

Sight-Reading

Look at the **key signature**.

Look at the **time signature**.

Look for any **accidentals** (sharps, flats or naturals outside the key signature)

Glance through to see if there are any awkward **rhythms** (particularly dotted rhythms).

Look at the shape of the **itches** - where are the highest and lowest notes? Are there any difficult jumps or does it mostly move by step?

Decide on a **BEAT** - think how fast you are able to play the most difficult bar.

The examiner will let you try out any difficult bits first, before you attempt the piece for real.

Silently count yourself in and try to keep a steady beat.

If you make a mistake, try and **keep going**. Remember that the rhythm is the most important thing.

Try also to follow the **articulation** (slurred and tongued notes) and the **dynamics** (louds and softs) though these are not so important as the correct rhythms and pitches.

Golden Rule: **DON'T STOP**.

Common tempo markings:

Andante	at a walking pace
Alla marcia	in the style of a march
Moderato	at a moderate pace
Allegro	lively
Sostenuto	sustained
Allegretto	brightly (not quite as lively as allegro)
Largo	slow

Practise sight-reading by playing any music you may have, however easy or difficult.

Ensemble playing is particularly useful to improve sight-reading.

A useful book is 'Improve Your Sight-Reading' by John Davies and Paul Harris (Faber)