats).