

Associated Board Grade 5 aural tests

- A. Sing (to 'lah' or 'dah') from memory a short melody played twice by the examiner. The key chord and starting note are given and the pulse (beat) indicated.**

Hints: tap the beat with your hand or toe as you listen to the music, so you can hear how the rhythm fits over the beat; try to visualise the patterns of the pitches – do they go up or down; do they move in scales or arpeggios patterns? Sing confidently, even if you're unsure, and make it up if necessary! Practise as much singing as you can – anything you hear on TV or radio.

- B. Sing six notes from a score in free time (ie. with no rhythm – sing at your own pace) within the range of a fifth above and a fourth below the tonic in a major key. The key chord and key note (tonic) is given first.**

Practice: sing in your head the first five notes of a major scale going up, and then the first four notes coming down; then try missing notes out. (See separate practice sheet.)

- C. 1. To identify certain features of a piece played by the examiner. You might be asked about the following. Try to use the Italian terms.**

Dynamics (forte/piano)

Gradation of tone (crescendo/diminuendo)

Articulation (staccato/legato)

Tempo changes (rallentando/accelerando)

Tonality (major or minor)

General perception of texture, rhythm, form, style and period:

Contrapuntal or imitative, with melody based around scale patterns – likely to be Baroque. Simple harmony (possibly with arpeggio-based accompaniment) & balanced phrases – likely to be Classical. Rich or slightly chromatic harmony & expressive, with much use of the pedal – likely to be Romantic. Unusual/dissonant harmony, with angular and unbalanced phrases – likely to be Modern. Syncopation – Jazz.

Hint – listen to Classic FM and look up composers' dates in a music dictionary.

- 2. To clap the rhythm of a short extract played twice by the examiner and say whether it is in 2, 3 or 4 time.**

Try to listen out for the time in C1

Practice: listen for all these features in music you hear on radio or TV. What time is it in? How does it make you feel? How does film music set a particular mood or scene?