

MARKING CRITERIA (all instruments)

Grades 1–8	Pieces <i>Pitch</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Tone</i>	<i>Shape</i>	<i>Performance</i>
Distinction 27–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly accurate notes and intonation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluent, with flexibility where appropriate Rhythmic character well conveyed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well projected Sensitive use of tonal qualities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressive, idiomatic musical shaping and detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assured Fully committed Vivid communication of character and style
Merit 24–26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largely accurate notes and intonation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustained, effective tempo Good sense of rhythm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly controlled and consistent Good tonal awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear musical shaping, well-realised detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive Carrying musical conviction Character and style communicated
Pass 20–23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally correct notes Sufficiently reliable intonation to maintain tonality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable tempo Generally stable pulse Overall rhythmic accuracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally reliable Adequate tonal awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some realisation of musical shape and/or detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally secure, prompt recovery from slips Some musical involvement
Below Pass 17–19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent note errors Insufficiently reliable intonation to maintain tonality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsuitable and/or uncontrolled tempo Irregular pulse Inaccurate rhythm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uneven and/or unreliable Inadequate tonal awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musical shape and detail insufficiently conveyed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insecure, inadequate recovery from slips Insufficient musical involvement
13–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largely inaccurate notes and/or intonation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erratic tempo and/or pulse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious lack of tonal control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musical shape and detail largely unrealised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacking continuity No musical involvement
10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly inaccurate notes and/or intonation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incoherent tempo and/or pulse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No tonal control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No shape or detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to continue for more than a short section
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered

Grades 1–8	Scales and arpeggios	Sight-reading*
Distinction 19–21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly accurate notes/pitch Fluent and rhythmic Musically shaped Confident response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluent, rhythmically accurate Accurate notes/pitch/key Musical detail realised Confident presentation
Merit 17–18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largely accurate notes/pitch Mostly regular flow Mainly even tone Secure response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate tempo, usually steady pulse Mainly correct rhythm Largely correct notes/pitch/key Largely secure presentation
Pass 14–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally correct notes/pitch, despite errors Continuity generally maintained Generally reliable tone Cautious response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuity generally maintained Note values mostly realised Pitch outlines in place, despite errors Cautious presentation
Below Pass 11–13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent errors in notes and/or pitch Lacking continuity and/or some items incomplete Unreliable tone Uncertain response and/or some items not attempted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacking overall continuity Incorrect note values Very approximate notes/pitch/key Insecure presentation
7–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very approximate notes and/or pitch Sporadic and/or frequently incomplete Serious lack of tonal control Very uncertain response and/or several items not attempted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No continuity or incomplete Note values unrealised Pitch outlines absent Very uncertain presentation
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered

Grades 1–8	Aural tests
Distinction 17–18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate throughout Musically perceptive Confident response
Merit 15–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengths significantly outweigh weaknesses Musically aware Secure response
Pass 12–14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengths just outweigh weaknesses Cautious response
Below Pass 9–11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weaknesses outweigh strengths Uncertain response
6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaccuracy throughout Vague response
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered

* Includes Transposition for Horn, Trumpet and Organ (Grades 6–8) and Figured bass realization for Harpsichord (Grades 4–8).

In these cases, of the total 21 marks, 12 are allocated to Sight-reading and 9 to Transposition (or Figured bass realization), and one combined mark is recorded.