

# Aural Tips - Grade 4

- Some tests allow for a second attempt or for an additional playing by the examiner, if necessary.
- The examiner may prompt if needed, although this may affect the assessment.
- Marks are not awarded for each individual test or deducted for mistakes; instead they reflect the candidate's overall response in this component.

## **A. Sing a phrase played by the examiner**

- **There is only one phrase to sing at Grade 4 but it is longer and a little more challenging to remember than the Grade 3 tests.**
- **It will be played 2ce**
- Sing along in your head on the 2nd playing to gauge accuracy and familiarise yourself with notes and rhythm
- You can sing any sound (such as 'La la' or 'Do do') or you could hum or whistle if you prefer.
- Sing without hesitation & keep in time.

## **A. B. Sing 5 notes from a score**

- **Prepare well in advance - practice singing the first 5 notes of a scale and arpeggios**
- **The notes will be within the range of a 3rd above or below the tonic in the key of C, F or G major. The starting and the ending note will be the tonic.**
- **Try playing notes a 3rd apart and repeating them. Progress to playing 1 note and working out the 3rd above and below.**
- **Progress to associating these intervals with the ones in examples.**

## **C. Identify Musical features of a piece of music**

**One question will be about:**

- **articulation,**
- **dynamics,**
- **tempo or**
- **tonality**

**Then you will have to talk about the character of the piece.**

- Grade 4 is more challenging - the candidate might be asked to speak more independently about dynamics to notice the specific articulation for one part over another.

- First decide what sort of character the music has and how it makes you feel. Where might it be heard (on a film/in a restaurant/museum/church/dance?)
- Then think what in the music makes it sound this way.
- It might be slow in pace and gentle/soft in dynamics, or it might have an expressive/lyrical tune with a flowing arpeggio accompaniment.
- It might be bold and brash with heavy chords in the bass with an aggressive melody...
- Here are some of the kinds of words you can incorporate into your description:  
*discordant, lyrical, contrapuntal, light, relentless, repetitive, sparse, heavy, full, cheerful, playful, gloomy, sensual, romantic, violent....*
- Look up any of the above words you cannot explain.