

Marking criteria

Grades 1–8	Criteria for each of the pieces/songs presented				
	<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	Criteria for the performance as a whole		
	<i>Communication</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Delivery</i>
Distinction 27–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistently well-projected and involved, showing strong performance commitment and conviction ● Effective sequence and pacing of chosen programme; consistently good performance awareness and control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistently effective stylistic characterisation; interpretative demands of the programme well met ● Consistently good awareness and control of textures and ensemble, with effective blending and balancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistently assured and controlled; technical challenges of the programme well met ● Consistently effective instrument management, fully responsive to the performance situation
Merit 24–26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mainly well-projected and involved, showing positive performance commitment ● Largely effective sequence and pacing of chosen programme; mainly good performance awareness and control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mostly effective stylistic realisation; interpretative demands of the programme largely well met ● Mainly good awareness and control of textures and ensemble, with appropriate blending and balancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Effectively controlled; most technical challenges of the programme well met ● Mostly effective instrument management, mainly responsive to the performance situation
Pass 20–23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Projection and involvement sufficient to maintain an overall sense of performance ● Sequence and pacing of chosen programme shows adequate performance awareness and control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sufficient stylistic realisation to meet the interpretative demands of the programme ● Adequate awareness and control of textures and ensemble, with sufficient blending and balancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Generally controlled; technical challenges of the programme securely met overall ● Sufficiently reliable instrument management to meet the demands of the performance situation
Below Pass 15–19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient projection or sense of involvement to maintain a sense of performance ● Sequence and/or pacing of chosen programme shows inadequate performance awareness or control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stylistic realisation not equal to the interpretative demands of the programme ● Insufficient awareness or control of textures and ensemble, and/or unsuitable blending and balancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistency of control insufficient to meet the technical challenges of the programme ● Insufficiently reliable instrument management to meet the demands of the performance situation
10–14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sense of performance largely absent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stylistic realisation and/or control of textures and ensemble largely absent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Very insecure technical control and/or instrument management