

MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE (Initial-Grade 5 only)

This test encourages learners to understand the wider musical context of the pieces they play, as well as their knowledge of notation and their instrument. Examiners ask carefully graded questions based on candidates' chosen pieces. Questions refer to the solo line only, and not the accompaniment.

In the exam, candidates choose which piece they would like to be asked about first.

Examiners then choose a second piece for the remaining questions. Candidates' musical scores should be free of annotations which might aid their responses. Examiners usually point to the relevant part of the score when asking questions. Candidates can use American terms (eighth note, half note, etc) as an alternative to English terms (quaver, minim, etc).

The following tables give example questions and responses.

DRUM KIT

	Parameters*	Sample question	Sample answer
Initial	Note durations	What is the value of this note?	Half a beat
	Stave, barlines	What is this called?	A barline
	Identify time signature	What is this called?	A time signature
	Basic musical terms and signs	What is this called?	A pause mark
Grade 1	Note length name	What is the name of this note?	A quaver
	Explain time signature	What does $\frac{4}{4}$ mean?	Four crotchet beats in a bar
	Musical terms and signs	What is the meaning of <i>da capo</i> ?	Go back to the start
	Parts of the instrument	What is this part called?	The batter head

	Metronome marks	Explain the sign ♩ = 72	72 crotchet beats per minute
Grade 2	Musical style (simple)	What is the name of this groove?	12 / 8 feel
	Rudiments	What rudiment is played here?	Flam
	Basic posture	Show me your basic stick grip	<i>Candidate demonstrates</i>
Grade 3	Kit techniques	How do you best produce this cross stick sound?	<i>Candidate demonstrates</i>
	Sticking pattern	What sticking should be used to approach this passage/idea?	Paradiddle
Grade 4	Technical challenges	Show me the most challenging part of this piece and tell me why	Here [<i>candidate indicates</i>], because of the co-ordination between the hands and feet
Grade 5	Musical style (advanced)	Comment on the style of this piece	<i>Candidate identifies style of piece and gives examples of stylistic features</i>