

MARKING CRITERIA (Singing)

Grades 1–5	Songs	Time	Tone	Shape	Performance	Grades 6–8
Distinction 27–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly accurate notes and intonation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluent, with flexibility where appropriate Rhythmic character well conveyed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well projected Sensitive use of tonal qualities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressive, idiomatic musical shaping and detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assured Fully committed Vivid communication of character and style 	Distinction 22–24 (Lists A & B) 19–21 (Lists C & D)
Merit 24–26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largely accurate notes and intonation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustained, effective tempo Good sense of rhythm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly controlled and consistent Good tonal awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear musical shaping, well-realised detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive Carrying musical conviction Character and style communicated 	Merit 20–21 (Lists A & B) 17–18 (Lists C & D)
Pass 20–23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally correct notes Sufficiently reliable intonation to maintain tonality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable tempo Generally stable pulse Overall rhythmic accuracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally reliable Adequate tonal awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some realisation of musical shape and/or detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally secure, prompt recovery from slips Some musical involvement 	Pass 16–19 (Lists A & B) 14–16 (Lists C & D)
Below Pass 17–19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent note errors Insufficiently reliable intonation to maintain tonality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsuitable and/or uncontrolled tempo Irregular pulse Inaccurate rhythm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uneven and/or unreliable Inadequate tonal awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musical shape and detail insufficiently conveyed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insecure, inadequate recovery from slips Insufficient musical involvement 	Below Pass 13–15 (Lists A & B) 11–13 (Lists C & D)
13–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largely inaccurate notes and/or intonation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erratic tempo and/or pulse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious lack of tonal control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musical shape and detail largely unrealised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacking continuity No musical involvement 	10–12 (Lists A & B) 9–10 (Lists C & D)
10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly inaccurate notes and/or intonation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incoherent tempo and/or pulse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No tonal control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No shape or detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to continue for more than a short section 	8–9 (Lists A & B) 7–8 (Lists C & D)
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered 	0

Grades 1–8	Unaccompanied traditional song	Sight-singing
Distinction 19–21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluent, rhythmically accurate Accurate notes/pitch/key Musical detail realised Confident presentation
Merit 17–18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good control of pitch and intonation Rhythmic character conveyed Good use of vocal qualities Clear musical shaping Good musical involvement and story-telling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate tempo, usually steady pulse Mainly correct rhythm Largely correct notes/pitch/key Largely secure presentation
Pass 14–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuity generally maintained Note values mostly realised Pitch outlines in place, despite errors Cautious presentation
Below Pass 11–13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacking overall continuity Incorrect note values Very approximate notes/pitch/key Insecure presentation
7–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No continuity or incomplete Note values unrealised Pitch outlines absent Very uncertain presentation
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered

Grades 1–8	Aural tests
Distinction 17–18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate throughout Musically perceptive Confident response
Merit 15–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengths significantly outweigh weaknesses Musically aware Secure response
Pass 12–14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengths just outweigh weaknesses Cautious response
Below Pass 9–11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weaknesses outweigh strengths Uncertain response
6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaccuracy throughout Vague response
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work offered