

# Aural

The parameters for aural tests have changed. Changes apply to all exams taken from 1 January 2017 onwards. Please note that there is no overlap for supporting tests, and the previous aural tests cannot be offered after 31 December 2016.

This test supports the development of candidates' abilities in the field of musical perception by assessing their responses to carefully graded questions. Questions are detailed in the table below and based on a single musical example, performed at the piano by the examiner. Practice tests can be found in Trinity's *Aural Tests from 2017* books, available from [www.trinitycollege.com/shop](http://www.trinitycollege.com/shop) or your local music retailer.

Grade	Parameters	Task	Response
Initial	melody only 4 bars major key $\frac{2}{4}$	▶ Listen to the melody three times	Clap the pulse on the third playing, stressing the strong beat
		▶ Listen to the melody once	Identify the dynamic as <i>forte</i> or <i>piano</i>
		▶ Listen to the melody once	Identify the articulation as <i>legato</i> or <i>staccato</i>
		▶ Listen to the first three notes of the melody once	Identify the highest or lowest note
Grade 1	melody only 4 bars major key $\frac{2}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$	▶ Listen to the melody three times	Clap the pulse on the third playing, stressing the strong beat
		▶ Listen to the melody once	i) Identify the dynamic as <i>forte</i> or <i>piano</i> ii) Identify the articulation as <i>legato</i> or <i>staccato</i>
		▶ Listen to the first two bars of the melody once	Identify the last note as higher or lower than the first note
		▶ Listen to the melody twice, with a change of rhythm or pitch in the second playing	Identify where the change occurred
Grade 2	melody only 4 bars major or minor key $\frac{2}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$	▶ Listen to the melody three times	Clap the pulse on the third playing, stressing the strong beat
		▶ Listen to the melody once	i) Describe the dynamics, which will vary during the melody ii) Identify the articulation as <i>legato</i> or <i>staccato</i>
		▶ Listen to the melody once	Identify the last note as higher or lower than the first note
		▶ Listen to the melody twice, with a change of rhythm or pitch in the second playing	i) Identify where the change occurred ii) Identify the change as rhythm or pitch

Grade	Parameters	Task	Response
Grade 3	melody only 4 bars major or minor key $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{4}{4}$	▶ Listen to the melody twice	Clap the pulse on the second playing, stressing the strong beat
		▶ Listen to the melody once	Identify the tonality as major or minor
		▶ Listen to the first two notes of the melody once	Identify the interval by number only (second, third, fourth, fifth or sixth)
		▶ Study a copy of the melody (provided in treble, alto or bass clef as appropriate), and listen to it once as written and once with a change of rhythm or pitch	i) Identify the bar in which the change occurred ii) Identify the change as rhythm or pitch
Grade 4	harmonised 4 bars major or minor key $\frac{4}{4}$ or $\frac{6}{8}$	▶ Listen to the piece twice	Clap the pulse on the second playing, stressing the strong beat
		▶ Listen to the piece twice	i) Identify the tonality as major or minor ii) Identify the final cadence as perfect or imperfect
		▶ Listen to the first two notes of the melody once	Identify the interval as minor or major second, minor or major third, perfect fourth or fifth, minor or major sixth
		▶ Study a copy of the melody (provided in treble, alto or bass clef as appropriate), and listen to it once as written and once with a change of rhythm and a change of pitch	i) Identify the bar in which the change of rhythm occurred ii) Identify the bar in which the change of pitch occurred
Grade 5	harmonised 8 bars major or minor key $\frac{2}{4}$ , $\frac{3}{4}$ , $\frac{4}{4}$ or $\frac{6}{8}$	▶ Listen to the piece twice	i) Clap the pulse on the second playing, stressing the strong beat ii) Identify the time signature
		▶ Listen to the piece twice	i) Identify the changing tonality ii) Identify the final cadence as perfect, plagal, imperfect or interrupted
		▶ Listen to two notes from the melody line played consecutively	Identify the interval as minor or major second, minor or major third, perfect fourth or fifth, minor or major sixth, minor or major seventh or octave
		▶ Study a copy of the piece, and listen to it once as written and once with a change of rhythm and a change of pitch (both changes in the melody line)	i) Identify the bar in which the change of rhythm occurred ii) Identify the bar in which the change of pitch occurred

Grade	Parameters	Task	Response
Grade 6	harmonised 8 bars major key $\frac{2}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{4}$ or $\frac{6}{8}$	▶ Listen to the piece twice	i) Identify the time signature ii) Comment on the dynamics iii) Comment on the articulation
		▶ Listen to the piece twice	Identify and comment on two other characteristics of the piece
		▶ Listen to the first four bars of the piece once	Identify the key to which the music modulates as subdominant, dominant or relative minor. Answers may alternatively be given as key names
		▶ Study a copy of the piece, and listen to it twice with two changes to the melody line	Locate and describe the changes as pitch or rhythm
Grade 7	harmonised 8 bars major or minor key $\frac{2}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{4}$ or $\frac{6}{8}$	▶ Listen to the piece twice	i) Identify the time signature ii) Comment on the dynamics iii) Comment on the articulation
		▶ Listen to the piece twice	Identify and comment on two other characteristics of the piece
		▶ Listen to the first four bars of the piece once	Identify the key to which the music modulates as subdominant, dominant or relative key. Answers may alternatively be given as key names
		▶ Study a copy of the piece, and listen to it twice with three changes	Locate and describe the changes as pitch (melody line only) or rhythm
Grade 8	harmonised 12-16 bars major or minor key $\frac{2}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{4}, \frac{6}{8}$ or $\frac{5}{8}$	▶ Listen to the piece once	i) Identify the time signature ii) Comment on the dynamics iii) Comment on the articulation
		▶ Listen to the piece twice	Identify and comment on three other characteristics of the piece
		▶ Study a copy of the piece, and listen to it twice with three changes	Locate and describe the changes as pitch or rhythm