
Grade 3 Popular Music Vocals

Component 1: Musicianship

15 marks

Major scale - 1 octave ascending and descending (without a break)
Major 7th arpeggio - 1 octave ascending and descending (without a break)
Intervals: major 3rd, perfect 5th

Key/pitch to be chosen by *the candidate*, and stated to the examiner. The examiner will then provide the tonic note before candidate sings from memory – using any vowel sound(s) or sol-fa syllables (such as ‘lah’). A ‘neutral’ (non-stylised) voice should be used during this section of the exam, avoiding excessive vibrato.

Consonant and vowel sounds should be accurate and distinct, and where a single consonant or vowel is used its clarity should be maintained.

Tempos are at the candidate’s discretion – subject to the guidelines given in the examination handbook.

Component 2: Performance

60 marks

See Section 2.6, ‘Performance Component’.

Introduce and perform from memory TWO songs, lasting no longer than 9 minutes in total.
(Timings should take account of gaps between songs.)

Component 3: Musical Knowledge

10 marks

See Section 2.7, ‘Musical Knowledge Component’.

Candidates who have not passed the Popular Music Theory Grade 3 exam, and candidates not choosing the option described in Section 2.7, will be asked a selection of questions, appropriate to the grade, covering some or all of the following topics. Candidates’ responses should demonstrate a ‘practical’ understanding of the topics as follows:

- 4/4 time signature
- Basic repeat markings
- Basic dynamic markings

Component 4: Aural Awareness

15 marks

Repetition of rhythm: To clap back a 4 bar rhythm in 3/4, 6/8 or 4/4 time. The rhythm will contain a combination of half notes, dotted quarter notes, quarter notes and eighth notes, except for the final bar which will contain one long note.

Keeping time: To clap the main pulse, and accent the first beat of each bar, during the second playing of a four bar melody in either 3/4, 6/8 or 4/4 time. The melody will begin on the first beat of the bar.

Repetition of a melodic phrase: To sing back a one bar phrase, containing quarter notes and eighth notes, in 4/4 time. The phrase will consist of notes from one octave of a major scale, and will start either on the keynote or the fifth degree of the scale.

Recognition of intervals: To identify an interval taken from one octave of any major scale, when played consecutively.

Recognition of chords: To identify a chord as major or minor after it has been played twice.

The LCM ‘Popular Music Vocals Handbook’ contains:
- the notation and desired tempos for all Musicianship requirements;
- specimen questions for the Musical Knowledge component;
- examples of the Aural Awareness requirements.

See Section 3.1 for further details.