

BISHOPS SENIOR AWARD

SYLLABUS

MUSIC

PRACTICAL

A. HYMN

i) Prepare three verses of a six-line hymn from a hymn book of the candidate's own choice. From this hymn the candidate is expected to sing

- a) First verse. The melody with accompaniment.
- b) Second verse. In the candidate's own voice part, with accompaniment. Sopranos should choose a hymn with a descant to sing for this verse.
- c) Third verse. Unaccompanied, in the candidate's own voice part.

12 (6)

ii) For the unprepared hymn, the examiner will select a hymn and tune and ask the candidate to sing their vocal part. After a full playover of the hymn, the examiner will give the key-chord and then the starting note.

This test will be accompanied.

12 (6)

B. PSALM

The singing of an unprepared portion of a psalm (maximum twelve verses) from the candidate's own psalter as selected by the examiner to a chant or tone previously chosen by the candidate: a separate copy of this chant must be available for the examiner. Should the candidate produce a book of responsorial psalms, the candidate will be asked to sing the Antiphon and up to four verses of a responsorial psalm of the examiner's choice to the tone/chant selected by the examiner.

16 (8)

C. ANTHEM, MOTET, CANTICLE, OR SERVICE SETTING

The candidate is to perform the whole of their voice part of an anthem, motet, canticle, or service setting specified in the music list for this award for the respective year. Please note that a new list is produced at the beginning of every calendar year, and is therefore only effective for the two examinations of the year in which it is produced.

30 (15)

In addition to the marks awarded to A, B, and C, the examiner will assess the general standard of performance and award further marks under the following heads:

Vocal quality

Breath control and phrasing

Precision of rhythm and intonation

Sensitivity to interpretation 30 (15)

TOTAL PRACTICAL 100 (50)

SIGHT-SINGING AND EAR TESTS

D. SIGHT-SINGING

Time will be allowed for a brief perusal of the music before the start of this test, the key chord having been given. A passage of some twenty-four bars from an anthem chosen by the examiner will be attempted twice in the candidate's own voice-part. The first attempt will be to LAH with piano accompaniment, the second to the words, the piano playing only the other parts or, if independent, the organ part.

60 (30)

E. EAR TESTS

Candidates will be required to:

- i) Sing from memory the lower part of an easy two-part phrase played twice by the examiner, the key-chord having been sounded.
 - ii) Sing a specified note from some played major/minor triads and to describe the triad as major or minor.
 - iii) Sing any note of a major/harmonic minor scale, the key chord and the key note having been sounded. The examiner will ask for the interval by number and name, eg "Sing the 4th note, FAH".
 - iv) Clap the rhythmic pattern of a melody played twice by the examiner and to say whether the time is duple, triple, or quadruple.
- 40 (20)

TOTAL SIGHT-SINGING AND EAR TESTS 100 (50)

RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE

The aim of this section is to try and help the candidate to relate to their experience of prayer, bible-reading, and worship, and structures in their local church to the church at large. The questions will emphasise the need for choristers to integrate these various elements, and to see their musical contribution in worship as an expression of their faith. The candidate's denomination and churchmanship will be taken into account. The examiner will not award marks for the individual sections, but will award an overall pass or fail.

The standard required for religious knowledge should be equivalent to adult membership of the candidate's own church.

Candidates must satisfy the examiner in the following three parts—

G. THE PRINCIPAL SERVICE

Candidates should be prepared to discuss and explain the shape and structure of liturgy practised in their own church. The discussion will centre on—

- i) Brief historic details about the liturgy.
- ii) The architectural and liturgical design of the church building.
- iii) The role of the person presiding at the liturgy.
- iv) The role of the organist, choir director, or cantor in the liturgy.
- v) The particular role of the choir or music group including the origin of musical items which have a regular place in the liturgy.
- vi) The role of the congregation/assembly.
- vii) The format of the liturgy, including some knowledge of seasonal variations, and suitable hymns/songs.
- viii) The robes/vestments of the clergy and choir – their origin and purpose.

H. BIBLE

The candidate's knowledge of the Bible will be tested verbally by the examiner. The candidate should have some knowledge of the following areas—

- i) Division of the Bible into the Old and New Testaments, and an understanding of their general structure.
- ii) The existence of the Apocrypha.
- iii) The Psalms – their use and significance in Christian worship.

Candidates should prepare a reading (any authorised translation) selected from the list of passages for this award, and having read it aloud to the examiner, be prepared to answer questions about its meaning.

I. THE CHURCH AND THE SACRAMENTS

The candidate will be asked questions about prayer and the sacraments (sensitivity will be shown with regard to the candidate's denomination and churchmanship). The candidate will be asked about the Christian way of life and will be expected to demonstrate a knowledge of the structures of the Christian Church.