Practical Musicianship GRADE 6

A To sing and play from memory a short melody. The key-chord and starting note will first be sounded and named. The examiner will play the melody twice and the candidate will be required to sing the melody from memory. The examiner will then play the melody a third time and the candidate will be required to play the melody on an instrument of his/her choice. The examiner will choose a key and pitch suitable for the instrument.

B The candidate may choose to:

1 transpose at sight on the chosen instrument a melody (no longer than eight bars) up or down a tone or semitone. A key suitable for the candidate’s instrument will be given.

or

2 sing at sight the lower part of a passage (no longer than eight bars) while the examiner plays the upper part. The key-chord and starting note will first be sounded and named, and the pulse indicated.

C To sing or play at sight, at the choice of the candidate, a melody including the realization of dynamics, simple ornamentation (except when the test is sung) and the more common marks of expression. Candidates will be allowed a preliminary attempt before being assessed. The key-chord and starting note will first be sounded if the test is sung, and words will be provided (but need not be used).

D The candidate may choose to:

1 improvise with voice or instrument, at the choice of the candidate, an extension to a melody over an accompaniment played by the examiner. The implied harmonic scheme will be confined to chords of the tonic, dominant, subdominant, supertonic and dominant seventh of major keys of not more than two sharps or two flats. The candidate will be given a part showing the melody in different keys and with different clefs to accommodate the full range of instruments. A second attempt will be allowed. Keyboard candidates should be prepared to play an octave higher than written.

or

2 improvise at the keyboard an accompaniment to a given melody which will be annotated with chord symbols. The harmonic scheme will be within the limitations stated in test D1 above. A suggested (but optional) opening will be provided. The examiner will play the melody, if requested to do so, while the candidate plays the accompaniment, or the candidate may incorporate the melody in the accompaniment. Candidates will be given credit for the effective use of inversions of the chords. A second attempt will be allowed.

E To perform a short free improvisation based on a given motif, interval or texture (e.g. flutter-tonguing, tremolo, glissando, vocalization or the use of a specific chord cluster for keyboard players) chosen by the examiner. The examiner will look for imaginative use of the given material, effective use of the voice or instrument and a sense of structure.

F To recognize, from the printed score, the five changes (which may include pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, articulation and phrasing) in a short piano piece played twice by the examiner. The candidate will be required to point to and explain the differences.