

Theory GRADE 1

- 1 Note values of semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver and semiquaver, and their equivalent rests (candidates may use the terms 'whole note', 'half note', etc.). Tied notes. Single-dotted notes and rests.
- 2 Simple time signatures of $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$; bar-lines and the grouping of the notes listed above within these times. Composition of a two-bar rhythm in answer to a given rhythm starting on the first beat of a bar.
- 3 The staff. Treble (G) and bass (F) clefs. Names of notes on the staff, including middle C in both clefs. Sharp, flat and natural signs, and their cancellation.
- 4 Construction of the major scale, including the position of the tones and semitones. Scales and key signatures of the major keys of C, G, D and F in both clefs, with their tonic triads (root position), degrees (number only), and intervals above the tonic (by number only).
- 5 Some frequently used terms and signs concerning tempo, dynamics, performance directions and articulation marks. Simple questions will be asked about a melody written in either treble or bass clef.

Theory GRADE 2

As in Grade 1, with the addition of:

- 1 Simple time signatures of $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{2}$ $\frac{4}{2}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ and the grouping of notes and rests within these times. Triplets, and triplet note groups with rests. Questions will include the composition of simple four-bar rhythms starting on the first beat of the bar and using a given opening.
- 2 Extension of the staff to include two ledger lines below and above each staff.
- 3 Construction of the minor scale (harmonic *or* melodic at candidate's choice, but candidates will be expected to know which form they are using). Scales and key signatures of the major keys of A, B \flat and E \flat , and the minor keys of A, E and D, with their tonic triads (root position), degrees (number only), and intervals above the tonic (by number only).
- 4 More terms and signs in common use.

Theory GRADE 3

As in preceding grades, with the addition of:

- 1 Compound time signatures of $\frac{6}{8}$ $\frac{9}{8}$ $\frac{12}{8}$ and the grouping of notes and rests within these times. The demisemiquaver (32nd note) and its equivalent rest. Questions will include the composition of a simple four-bar rhythm which may start on an upbeat.
- 2 Extension of the staff beyond two ledger lines. The transposition of a simple melody from the treble clef to the bass clef, or vice versa, at the octave.
- 3 Scales and key signatures of all major and minor keys up to and including four sharps and flats, including both harmonic and melodic forms of minor scales, with their tonic triads (root position), degrees (number only), and intervals above the tonic (number and type).
- 4 More terms and signs. The simple questions about a melody may include one on its phrase structure.