

Quick Study

The Quick Study section is worth 21 marks in the exam overall. In the quick study, you are expected to play back a short passage of music comprising two halves, or phrases. This is to test your ability to internalise and reproduce the music on your instrument. You will be given the option to attempt the test either at sight or by ear.

If at sight:

- The examiner will hand you the music and will give two bars' pulse to indicate the general tempo expected.
- You will then have half a minute in which to look through and, if you wish, try out the piece before assessment.
- The examiner will indicate, after which you should play the piece as written.

If by ear:

The examiner will perform each half, or phrase, three times, and will ask you to echo the phrase each time in quick succession. This gives you three chances to play back each phrase correctly. You are then asked to play back the piece in its entirety. Assessment is based on your best effort among the three chances for each phrase, followed by the performance of the whole piece.

- The examiner will first name the key, sound and name the starting note and play the tonic chord as appropriate.
- The examiner will first perform the whole piece.
- The examiner will then play the opening phrase three times, pausing after each time to allow you to echo it back as heard.
- The examiner will then play the closing phrase three times, pausing after each time to allow you to echo it back as heard.
- The examiner will then indicate with a count-in, after which you should play the whole piece.

Summary

At sight:

Examiner: Notation and pulse given

Candidate: Practise (30 seconds)

Candidate: Performance of the whole piece

By ear:

Examiner: Key, tonic chord and starting note given as appropriate

Examiner: Play-through of the whole piece

Examiner: First play-through of the opening phrase

Candidate: Echo

Examiner: Second play-through of the opening phrase

Candidate: Echo

Examiner: Final play-through of the opening phrase

Candidate: Echo

Examiner: First play-through of the closing phrase

Candidate: Echo

Examiner: Second play-through of the closing phrase

Candidate: Echo

Examiner: Final play-through of the closing phrase

Candidate: Echo

Candidate: Performance of the whole piece.

Remember that the examiner will be looking for fluent and confident delivery, with a clear reference to style and musical character.

A complete pack of Quick Study specimen pieces for all grades, complete with guidelines, is available from Taigh na Teud at www.scotlandsmusic.com.