

MARKING CRITERIA

Grades 1-8	Songs <i>Pitch</i>	Time	Tone	Shape	Performance
Distinction 27-30	● Highly accurate notes and intonation	● Fluent, with flexibility where appropriate ● Rhythmic character well conveyed	● Well projected ● Sensitive use of tonal qualities	● Expressive, idiomatic musical shaping and detail	● Assured ● Fully committed ● Vivid communication of character and style
Merit 24-26	● Largely accurate notes and intonation	● Sustained, effective tempo ● Good sense of rhythm	● Mainly controlled and consistent ● Good tonal awareness	● Clear musical shaping, well-realised detail	● Positive ● Carrying musical conviction ● Character and style communicated
Pass 20-23	● Generally correct notes ● Sufficiently reliable intonation to maintain tonality	● Suitable tempo ● Generally stable pulse ● Overall rhythmic accuracy	● Generally reliable ● Adequate tonal awareness	● Some realisation of musical shape and/or detail	● Generally secure, prompt recovery from slips ● Some musical involvement
Below Pass 17-19	● Frequent note errors ● Insufficiently reliable intonation to maintain tonality	● Unsuitable and/or uncontrolled tempo ● Irregular pulse ● Inaccurate rhythm	● Uneven and/or unreliable ● Inadequate tonal awareness	● Musical shape and detail insufficiently conveyed	● Insecure, inadequate recovery from slips ● Insufficient musical involvement
13-16	● Largely inaccurate notes and/or intonation	● Erratic tempo and/or pulse	● Serious lack of tonal control	● Musical shape and detail largely unrealised	● Lacking continuity ● No musical involvement
10-12	● Highly inaccurate notes and/or intonation	● Incoherent tempo and/or pulse	● No tonal control	● No shape or detail	● Unable to continue for more than a short section
0	● No work offered	● No work offered	● No work offered	● No work offered	● No work offered

Grades 1–8	Unaccompanied traditional song	Sight-singing	Grades 1–8	Aural tests
Distinction 19–21	● Excellent control of pitch and intonation ● Rhythmic character well conveyed ● Sensitive use of vocal qualities ● Expressive, idiomatic musical shaping ● Fully committed communication, vivid story-telling	● Fluent, rhythmically accurate ● Accurate notes/pitch/key ● Musical detail realised ● Confident presentation	Distinction 17–18	● Accurate throughout ● Musically perceptive ● Confident response
Merit 17–18	● Good control of pitch and intonation ● Rhythmic character conveyed ● Good use of vocal qualities ● Clear musical shaping ● Good musical involvement and story-telling	● Adequate tempo, usually steady pulse ● Mainly correct rhythm ● Largely correct notes/pitch/key ● Largely secure presentation	Merit 15–16	● Strengths significantly outweigh weaknesses ● Musically aware ● Secure response
Pass 14–16	● Generally reliable control of pitch and intonation ● Adequate sense of rhythmic character ● Sufficient use of vocal qualities ● Some musical shaping ● Some musical involvement and story-telling	● Continuity generally maintained ● Note values mostly realised ● Pitch outlines in place, despite errors ● Cautious presentation	Pass 12–14	● Strengths just outweigh weaknesses ● Cautious response
Below Pass 11–13	● Unreliable control of pitch and/or intonation ● Inadequate sense of rhythmic character ● Insufficient use of vocal qualities ● Lack of musical shaping ● Insufficient musical involvement and/or story-telling	● Lacking overall continuity ● Incorrect note values ● Very approximate notes/pitch/key ● Insecure presentation	Below Pass 9–11	● Weaknesses outweigh strengths ● Uncertain response
7–10	● Very unreliable control of pitch and/or intonation ● Lacking rhythmic character ● No use of vocal qualities ● No musical shaping ● Lacking musical involvement and/or story-telling	● No continuity or incomplete ● Note values unrealised ● Pitch outlines absent ● Very uncertain presentation	6–8	● Inaccuracy throughout ● Vague response
0	● No work offered	● No work offered	0	● No work offered