

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS FROM 2027

In the exam, candidates will be asked 5 questions, with the examples drawn from the sight-reading test. There will be a question on each of the following:

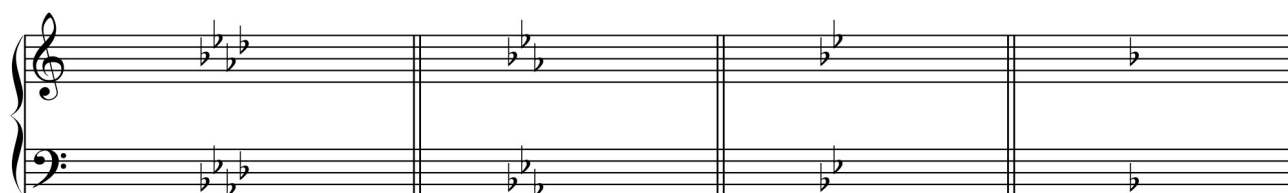
1. The key of the piece and its relative major/minor
2. The letter name of a note (in the same clef as the candidate has been reading from)
3. How many beats in a bar and what type of beats they are
4. An Italian term, or terms.
5. Describing the dynamics or other articulation marking (e.g. staccato/tenuto).

Key Signatures

Major and Minor keys up to 4 sharps and flats



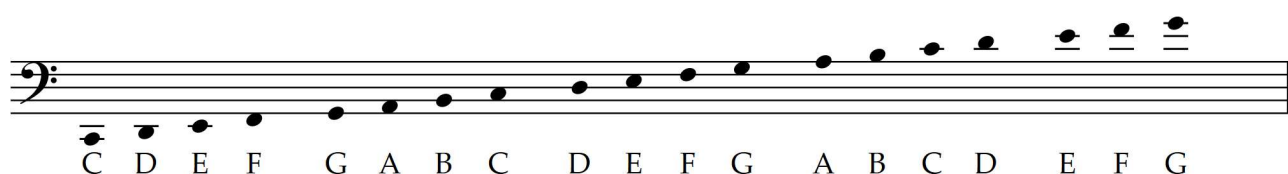
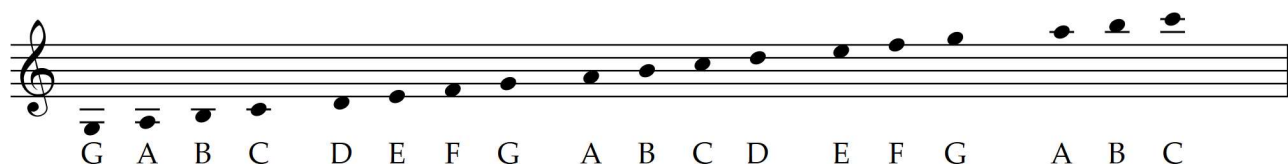
C major	G major	D major	A major	E major
A minor	E minor	B minor	F# minor	C# minor



Ab major	Eb major	Bb major	F major
F minor	C minor	G minor	D minor

Note names in the treble or bass clef (as appropriate to voice type)

NB this includes the modification of the note by a sharp, flat or natural sign, both as accidentals and via the key signature



Time signatures

Time signatures come in two types. Simple time signatures and compound time signatures.

For the exam you will need to know the following time signatures

These are simple time signatures. The top number tells you the number of beats, whilst the number 4 on the bottom tells you that they are crotchet beats



2 crotchet beats per bar

3 crotchet beats per bar

4 crotchet beats per bar

These are compound time signatures. These need to be explained and demonstrated to help you understand them, so ask your choir trainer or someone who knows about them!

You can also learn what they represent, as shown below.



2 dotted crotchet beats per bar

3 dotted crotchet beats per bar

4 dotted crotchet beats per bar

Terms and signs

You need to know all the terms set at Bronze level as well as some new ones for Silver. The new terms are in red colour, and the ones from Bronze level in black colour.

Tempo markings

Italian	English
Lento	Slowly
Adagio	Slow and stately – literally “at ease”
Andante	At a walking pace
Moderato	At a moderate pace
Allegro	Fast and lively
Rallentando (rall)	Slowing down
Ritardando (rit)	Delaying
Ritenuto (rit)	Holding back
Accelerando	Getting faster
A tempo	Return to the original speed

Poco	A little
Molto	A lot (much)
Allegretto	A little lively/quite lively
Largo	Broadly/Slowly
Larghetto	A little/quite broadly/slowly
Mosso	Movement
Vivace	Lively/briskly
Tempo Primo/Tempo 1	Return to the opening tempo
Rubato	Flexible rhythms
Meno	Less
Piu	More
E	And
Espressivo	Expressively
Cantabile	In a singing style
Sostenuto	Sustained

Dynamic markings

<i>pp</i>	very quiet
<i>p</i>	quiet
<i>mp</i>	quite quiet
<i>mf</i>	quite loud
<i>f</i>	loud
<i>ff</i>	very loud
<i>sfz</i>	Suddenly loud
<i>Fp</i>	Loud then suddenly quiet
<i>Crescendo *</i>	Get louder
<i>Diminuendo*</i>	Get softer

*For these terms you also need to know the 'hairpin' symbols:



Articulation markings

Slur	In singing, two or more notes sung to one syllable are indicated by a slur. In instrumental music, slurs indicate smooth playing	
Staccato	Make the note detached. Shown by a dot over or under the note-head	
Accent	Make the note louder	
Tenuto	Hold the note a little	