

## Recorded Exams - Technical Requirements & Discussion Questions

### Technical Work

- Perform all of the Technical Work for your grade (listed below) to make up the Technical Work component of your exam.

### Discussion

- All discussion questions should be answered in as much detail as possible to make up the **Discussion** component of the exam. See the relevant grade below for the set questions.

Further guidelines on specific requirements for each grade can be found in the relevant LCME syllabus.

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

## 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

All questions should be answered after the performance component:

- 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**

All questions should be answered after the performance component:

- 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**

All questions should be answered after the performance component:

- 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**

All questions should be answered after the performance component:

- 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 after the performance component:

- 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 after the performance component:

- 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 after the performance component:

- 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 after the performance component:

- 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

All questions should be answered after the performance component:

- 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

All questions should be answered after the performance component:

- 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

All questions should be answered after the performance component:

- 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

All questions should be answered after the performance component:

- 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 after the performance component:

- 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 after the performance component:

- 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 after the performance component:

- 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 after the performance component:

- 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?