Specimen Improvisation Tests

Motivic Stimulus

for Trinity College London exams from 2017

Initial–Grade 8

Bass Clef

Motivic stimulus

The motivic stimulus requires candidates to improvise unaccompanied in response to a short melodic fragment. Candidates are given a notated melodic fragment which the examiner plays twice on the piano for candidates' reference (candidates are not required to play this back). Candidates are then given 30 seconds' preparation time, during which they may prepare for their improvisation aloud if they wish. The test then follows. Candidates should aim to improvise within the specified duration range and may begin by quoting the stimulus directly, developing their improvisation from there. However, candidates are not required to quote the stimulus directly, and may instead develop their improvisation from ideas taken from the stimulus such as a small group of notes or an interval.

Initial

Example 1
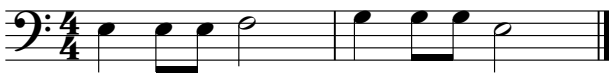
Use the stimulus below to improvise for 4–6 bars
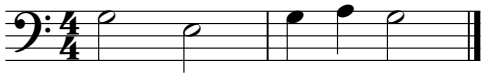
Example 2

Use the stimulus below to improvise for 4–6 bars

Grade 1

Example 1

Use the stimulus below to improvise for 4-8 bars

Example 2

Use the stimulus below to improvise for 4-8 bars

Grade 2

Example 1

Use the stimulus below to improvise for 6-8 bars

Example 2

Use the stimulus below to improvise for 6-8 bars

Grade 3

Example 1

Use the stimulus below to improvise for 6–8 bars

Example 2

Use the stimulus below to improvise for 6–8 bars

Grade 4

Example 1

Use the stimulus below to improvise for 8–12 bars

Example 2

Use the stimulus below to improvise for 8–12 bars

Grade 5

Example 1
Use the stimulus below to improvise for 8-12 bars

Example 2
Use the stimulus below to improvise for 8-12 bars

Grade 6

Example 1
Use the stimulus below to improvise for 12-16 bars

Example 2
Use the stimulus below to improvise for 12-16 bars

Grade 7

Example 1
Use the stimulus below to improvise for 12-16 bars

Example 2
Use the stimulus below to improvise for 12-16 bars

Grade 8

Example 1
Use the stimulus below to improvise for 12-16 bars

Example 2
Use the stimulus below to improvise for 12-16 bars