

Specimen Improvisation Tests

Stylistic Stimulus

for Trinity College London exams from 2017

Initial-Grade 8

B \flat Instruments – Treble Clef

Contents

Initial.....	3
Grade 1.....	3
Grade 2.....	4
Grade 3.....	5
Grade 4.....	5
Grade 5.....	6
Grade 6.....	7
Grade 7.....	9
Grade 8.....	11

Stylistic stimulus

The stylistic stimulus requires candidates to improvise over a notated piano part played by the examiner. Candidates are given a stimulus which includes the notated piano part and chord symbols. The stimulus begins with a two-bar introduction played by the examiner alone, followed by a further section over which candidates must improvise for a specified number of repeats. In the exam, the examiner plays the stimulus twice for candidates' reference, without repeats. Candidates are then given 30 seconds' preparation time, during which they may prepare for their improvisation aloud if they wish. The test then follows. The examiner then plays the stimulus again, and candidates join after the introduction, improvising for the specified number of repeats. Candidates should aim to improvise in a way that complements the musical idiom of the stimulus.

Initial

Example 1

March ♩ = 92

C G G C

f

Example 2

Lullaby ♩ = 72

C G G C

p

Grade 1

Example 1

Fanfare ♩ = 112

C G G C

mf

to be played through twice

Example 2

Moderato ♩ = 100

G D D G

to be played through twice

Grade 2

Example 1

Tango ♩ = 120

F Bb C F

to be played through twice

Example 2

Andante ♩ = 82

Am Dm E Am

to be played through twice

Grade 3

Example 1

Waltz ♩ = 104

Dm Gm A Dm

to be played through twice

Example 2

Allegretto ♩ = 112

B♭ Cm F B♭

to be played through twice

Grade 4

Example 1

Quick Waltz ♩ = 124

Gm Cm D Gm

to be played through three times

Example 2

Adagio ♩ = 60

D Em G D

to be played through three times

mf

Grade 5

Example 1

Vivace ♩ = 90

A D Bm E A

to be played through three times

mp

Example 2

Grazioso ♩ = 104

Eb Ab Cm Bb Eb

to be played through three times

mp

Grade 6

Example 1

Agitato ♩ = 132

Cm G⁷ Cm

to be played through twice

Fm Cm A♭ G⁷ Cm

Example 2

Nocturne ♩. = 63

The first system of the musical score is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a time signature of 12/8. The tempo is marked as ♩. = 63. The music begins with a whole rest in the treble staff for two measures, followed by a repeat sign and four eighth notes (F#, C#, G#, F#) in the treble staff. The bass staff contains a melodic line starting with a half note F# and a series of eighth notes. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed below the first measure of the bass staff. The system concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

F#m

to be played through twice

The second system continues the piece. The treble staff features a series of eighth notes with a key signature of three sharps. Above the staff, the following chords are indicated: C#, C#7, D, Bm, C#, and C#7. The bass staff continues with a melodic line and accompaniment. The system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

The third system continues the piece. The treble staff features a series of eighth notes with a key signature of three sharps. Above the staff, the following chords are indicated: Bm, F#m, C#, C#7, and F#m. The bass staff continues with a melodic line and accompaniment. The system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Grade 7

Example 1

Grave ♩ = 42

E B C#m

to be played through twice

G#m Amaj7 B B7 E

p

Example 2

Gigue ♩ = 92

Chord symbols for the first system: $A\flat$ $E\flat$ $A\flat$ $E\flat^7$ $A\flat$

to be played through twice

Chord symbols for the second system: C C^7 Fm C^7 Fm $E\flat$ $A\flat$ $E\flat^7$ $A\flat$

mp

Grade 8

Example 1

Lively Dance ♩ = 138

Fm C D♭ A♭ D♭ A♭

to be played through twice

B♭m7 C Fm C D♭ A♭ D♭ Fm C7 Fm

Example 1

Impressionistic:

Slow and smooth ♩ = 63

C#m9 F#m C#m9 F#m Emaj7 A

to be played through twice

Emaj7 A F#m7 G#7 F#m7 G#7 C#m9 F#m C#m9