

Technical Requirements & Discussion Questions for Recorded Graded Exams

The following list of technical requirements should be performed to make up the Technical Work component of the exam for:

- **Classical Singing** (pp.1-4)
- **Popular Music Vocals** (pp.5-9)

Candidates may choose which scales or arpeggios to perform but should, where possible, select a variety of different keys. Close attention should be paid to instructions on articulation and dynamics. Further guidelines on specific requirements for each grade can be found in the relevant LCME syllabus.

Classical Singing

Grade 1

Technical Requirements

Exercises

Lesson 1 – *The Scale*, from Vaccai Metodo Pratico (Peters) in Italian OR German

Two verses of a simple, unaccompanied Folk or Traditional song (candidate's choice) in any language

Discussion Questions

Both questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Which of the pieces you sang today is your favourite and why?
- What is the mood of this piece?
- Choose one song and tell me about the text it is written to. What is it about?

Grade 2:

Technical Requirements

Exercises

Lesson 1 – *Skips of Thirds* from Vaccai Metodo Pratico (Peters) in Italian or German

Three verses of a simple, unaccompanied Folk or Traditional song (candidate's choice) in any language

Discussion Questions

Both questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Which of the pieces you sang today is your favourite and why?
- What is the mood of this piece?
- Choose one song and tell me about the text it is written to. What is it about?

Grade 3:

Technical Requirements

Exercises

Lesson 2 – *Skips of Fourths* from Vaccai Metodo Pratico (Peters) in Italian or German

Sing an unaccompanied Folk or Traditional song (candidate's choice) in any language

Discussion Questions

Both questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Which of the pieces you sang today is your favourite and why?
- Tell me about the different moods of the pieces you've chosen
- Choose one song and tell me about the text it is written to. What is it about?

Grade 4

Technical Requirements

Exercises

Lesson 2 – *Skips of Fifths* from Vaccai Metodo Pratico (Peters) in Italian or German

Two other exercises from Vaccai Lessons 1 and 2 (candidates choice)

Sing an unaccompanied Folk or Traditional song (candidate's choice) in any language

Discussion Questions

Both questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Which of the pieces you sang today is your favourite and why?
- What do you know about the composers of your pieces?
- Tell me your approach to learning your pieces and any difficulties you had when learning them.
- Choose one song and tell me about the relationship between the text and the music

Grade 5

Technical Requirements

Exercises

Lesson 3 – *Skips of Sixths* from Vaccai Metodo Pratico (Peters) in Italian or German

Two other exercises from Vaccai Lessons 1 and 2, (candidate's choice)

Sing an unaccompanied Folk or Traditional song (candidate's choice) in any language

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Which of the pieces you sang today is your favourite and why?
- Can you tell me which historical period this piece comes from?
- Tell me your approach to learning your pieces and any difficulties you had when learning them.
- Choose one song and tell me about the relationship between the text and the music
- What is the form of this piece?

Grade 6

Technical Requirements

Exercises

Lesson 4 - *Skips of Sevenths* OR *Skips of Octaves* from Vaccai Metodo Pratico (Peters) in Italian or German

Lesson 5 – *Semitones* from Vaccai

Two other exercises from Vaccai Lessons 1, 2, and 3 (candidate's choice)

Sing an unaccompanied Folk or Traditional song (candidate's choice) in any language

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Which of the pieces you sang today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to sing?
- Which historical period does this piece come from?
- Discuss your approach to learning the music including certain techniques and aspects of improvisation.
- What was the hardest thing about learning this piece and how did you overcome the difficulty
- What is the form of this piece?

Grade 7

Technical Requirements

Exercises

Lesson 6 – *Skips of Syncopes* from Vaccai Metodo Pratico (Peters) in Italian or German

Lesson 7 – *Introduction to Roulades* (runs) from Vaccai

Three other exercises from Vaccai Lessons 1-5 (candidate's choice)

Sing an unaccompanied Folk or Traditional song (candidate's choice) in any language

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Which of the pieces you sang today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to sing?
- Discuss the historical and stylistic context of one piece
- What do you know about the composers of your chosen pieces?
- Discuss your approach to learning one piece including certain techniques and aspects of improvisation.
- What was the hardest thing about learning this piece and how did you overcome the difficulty
- What is the form of this piece?

Grade 8

Technical Requirements

Exercises

Lesson 8 – *The Appoggiatura from Above and Below* from Vaccai Metodo Pratico (Peters) in Italian or German

Any five exercises from Lessons 1-7 (at least 2 from 5, 6 and 7) (candidate choice) from Vaccai

Sing an unaccompanied Folk or Traditional song (candidate's choice) in any language

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Which of the pieces you sang today is your favourite and why? Do you find it challenging or rewarding to sing?
- What do you know about the composers of your chosen pieces? Which other pieces do you know by the same composers?
- Discuss the historical and stylistic context of one piece
- Discuss your approach to learning one piece including certain techniques and aspects of improvisation.
- What was the hardest thing about learning this piece and how did you overcome the difficulty?
- What is the form of this piece?

Popular Music Vocals

Step 1

Technical Requirements

Scale and broken chord:

- Major scale - up to a 5th, ascending and descending
- Major broken chord - up to a 5th, ascending and descending

Riffs

Prepare an 8-bar passage containing four short riffs in 4/4 time.

Candidates should download the backing track in their preferred key from the LCME website and perform their riffs along to the track in the exam.

Step 2

Technical Requirements

Scale and arpeggio - These can be sung using any syllable and in any key. The candidate must notify the examiner of the starting note:

- Major scale - one octave, ascending
- Major arpeggio - one octave, ascending

Riffs

Prepare an 8-bar passage containing four short riffs in 4/4 time.

Candidates should download the backing track in their preferred key from the LCME website and perform their riffs along to the track in the exam.

Grade 1

Technical Requirements

Scales and arpeggios - These can be sung using any syllable and in any key. Candidates must notify the examiner of the starting note:

- Major scale - one octave, ascending
- Major scale - one octave, descending
- Major arpeggio - one octave, ascending
- Major arpeggio - one octave, descending

Riffs

Prepare a 16-bar passage containing four short riffs in 4/4 time.

Candidates should download the backing track in their preferred key from the LCME website and perform their riffs along to the track in the exam.

Discussion Questions

Both questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- What attracted you to perform these songs?
- Which performer is associated with a recording of one of these songs?

Grade 2:

Technical Requirements

Scales and arpeggios - These can be sung using any syllable and in any key. Candidates must notify the examiner of the starting note:

- Major scale - one octave, ascending and descending
- Minor scale (harmonic or melodic, candidate's choice) - one octave, ascending
- Major arpeggio - one octave, ascending and descending
- Minor arpeggio - one octave, ascending

Riffs

Prepare an 8-bar passage containing four short riffs in 4/4 time

Candidates should download the backing track in their preferred key from the LCME website and perform their riffs along to the track in the exam.

Discussion Questions

Both questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- What attracted you to perform these songs?
- Which performer is associated with a recording of one of these songs?
- Can you describe how you feel when you sing one of these songs?

Grade 3:

Technical Requirements

Scales and arpeggios - These can be sung using any syllable and in any key. Candidates must notify the examiner of the starting note:

- Major scale - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Minor scale (harmonic or melodic, candidate's choice) - one octave, ascending
- Minor scale (harmonic or melodic, candidate's choice) - one octave, descending
- Major arpeggio - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Minor arpeggio - one octave, ascending
- Minor arpeggio - one octave, descending

Riffs

Prepare an 8-bar passage containing four short riffs in 4/4 time.

Candidates should download the backing track in their preferred key from the LCME website and perform their riffs along to the track in the exam.

Discussion Questions

Both questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Which performer is associated with a recording of one of these songs?
- Can you describe how you feel when you sing one of these songs?
- Can you tell me something about the differences in style in your selection of pieces?

Grade 4

Technical Requirements

Scales and arpeggios - These can be sung using any syllable and in any key. Candidates must notify the examiner of the starting note:

- Major scale - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Minor scale (harmonic or melodic, candidate's choice) - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Chromatic scale - one octave, ascending
- Chromatic scale - one octave, descending
- Major arpeggio - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Minor arpeggio - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)

Improvisation

Candidates should sing a prepared improvisation along to a 16-bar backing track (available to download from the LCME website in a choice of keys).

Discussion Questions

Both questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Can you describe how you feel when you sing one of these songs?
- Can you tell me something about the differences in tempo in your selection of pieces?
- Can you tell me more about the original artist and any other recordings of one of these songs?

Grade 5

Technical Requirements

Scales and arpeggios - These can be sung using any syllable and in any key. Candidates must notify the examiner of the starting note:

- Major scale - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Minor scale (harmonic or melodic, candidate's choice) - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Chromatic scale - one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest
- Major arpeggio - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Minor arpeggio - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Intervals - all intervals in a major scale, one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest

Improvisation

Candidates should sing a prepared improvisation along to a 16-bar backing track (available to download from the LCME website in a choice of keys).

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Can you describe how you feel when you sing one of these songs?
- Can you tell me something about the differences in tempo, style and mood in your song selection?
- Can you tell me more about the original artist and any other recordings of one of these songs?
- Can you give some basic information about the songwriters of one of your chosen songs?

Grade 6

Technical Requirements

Scales and arpeggios - These can be sung using any syllable and in any key. Candidates must notify the examiner of the starting note:

- Major scale - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Minor scale (harmonic or melodic, candidate's choice) - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Chromatic scale - one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest
- Major arpeggio - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Minor arpeggio - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Intervals - all intervals in a major scale, one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest
- Intervals - all intervals in a minor (harmonic or melodic, candidate's choice) scale, one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest

Improvisation

Candidates should sing a prepared improvisation along to a 16-bar backing track (available to download from the LCME website in a choice of keys).

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Can you describe how you feel when you sing one of these songs?
- Can you tell me more about the original artist and any other recordings of one of these songs?
- Can you tell me something about the differences in tempo, style and mood in your song selection?
- Can you tell me something about two of the different genres performed today?

Grade 7

Technical Requirements

Scales and arpeggios - These can be sung using any syllable and in any key. Candidates must notify the examiner of the starting note:

- Major scale - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Minor scale (harmonic or melodic, candidate's choice) - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Chromatic scale - one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest
- Major arpeggio - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Minor arpeggio - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Intervals - all intervals in a major scale, one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest

- Intervals - all intervals in a minor (harmonic or melodic, candidate's choice) scale, one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest
- Intervals - all intervals in a chromatic scale, one octave, ascending

Improvisation

Candidates should sing a prepared improvisation along to a 16-bar backing track (available to download from the LCME website in a choice of keys).

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Can you tell me the story of one of these songs?
- Tell me more about the original artist and any other recordings of one of these songs?
- Discuss the differences in tempo, style and mood in your song selection
- Tell me about two of the different genres performed today
- What vocal discoveries have you made personally whilst preparing these songs for your performance?

Grade 8

Technical Requirements

Scales and arpeggios - These can be sung using any syllable and in any key. Candidates must notify the examiner of the starting note:

- Major scale - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Harmonic minor scale - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Melodic minor scale - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Natural minor scale - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Chromatic scale - one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest
- Major arpeggio - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Minor arpeggio - one octave, ascending and descending (without a break and in one breath)
- Intervals - all intervals in a major scale, one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest
- Intervals - all intervals in a harmonic minor scale, one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest
- Intervals - all intervals in a melodic minor scale, one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest
- Intervals - all intervals in a chromatic scale, one octave, ascending and descending, with a two-beat rest

Improvisation

Candidates should sing a prepared improvisation along to a 16-bar backing track (available to download from the LCME website in a choice of keys).

Discussion Questions

All questions should be answered before or after the pieces are sung:

- Tell me more about the original artist and any other recordings of one of these songs?
- Discuss the differences in tempo, style and mood in your song selection
- Tell me about two of the different genres performed today
- What vocal discoveries have you made whilst preparing these songs for your performance?
- Tell me about your performance style (including microphone technique), how you would like to improve it for the future and some aspects about learning the songs?