

AURAL

This test supports the development of candidates' abilities in musical perception and understanding by requiring them to recognise musical features by ear (for example metre and pulse, pitch, performance characteristics).

All questions are based on a single musical example played at the piano by the examiner.

At most grades, candidates are asked to describe various features of the music such as dynamics, articulation, texture and style. Candidates are not required to sing.

Practice tests can be found in Trinity's *Aural Tests from 2017* books, available from trinitycollege.com/shop or from your local music shop.

Aural Initial-Grade 8: Requirements and parameters**Initial**

Parameters	Task	Requirement
Melody only	Listen to the melody three times	Clap the pulse on the third playing, stressing the strong beat
4 bars	Listen to the melody once	Identify the dynamic as <i>forte</i> or <i>piano</i>
Major key	Listen to the melody once	Identify the articulation as <i>legato</i> or <i>staccato</i>
$\frac{2}{4}$	Listen to the first three notes of the melody once	Identify the highest or lowest note

Grade 1

Parameters	Task	Requirement
Melody only	Listen to the melody three times	Clap the pulse on the third playing, stressing the strong beat
4 bars	Listen to the melody once	i) Identify the dynamic as <i>forte</i> or <i>piano</i> ii) Identify the articulation as <i>legato</i> or <i>staccato</i>
Major key	Listen to the first two bars of the melody once	Identify the last note as higher or lower than the first note
$\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$	Listen to the melody twice, with a change of rhythm or pitch in the second playing	Identify where the change occurs

Grade 2

Parameters	Task	Requirement
Melody only 4 bars Major or minor key	Listen to the melody three times	Clap the pulse on the third playing, stressing the strong beat
	Listen to the melody once	i) Describe the dynamics, which will vary during the melody ii) Identify the articulation as <i>legato</i> or <i>staccato</i>
	Listen to the melody once	Identify the last note as higher or lower than the first note
$\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$	Listen to the melody twice, with a change of rhythm or pitch in the second playing	i) Identify where the change occurs ii) Identify the change as rhythm or pitch

Grade 3

Parameters	Task	Requirement
Melody only 4 bars Major or minor key	Listen to the melody twice	Clap the pulse on the second playing, stressing the strong beat
	Listen to the melody once	Identify the tonality as major or minor
	Listen to the first two notes of the melody once	Identify the interval by number only (second, third, fourth, fifth or sixth)
$\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$	Study a copy of the melody (provided in treble, alto or bass clef as appropriate), and listen to it once as written and once with a change of rhythm or pitch	i) Identify in which bar the change has occurred ii) Identify the change as rhythm or pitch

Grade 4

Parameters	Task	Requirement
Harmonised 4 bars Major or minor key	Listen to the piece twice	Clap the pulse on the second playing, stressing the strong beat
	Listen to the piece twice	i) Identify the tonality as major or minor ii) Identify the final cadence as perfect or imperfect
	Listen to the first two notes of the melody once	Identify the interval as minor or major second, minor or major third, perfect fourth or fifth, minor or major sixth
$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{6}{8}$	Study a copy of the melody (provided in treble, alto or bass clef as appropriate), and listen to it once as written and once with a change of rhythm and a change of pitch	i) Identify the bar in which the change of rhythm occurred ii) Identify the bar in which the change of pitch occurred

Grade 5

Parameters	Task	Requirement
	Listen to the piece twice	i) Clap the pulse on the second playing, stressing the strong beat ii) Identify the time signature
Harmonised 8 bars	Listen to the piece twice	i) Identify the changing tonality ii) Identify the final cadence as perfect, plagal, imperfect or interrupted
Major or minor key $\begin{matrix} 2 & 3 & 4 & 6 \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 8 \end{matrix}$	Listen to two notes from the melody line played consecutively	Identify the interval as minor or major second, minor or major third, perfect fourth or fifth, minor or major sixth, minor or major seventh or octave
	Study a copy of the piece, and listen to it once as written and once with a change of rhythm and a change of pitch (both changes in the melody line)	i) Identify the bar in which the change of rhythm occurred ii) Identify the bar in which the change of pitch occurred

Grade 6

Parameters	Task	Requirement
	Listen to the piece twice	i) Identify the time signature ii) Comment on the dynamics iii) Comment on the articulation
Harmonised 8 bars	Listen to the piece twice	Identify and comment on two other characteristics of the piece
Major key $\begin{matrix} 2 & 3 & 4 & 6 \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 8 \end{matrix}$	Listen to the first four bars of the piece once	Identify the key to which the music modulates as subdominant, dominant or relative minor Answers may alternatively be given as key names
	Study a copy of the piece, and listen to it twice with two changes to the melody line	Locate and describe the changes as pitch or rhythm

Grade 7

Parameters	Task	Requirement
Harmonised 8 bars Major or minor key $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{6}{8}$	Listen to the piece twice	i) Identify the time signature ii) Comment on the dynamics iii) Comment on the articulation
	Listen to the piece twice	Identify and comment on two other characteristics of the piece
	Listen to the first four bars of the piece once	Identify the key to which the music modulates as subdominant, dominant or relative key Answers may alternatively be given as key names
	Study a copy of the piece, and listen to it twice with three changes	Locate and describe the changes as pitch (melody line only) or rhythm

Grade 8

Parameters	Task	Requirement
Harmonised 12-16 bars Major or minor key $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{6}{8}$ $\frac{5}{8}$	Listen to the piece once	i) Identify the time signature ii) Comment on the dynamics iii) Comment on the articulation
	Listen to the piece twice	Identify and comment on three other characteristics of the piece
	Study a copy of the piece, and listen to it twice with three changes	Locate and describe the changes as pitch or rhythm