

## SIGHT-READING PARAMETERS

The tables on pp. 20–21 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 p. 12.

	Length (bars)	Time	Other features that may be included
<b>Initial Grade</b>	4	4/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st position</li> <li>• ♩ and ♪ note values; ♯ rests</li> </ul>
	6	2/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notes separately bowed</li> <li>• <i>mf</i></li> </ul>
<b>Grade 1</b>	4	3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ♩ and ♪ note values</li> <li>• <i>f</i> and <i>p</i></li> <li>• <i>Double Bass</i>: 1st or half position, at candidate's choice</li> </ul>
<b>Grade 2</b>	8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ♩; ♯ rests</li> <li>• simple two-note slurs</li> <li>• <i>mp</i>; <i>cresc.</i> and <i>dim.</i> hairpins</li> <li>• <i>Double Bass</i>: 1st position only</li> </ul>
<b>Grade 3</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accidentals (within minor keys)</li> <li>• ♩, ♪ and ♪ note values; simple semiquaver patterns; ♯ rests</li> <li>• tied notes</li> <li>• staccato; <i>pizzicato</i> (at end)</li> <li>• <i>Double Bass</i>: half or 1st position, at examiner's choice</li> </ul>
<b>Grade 4</b>	c. 8	6/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shifts between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Violin &amp; Viola</i>: 1st and 3rd positions</li> <li>• <i>Cello</i>: 1st and 4th positions</li> <li>• <i>Double Bass</i>: half, 1st and 3rd positions (no more than two positions per test)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• chromatic notes</li> <li>• anacrusis</li> <li>• hooked bowing</li> <li>• tenuto, accents</li> <li>• pause sign</li> <li>• <i>pp</i> and <i>ff</i></li> </ul>
<b>Grade 5</b>	c. 8–16		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shifts as required to cover range</li> <li>• simple syncopation</li> <li>• changes between <i>arco</i> and <i>pizzicato</i></li> <li>• slowing of tempo (at end)</li> <li>• <i>Violin, Viola &amp; Cello</i>: simple chords (at end)</li> </ul>
<b>Grade 6</b>	c. 12–16	9/8	• triplet patterns
		5/8	• slowing of tempo followed by <i>a tempo</i>
		5/4	• <i>Viola</i> : treble clef
			• <i>Double Bass</i> : simple chords (at end)
<b>Grade 7</b>	c. 16–20	7/8	• <i>Violin &amp; Viola</i> : left-hand <i>pizzicato</i>
		7/4	• <i>Cello &amp; Double Bass</i> : tenor clef
<b>Grade 8</b>	c. 16–24	12/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acceleration of tempo</li> <li>• simple ornaments</li> <li>• <i>Violin</i>: 8va sign</li> <li>• <i>Cello</i>: left-hand <i>pizzicato</i></li> <li>• <i>Cello &amp; Double Bass</i>: treble clef</li> </ul>

KEYS MAJORS minors *	Violin	Viola	Cello	Double Bass ♦
<b>Initial Grade</b>	D, A	G, D	G, D	G, D
<b>Grade 1</b>	—	—	—	G, D <i>or</i> F, B♭ ◊
<b>Grade 2</b>	G e	C a	C a	C, G, D a
<b>Grade 3</b>	C, F, B♭ a, d, g	F, B♭, E♭ d, g, c	A, F, B♭ d, g	F, B♭ b
<b>Grade 4</b>	E♭	A	E♭ c	A e, d
<b>Grade 5</b>	E, A♭ b, c	E, A♭ e, f♯	e	g
<b>Grade 6</b>	c♯	f	—	E♭ c
<b>Grade 7</b>	f♯	b, c♯	E, A♭ b, f	E f♯
<b>Grade 8</b>	B, D♭ f	B, D♭	f♯	A♭ f

RANGES §	Violin	Viola	Cello	Double Bass
<b>Initial Grade</b>	d'-g', a'-d''	g-c', d'-g'	G-c, d-g	g-b, d-f♯
<b>Grade 1</b>	d'-a''	g-d''	G-d'	d-b <i>or</i> F-f ◊
<b>Grade 2</b>	g-a''	c-d''	C-d'	E-b
<b>Grade 3</b>	g-b''	c-e''	C-d'	E-b
<b>Grade 4</b>	g-d'''	c-g''	C-g'	E-d'
<b>Grade 5</b>	g-e'''	c-a''	C-a'	E-e'
<b>Grade 6</b>	g-e'''	c-a''	C-a'	E-g'
<b>Grade 7</b>	g-g'''	c-b''	C-b♭'	E-a'
<b>Grade 8</b>	g-a'''	c-c'''	C-d''	E-c''

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

♦ Keys cumulative from Grade 2

◊ 1st or half position, at candidate's choice

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

