

# BISHOPS SENIOR AWARD

## SYLLABUS

### 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.