
Grade 4 Popular Music Vocals

Component 1: Musicianship

15 marks

Natural minor scale - 1 octave ascending; 1 octave descending

Minor arpeggio - 1 octave ascending; 1 octave descending

Intervals: as previous grade (major 3rd, perfect 5th), plus major 2nd, perfect 4th

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 THREE songs, lasting no longer than 15 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 4 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:

- 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures
- Repeat markings
- 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 dotted quarter notes, quarter notes, eighth notes and sixteenth notes – except for the final bar which will contain one long note.

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

Repetition of a melodic phrase: To sing back a two bar phrase, containing no note value shorter than an eighth note, in either 6/8 or 4/4 time. The phrase will consist of notes from one octave of a major scale, and may start from any degree of the scale.

Recognition of intervals: To identify a third or seventh interval played consecutively as major or minor.

Recognition of chords: To identify a chord as major 7, minor 7 or dominant 7, 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.