

RIAM Music Theory Examination Paper
Grade 8
May 2025

Candidates should answer all questions. All answers must be written on this paper.

Candidate's name: _____ Total marks 100

N.B. Answer **either** question **1** or **2**. Do **not** answer both questions.

- 1** Using this opening, compose a 16-bar melody. Include a modulation to any closely related key. Phrase the completed melody. Add tempo and expression marks. (Copy to the staves below.)



Or

- 2** Compose a tune for this verse. Write each syllable under the note(s) to which it is to be sung.

*"I hear the voice of summer
singing a song of flowers
Singing a song of meadows
where buttercups spring in showers."*

Lenore Hetrick

Four empty musical staves in treble clef, each with a five-line staff and a single ledger line below, for composing a tune.

- 3 Choose suitable chords to accompany the following melody. Indicate the chords by roman numerals. Write in the complete bass line adding some passing or auxiliary notes where suitable (no inner parts needed).

Scottish Air
(adapted)

Numerals _____

Numerals _____

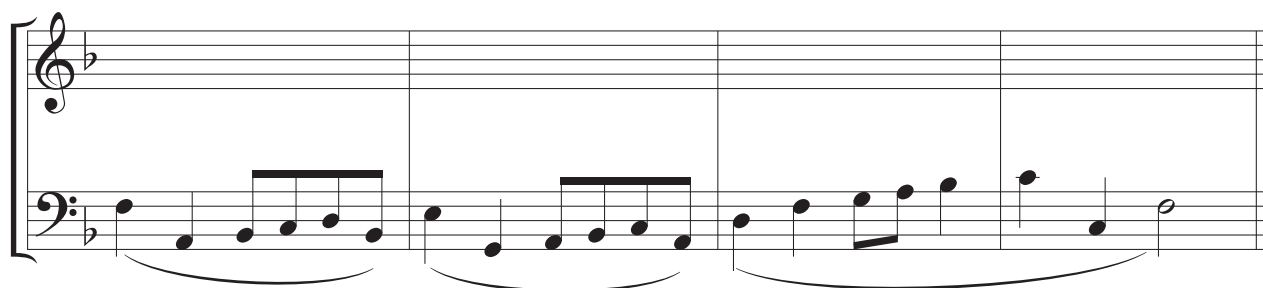
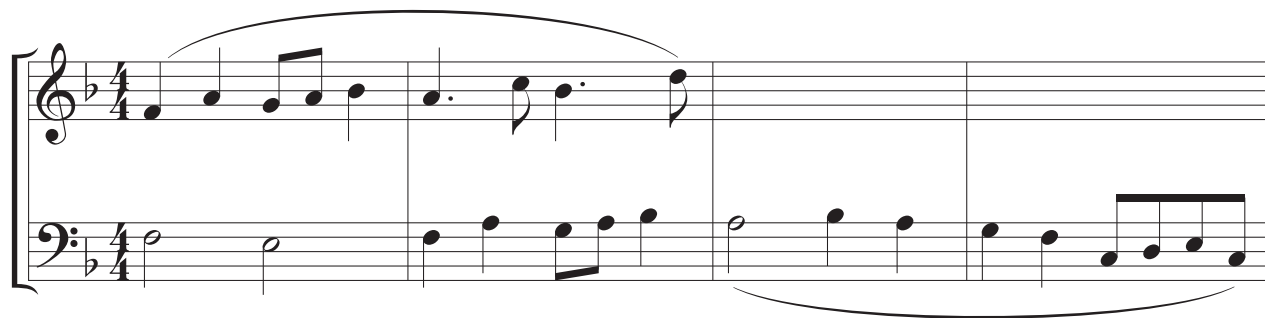
15

- 4 Analyse the chording implied by the given soprano and bass lines by using roman numerals. Complete the harmonisation by adding parts for alto and tenor voices.

Numerals _____

15

- 5 Complete the treble over the given bass to create a simple two-part texture.



6 Study this Bach Chorale. Then answer the questions that follow.

The musical score is for a Bach Chorale in D major, 4/4 time. It consists of 11 measures. The first system contains measures 1-4. The second system contains measures 5-8. The third system contains measures 9-11. Three sections are boxed and labeled: X (measures 5-8), Y (measures 9-10), and Z (measures 10-11). Chords marked with an asterisk (*) are in measures 1, 2, 3, and 4.

- a (i) Name the tonic key. _____
- (ii) Name the keys to which the music modulates in the boxed sections marked X, Y and Z on the music.
- X _____ Y _____ Z _____
- b Using roman numerals, describe the chords marked with * in these bars. All are in the tonic key.
- bar 1 (beat 2) _____ bar 1 (beat 4) _____
- bar 2 (beat 2, first quaver) _____ bar 2 (beat 2, second quaver) _____
- c On the music draw a circle around the following:
- (i) An example of an accented passing note. Mark it **P**
- (ii) An example of a suspension. Mark it **S**
- (iii) In bar 11 find an auxiliary note. Mark it **A**
- d Name the final cadence. _____

This musical score page, labeled "Grade 8 continued." and "5", features 13 staves for various orchestral instruments. The staves are arranged in a system with the following instruments and parts:

- Fl. (Flute):** Single staff.
- Ob. (Oboe):** Single staff.
- Cl. (Clarinet):** Single staff.
- Fg. (Bassoon):** Single staff.
- Cor. (Cor Anglais):** Two staves (treble and bass clef).
- Tr. (Trumpet):** Single staff.
- Trb. (Trombone):** Two staves (treble and bass clef).
- Timp. (Timpani):** Single staff.
- VI. I (Violin I):** Single staff.
- VI. II (Violin II):** Single staff.
- Vla. (Viola):** Single staff.
- Vlc. (Violoncello):** Single staff.
- Cb. (Contrabass):** Single staff.

The score is written in 2/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The dynamics are marked as *fz* (forzando) and *ff* (fortissimo). The tempo is indicated by a "a 2" marking above the Trumpet staff. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, beams, and slurs. The page number "5" is centered at the bottom.

- 7 The score extract on page 5 is from Schubert's Rosamunde Overture Op. 33. Study the score, then answer the following questions.

- a Give the English name of each of the brass instruments:

Cor. _____


Tr. _____

Trb. _____

- b How many woodwind instruments are needed to play this extract? _____

- c How many brass instruments are needed to play this extract? _____

- d Define the following terms and signs found on the score:

<i>ff</i> _____	<i>a 2</i> _____
<i>fz</i> _____	 _____

- e Re-write bar 1 of the Vla. part in the bass clef.



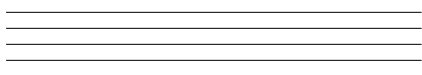
- f Re-write bar 1 of the first Trb. part in the treble clef.



- g Re-write bar 1 of the Cb. part at concert pitch.



- h Re-write the Timp. part of bar 5 as it is played.



- i The alto clef is used by the _____ part.

The tenor clef is used by the _____ part.

8 Answer questions **a, b and c.**

a Explain **two** of the following.

Oratorio. Opera. Concerto. Fugue.

1 _____

2 _____

b Name a work by **four** of the following composers:

Wagner _____
Verdi _____
Tchaikovsky _____
Schumann _____
Chopin _____
Schubert _____
Brahms _____

c Choose **any one** composer from those listed in question b above and name the type of composition for which he is most noted.

Composer: _____

Types of composition: _____