

Saxophone Sight-reading tests from 2018 – a sampler

The sight-reading requirements for woodwind are changing for 2018. A set of tests for Grades 1-8 are provided here to give you a flavour of what to expect, along with a table outlining the new parameters.

Further practice material can be found in ABRSM's new books of sample sight-reading tests, available to purchase at www.abrsm.org/shop.

Grade 1

Smoothly

Musical notation for Grade 1, titled 'Smoothly'. It is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and a slur over the first four notes. The second measure contains a whole rest. The third measure begins with a forte (f) dynamic and a slur over the first two notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Grade 2

Rock (Moderato)

Musical notation for Grade 2, titled 'Rock (Moderato)'. It is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first measure starts with a forte (f) dynamic. The second measure contains a whole rest. The third measure begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Grade 3

Lullaby

Musical notation for Grade 3, titled 'Lullaby'. It is in 3/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first measure starts with a piano (p) dynamic and a slur over the first two notes. The second measure contains a whole rest. The third measure begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and a slur over the first two notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Grade 4

Maestoso

mf

f *mp*

Grade 5

Misterioso

mf *pp*

mf *pp* *mf*

Grade 6

Flower Power

Cantabile

mf

mp *f* *mp*

Grade 7

Monster of the Deep

Molto drammatico

Musical score for 'Monster of the Deep' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and includes a triplet. The second staff features dynamics of *sf* and *mf*. The third staff includes *mp*, *mf*, and *p* with a triplet. The fourth staff includes *mf*, *f*, and *sf*, and is marked *rit.* at the end.

Grade 8

Jazz Waltz

Valse animato (♩ = $\frac{3}{4}$)

Musical score for 'Jazz Waltz' in B-flat major, 3/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff starts with *mf* and ends with *mp*. The second staff includes *mf*. The third staff includes *f* and *mp*. The fourth staff includes *p cresc. molto*. The fifth staff includes *f* and *mp*.

Sight-reading parameters

The table below shows the introduction of elements at each grade. Please note that these parameters are presented cumulatively, i.e. once introduced they apply for all subsequent grades (albeit within a logical progression of difficulty).

	Length (bars)	Time	Keys*	Range	Other features that may be included
Grade 1	4	4/4 3/4	G, F majors	f'-g''	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note values; rests • notes tongued or with simple two-note slurs • f and mf
	6	2/4			
Grade 2	8		C major D minor	e'-a''	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • and patterns; rests • tied notes • staccato • mp and <i>cresc.</i> hairpin
Grade 3		3/8	A minor	d'-c'''	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accidentals (within minor keys only) • ; simple semiquaver patterns; rests • accents • p and <i>dim.</i> hairpin
Grade 4	c. 8	6/8	D major B minor	c'-c'''	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chromatic notes • anacrusis • tenuto • pause sign
Grade 5	c. 8-16		A, B \flat , E \flat majors E, G minors	c'-d'''	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple syncopation • slowing of tempo at end • ff and pp
Grade 6	c. 12-16	9/8 5/8 5/4	E, A \flat majors F \sharp , C minors	c'-e \flat '''	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes of time signature • triplet patterns • slowing of tempo followed by <i>a tempo</i> • swung style
Grade 7	c. 16-20	7/8 7/4	C \sharp , F minors	b-f'''	
Grade 8	c. 16-24	12/8	B, D \flat majors	a \sharp -f'''	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • triplet crotchets • acceleration of tempo • simple ornaments

* Minors – natural form at Grade 2, any form from Grade 3

Ranges are presented using the Helmholtz system, i.e.:

