





Sight-reading parameters

The tables on pages 24–26 show the elements that are introduced at each grade. These parameters are presented cumulatively, i.e. once introduced they apply for all later grades (gradually progressing in difficulty). See also page 19.

Snare Drum

All tests are written on a five-line staff.




	Length (bars)	Time	Other features that may be included
Grade 1	4	4/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  • 
		3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>f</i> and <i>p</i>
	6	2/4	
Grade 2			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  • tied notes •  • <i>mf</i> and <i>cresc.</i> hairpins • grace notes
Grade 3		3/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dotted quaver patterns • simple syncopation • rolls (♯) • accents • <i>mp</i> and <i>dim.</i> hairpins
Grade 4		6/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anacrusis • triplets • pause signs
Grade 5			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slowing of tempo at end • <i>ff</i> and <i>pp</i>
Grade 6		9/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes of time signature
		5/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slowing of tempo followed by <i>a tempo</i>
Grade 7		5/4	
		7/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demisemi-quavers
		7/4	
Grade 8	max c. 28	12/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acceleration of tempo • playing on rim

Lengths gradually increase



Timpani

No retuning of drums is required within a test at any grade.

	Length (bars)	Time	Drums	Other features that may be included
Grade 1	4	4/4 3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 drums • in: A & d 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  •  • intervals of a perfect 4th • <i>f</i> and <i>p</i>
	6	2/4		
Grade 2				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  • tied notes • <i>cresc.</i> hairpins
Grade 3		3/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 drums • from: G, A, c, d 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dotted quaver patterns • γ • intervals of a perfect 5th • rolls (<i>tr</i>) • accents • <i>mf</i> and <i>dim.</i> hairpins
Grade 4		6/8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anacrusis • grace notes • pause signs • <i>mp</i>
Grade 5			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 drums • from: F-f 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple syncopation • slowing of tempo at end • <i>fp</i> rolls
Grade 6		9/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or 3 drums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes of time signature • triplets • swung style • intervals of a major/minor 2nd, 3rd, 6th & 7th, and perfect 8ve • double stops • slowing of tempo followed by <i>a tempo</i> • <i>ff</i> and <i>pp</i>
		5/8		
		5/4		
Grade 7		7/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 drums 	
		7/4		
		C		
Grade 8	max c. 28	12/8 4/8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • duplets • acceleration of tempo

Lengths gradually increase



Tuned Percussion

All tests are written on a single treble staff, with no more than two mallets required at any grade.

	Length (bars)	Time	Keys & Range	Other features that may be included
Grade 1	4	4/4	• C, F majors	•
		3/4	• d'-g''	•
	6	2/4		• <i>f</i> and <i>mf</i>
Grade 2			• G major • A minor	• • tied notes • • <i>mp</i> and <i>cresc.</i> hairpins
Grade 3		3/8	• D minor • c'-c'''	• simple semiquaver patterns • dotted quaver patterns • • accidentals (within minor keys only) • rolls (⌘) • accents • <i>p</i> and <i>dim.</i> hairpins
Grade 4		6/8	• E♭ major • B minor • g-c'''	• anacrusis • chromatic notes • 2-note chords • pause signs
Grade 5			• B♭, D, A majors • G, E minors	• simple syncopation • slowing of tempo at end • <i>ff</i> and <i>pp</i>
Grade 6		9/8 5/8 5/4	• A♭, E majors • C, F♯ minors • f-d'''	• changes of time signature • triplets • swung style • grace notes • slowing of tempo followed by <i>a tempo</i>
Grade 7		7/8 7/4	• F, C♯ minors	
Grade 8	max c. 28	12/8	• D♭, B majors • f-g'''	• acceleration of tempo

Lengths gradually increase

