Specimen Improvisation Tests
Stylistic Stimulus

for Trinity College London exams from 2017
Initial-Grade 8

B♭ Instruments – Treble Clef
Stylistic stimulus

The stylistic stimulus requires candidates to improvise over a notated piano part played by the examiner. Candidates are given a stimulus which includes the notated piano part and chord symbols. The stimulus begins with a two-bar introduction played by the examiner alone, followed by a further section over which candidates must improvise for a specified number of repeats. In the exam, the examiner plays the stimulus twice for candidates’ reference, without repeats. Candidates are then given 30 seconds’ preparation time, during which they may prepare for their improvisation aloud if they wish. The test then follows. The examiner then plays the stimulus again, and candidates join after the introduction, improvising for the specified number of repeats. Candidates should aim to improvise in a way that complements the musical idiom of the stimulus.
Initial

Example 1

March  \( \text{\textit{\textbf{q}} = 92} \)

\[ \text{\textbf{\text{\texttt{C G G C}}}} \]

Example 2

Lullaby  \( \text{\textit{\textbf{q}} = 72} \)

\[ \text{\textbf{\text{\texttt{C G G C}}}} \]

Grade 1

Example 1

Fanfare  \( \text{\textit{\textbf{q}} = 112} \)

\[ \text{\textbf{\text{\texttt{C G G C}}}} \]

\( \text{\textit{\textbf{to be played through twice}}} \)
Example 2

Moderato $\frac{J}{\text{= } 100}$

G D D G

to be played through twice

Example 1

Tango $\frac{J}{\text{= } 120}$

F Bb C F

to be played through twice

Example 2

Andante $\frac{J}{\text{= } 82}$

Am Dm E Am

to be played through twice
Grade 3

Example 1

Waltz  \( \frac{\text{j}}{\text{=}} = 104 \)

\begin{align*}
\text{Dm} & \quad \text{Gm} & \quad \text{A} & \quad \text{Dm} \\
\text{to be played through twice} & \\
\text{mf} & \\
\end{align*}

Example 2

Allegretto  \( \frac{\text{j}}{\text{=}} = 112 \)

\begin{align*}
\text{Bb} & \quad \text{Cm} & \quad \text{F} & \quad \text{Bb} \\
\text{to be played through twice} & \\
\text{mp} & \\
\end{align*}

Grade 4

Example 1

Quick Waltz  \( \frac{\text{j}}{\text{=}} = 124 \)

\begin{align*}
\text{Gm} & \quad \text{Cm} & \quad \text{D} & \quad \text{Gm} \\
\text{to be played through three times} & \\
\text{mf} & \\
\end{align*}
Example 2

Adagio $\downarrow = 60$

Grade 5

Example 1

Vivace $\downarrow = 90$

Example 2

Grazioso $\downarrow = 104$
Grade 6

Example 1

Agitato $\textbf{J} = 132$

\begin{music}
\begin{staff}
Cm & G7 & Cm
\end{staff}

\begin{music}
Fm & Cm & Ab & G7 & Cm
\end{music}

to be played through twice
Example 2

Nocturne $\frac{4}{4} = 63$

To be played through twice
Example 1

Grave $J = 42$

E B C#m

to be played through twice

Gm Amaj7 B B7 E

Grade 7
Example 2

Gigue \( \text{\textit{j.}} = 92 \)

Ab Eb Ab Eb7 Ab

to be played through twice

C C7 Fm C7 Fm Eb Ab Eb7 Ab
Example 1

Lively Dance \( \frac{\text{\textit{q}}}{\text{\textit{q}}} = 138 \)

\[ \text{Fm C Db Ab Db Ab} \]

\text{to be played through twice}

\[ \text{Bzm7 C Fm C Db Ab Db Fm C7 Fm} \]

Grade 8
Example 1

Impressionistic:
*Slow and smooth* $\frac{\text{d}}{\text{m}} = 63$

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C$\text{#m}^9$ F$\text{m}$ C$\text{#m}^9$ F$\text{m}$ E$\text{maj}^7$ A
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to be played through twice

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E$\text{maj}^7$ A F$\text{m}^7$ G$\text{#}^7$ F$\text{m}^7$ G$\text{#}^7$ C$\text{#m}^9$ F$\text{m}$ C$\text{#m}^9$
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E$\text{maj}^7$ A F$\text{m}^7$ G$\text{#}^7$ F$\text{m}^7$ G$\text{#}^7$ C$\text{#m}^9$ F$\text{m}$ C$\text{#m}^9$
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