

New viola sight-reading tests for 2012 – a preview

(see pp. 14–15 of Libretto 2011:2)

Grade 1

Moderato



A four-bar piece in $\frac{4}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$, or a six-bar piece in $\frac{2}{4}$, in G or D majors, in 1st position (no use of C string). All notes separately bowed. Simple dynamics (*f*, *mf*, *p*), note values (♩, ♪, ♫, ♮) and rests (♫).

Grade 2

Expressively



An eight-bar piece, time and key signatures as Grade 1, with the addition of C major and A natural minor. Further use of 1st position. Notes separately bowed or with simple two-note slurs. Addition of *mp*, 'hairpins' (*cresc./dim.*), dotted minim, and minim rest.

Grade 3

Allegretto



An eight-bar piece, time and key signatures as Grade 2, with the addition of F, B♭, E♭ majors and D, G, C minors. Further use of 1st position. Occasional accidentals (within minor keys only). Dotted rhythms, semiquavers and ties may be encountered. *Pizzicato* (at end of piece only) and *staccato* may be included. Increasing use of dynamics, rests and slurs.

Grade 4

Grazioso

A piece of around eight bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 3, with the addition of $\frac{3}{4}$ and A major. Shifts between 1st and 3rd positions may be encountered. Occasional chromatic notes. Anacrusis, hooked bowing, accents and pause signs may be included.

Grade 5

Allegro giocoso

A piece of around eight to sixteen bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 4, with the addition of E, A \flat majors and E, F \sharp minors. Highest note A (a''): shifts as required to cover this range. Simple chords may be included (at end of piece only). Changes between *arco* and *pizzicato*, simple syncopation and a slowing of tempo at the end may be encountered.

Grade 6

Reflection

Moderato

mf *p*

p cresc.

f *mp*

f *rit.*

A piece of around twelve to sixteen bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 5, with the addition of $\frac{9}{8}$, $\frac{5}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$ and F minor. Highest note A (*a''*): shifts as required to cover this range. Further use of chords. Some passages in treble clef may be included. A slowing of tempo within the piece followed by an *a tempo* may be encountered, as may triplet rhythms.

Grade 7

Russian March

Allegro

f

mf

p *cresc.* *f*

mf *ff*

rit.

A piece of around sixteen to twenty bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 6, with the addition of $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{7}{4}$, B and C# minors. Highest note B (*b''*): shifts as required to cover this range. Further use of treble clef. Occasional use of left-hand *pizzicato* may be encountered.

Grade 8

Witches' Dance

Vivace

A piece of around sixteen to twenty-four bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 7, with the addition of $\frac{12}{8}$, B and D \flat majors. Highest note C (c'''): shifts as required to cover this range. Acceleration of tempo and simple ornaments may be encountered.