



VOCALS GRADE 8

Performance Pieces

| Mark (out of 20) | Assessment Criteria |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">Distinction 17-20</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effortless techniques sustained throughout 2. Assured and appropriate use of diction/articulation and phrasing throughout 3. Highly assured, controlled and appropriate tone sustained throughout 4. Innate and musical rhythm/pulse shown throughout 5. Effortlessly consistent in pitch/intonation throughout 6. Seamless sync; effortless continuity throughout 7. Highly assured, professional performance with an innate level of personal interpretation 8. Innate sense of stylistic awareness displayed in communication 9. Extensive and individual improvisation displaying an instinctive harmonic and melodic security and with a clear sense of structure and shape 10. Highly assured microphone techniques 11. Effortless memory recall throughout |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Merit 15-16</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very secure techniques throughout 2. Confident and appropriate use of diction/articulation and phrasing throughout 3. Assured, controlled and appropriate tone throughout 4. Musical use of rhythm/pulse throughout 5. Consistent in pitch/intonation throughout 6. Strong sense of sync/continuity throughout 7. Confident, assured performance with a good degree of personal interpretation throughout 8. High degree of stylistic awareness in communication 9. Individual and appropriate improvisation displaying confident harmonic and melodic security and with a sense of structure and shape 10. Confident microphone techniques 11. Confident and reliable memory recall |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Pass 13-14</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure techniques. Some minor errors but continuity and fluency maintained 2. Adequate awareness and appropriate use of diction/articulation and phrasing 3. Controlled adequate tone 4. Secure use of rhythm/pulse with small lapses but secure in continuity 5. Generally consistent in pitch/intonation. Small errors but secure overall 6. Synchronised with occasional errors. Overall continuity maintained 7. Mostly confident performance, with some small hesitation and with adequate personal interpretation 8. Some degree of stylistic awareness shown in communication, although occasional lapses 9. Limited but appropriate improvisation showing general awareness of harmonic and melodic implications and some evidence of shape |

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| | 10. Adequate microphone techniques 11. Reliable memory recall |
| Below Pass 9-12 | 1. Some insecurity of techniques with restarts and resumptions required 2. Some error in use of diction/articulation 3. Poorly controlled tone causing breaks to the line 4. Some inconsistencies in rhythmic sense causing breaks or disruption of fluency to the line 5. Errors in pitch/intonation 6. Poor synchronisation and continuity with breaks to continuity 7. Hesitant: lacking in confidence and with little personal interpretation 8. Little stylistic awareness or sense of communication 9. Inappropriate improvisation with errors in harmonic and melodic implication 10. Poor control of microphone techniques 11. Poor memory recall with errors and breaks to continuity |
| Below Pass 2 1-8 | 1. Insecure techniques throughout 2. Inappropriate use of diction/articulation throughout 3. Unmusical and uncontrolled tone 4. Poor sense of rhythm/pulse throughout 5. Consistent errors in pitch/intonation 6. Little or no synchronisation: large gaps in fluency, restarts, or abandoned 7. Extremely hesitant presentation with no personal interpretation 8. No stylistic awareness or sense of communication 9. No improvisation 10. Very poor microphone techniques. Microphone not used 11. Consistent errors in memory recall with large gaps, restarts, or piece abandoned |

Technical Exercises

| Mark (out of 15) | Assessment Criteria |
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| Distinction 14-15 | 1. Fluent, effortless technical and musical accuracy throughout 2. Exact pulse throughout 3. Consistent instant responses throughout 4. Highly confident in delivery 5. Stylistically accurate, with thought to tone and balance (Grades 6-8 Backing Vocals) 6. Highly assured microphone technique |
| Merit 12-13 | 1. Correct pitches/rhythms with fluency consistent throughout 2. Strong sense of pulse 3. Generally instant responses 4. Confidently delivered 5. Stylistically accurate (Grades 6-8 Backing Vocals) 6. Secure microphone technique |
| Pass 11 | 1. Correct pitches/rhythms with occasional small errors 2. Generally consistent at appropriate tempo 3. Generally prompt responses 4. Small hesitations but confident overall with no breaks in continuity 5. Accurate delivery with minor slips in balance and tone (Grades 6-8 Backing Vocals) 6. Adequate microphone technique |
| Below Pass | 1. Fluent, effortless technical and musical accuracy throughout 2. Exact pulse throughout |

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| 9-10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Consistent instant responses throughout 4. highly confident in delivery 4. Some inaccuracies in delivery including balance and tone (Grades 6 - 8 Backing Vocals) 5. Poor microphone technique |
| Below Pass 2 1-8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Largely inaccurate or incorrect 2. Some significant or repeated errors; little or no sense of pulse 3. Frequent breakdowns 4. Very hesitant in delivery 5. Consistent inaccuracies in delivery (Grades 6-8 Backing Vocals) 6. Consistently poor microphone technique or no microphone used |

Quick Study Piece

| Mark (out of 15) | Assessment Criteria |
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| Distinction 14-15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fluent, musical technique; tonality securely observed throughout 2. Extensive, musical use of dynamics & phrasing with shape and structure convincingly delivered 3. Accurate, idiomatic use of pulse 4. High degree of stylistic awareness displayed with stylistic use of tone and delivery 5. High level of musical communication 6. Innate understanding of idiomatic improvisation convincingly delivered 7. Secure delivery of lyrics throughout 8. Highly assured microphone technique |
| Merit 12-13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure techniques; tonality observed throughout 2. Dynamic/expressive marks given and a good sense of structure evident 3. Consistent, accurate sense of pulse/continuity 4. Strong evidence of stylistic awareness with good use of tone and delivery 5. Confident, engaging performance 6. Good range of appropriate improvisation, confidently given 7. Lyrics well delivered 8. Secure microphone technique |
| Pass 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accurate technique; tonality observed with minor lapses 2. Some dynamic/expressive marks observed 3. Good sense of pulse/continuity 4. Evidence of some stylistic awareness with some evidence of style and delivery 5. Generally confident performance 6. Some appropriate improvisation, with understanding of harmonic and melodic content 7. Lyrics generally accurate 8. Adequate microphone technique |
| Below Pass 8-10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some errors in pitch/rhythm; tonality not always accurate 2. Dynamic/expressive marks not observed, with little sense of shape 3. Inconsistent pulse/continuity with restarts 4. Little evidence of stylistic awareness with no evidence of style or delivery 5. Hesitant, insecure performance with lapses in continuity 6. Inappropriate improvisation with errors in harmonic/melodic progression 7. Inaccurate lyrics, some gaps 8. Poor microphone technique |

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| Below Pass 2 1-7 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistent basic errors in technique; tonality not observed 2. Dynamic/expressive marks not offered 3. Very inconsistent pulse with frequent breakdowns 4. No evidence of stylistic awareness 5. Very tentative, insecure performance 6. Improvisation sections omitted 7. Large sections of lyrics omitted 8. Consistently poor microphone technique or no microphone used |
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Ear Tests

| Mark (out of 10) | Assessment Criteria |
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| Distinction 9-10 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediate and accurate recognition of both rhythm and melody 2. Immediate and accurate recall of melody and rhythm 3. Exact pulse 4. Immediate and stylish improvisation, with correct length and shape throughout, displaying harmonic and melodic accuracy 5. Always highly confident in delivery |
| Merit 7-8 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prompt and accurate recognition of both rhythm and melody 2. Prompt and accurate recall of both rhythm and melody 3. Consistent pulse 4. Stylistic improvisation, correct in length with general harmonic and melodic accuracy 5. Confident delivery |
| Pass 6 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accurate recognition of rhythm and melody with minor hesitation 2. Accurate recall of rhythm and melody with minor inaccuracy 3. Generally consistent pulse but containing inaccuracies 4. Improvisation correct in length with general accuracy in harmony and melody 5. Generally secure and confident |
| Below Pass 4-5 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inaccurate recognition of rhythm and melody 2. Hesitant recall of rhythm and melody with errors and two restarts 3. Inconsistent pulse with breaks of fluency 4. Improvisation inaccurate in length with little accuracy in harmony and melody 5. Hesitant delivery |
| Below Pass 2 1-3 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inaccurate recognition of rhythm and melody or abandoned 2. Highly cautious recall with consistent errors or abandoned 3. Wayward pulse throughout 4. Little or no improvisation with harmonic and melodic awareness absent 5. Extremely hesitant delivery |