London College of Music Examinations

Vocal Exercises for Singers

Vocal exercise examples for:
Musical Theatre for Singers Syllabus

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Vocal Exercises for Singers

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Vocal exercises

Introduction

In the Musical Theatre for Singers exam route, candidates will be asked to demonstrate a series of vocal exercises of their own choice, giving candidates the opportunity to showcase their technical skills but also prepare and focus at the beginning of their assessment. By allowing freedom of choice, candidates can tailor exercises that not only improve their musicality and personal vocal technique but can also be directly connected to the songs in their programme.

Requirements

Exercises could include, but are not limited to, some of the following: articulation, tonal control, dexterity, expression, breath control and vocal stretches. **It is not mandatory to select any of the exercise examples outlined in this document**. Candidates are encouraged to perform exercises that are personal to them and to the programme they will perform.

Candidates should observe the following requirements:

- The candidate will advise the examiner of the exercises to be performed and the reason for their choice
- The exercises are all unaccompanied
- Candidates can give themselves starting notes on the piano if required
- The tests do not need to be performed from memory
- Starting notes are the candidate's own choice for all tests (the examples are shown starting on middle C for demonstration purposes)

Component durations

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
2 exercises 3 mins	2 exercises 3 mins	2 exercises 3 mins	3 exercises 4 mins	3 exercises 5 mins	3 exercises 6 mins	3 exercises 6 mins	3 exercises 8 mins

These are the maximum times allowed for Component 1: Vocal exercises of the Musical Theatre for Singers exam.

Grade 1

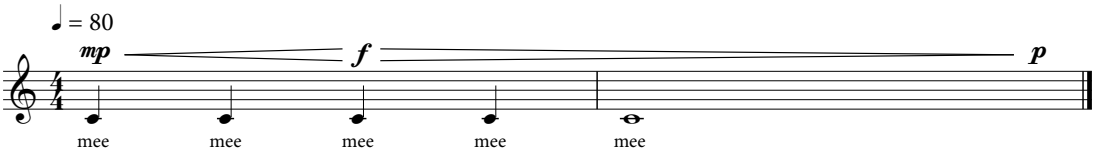
It is not mandatory to select any of the exercise examples outlined in this document. Candidates are encouraged to perform exercises that are personal to them and to the programme they will perform.

Customised vocal exercises

Candidates may align the exercises with the technical requirements of their programme. For example, the following exercise is based on the opening phrase of 'Feed the Birds' (Mary Poppins). The exercise aims to help with tone and pitch, and it can be sung using any vowel. The choice of dynamic is open to the candidate.

Vocal exercises

Candidates can perform the following exercise, in one breath. All vowels should be sung as pure vowels/ monophthongs.



Customised articulation exercises

Candidates can perform (spoken or sung on a single note) any lyric from a song from their programme that is particularly challenging e.g. 'Supercalifragilistic'. The lyric should be performed twice through with a breath in between and maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy.

Tongue twisters

Candidates can perform one of the following tongue twisters either spoken or sung using one note. Each to be performed twice with a breath in between, as fast as possible whilst maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy:

- A big blue bug bit a big brown bear
- Kitty caught the kitten in the kitchen
- I saw Susie sitting in a shoe-shine shop

Grade 2

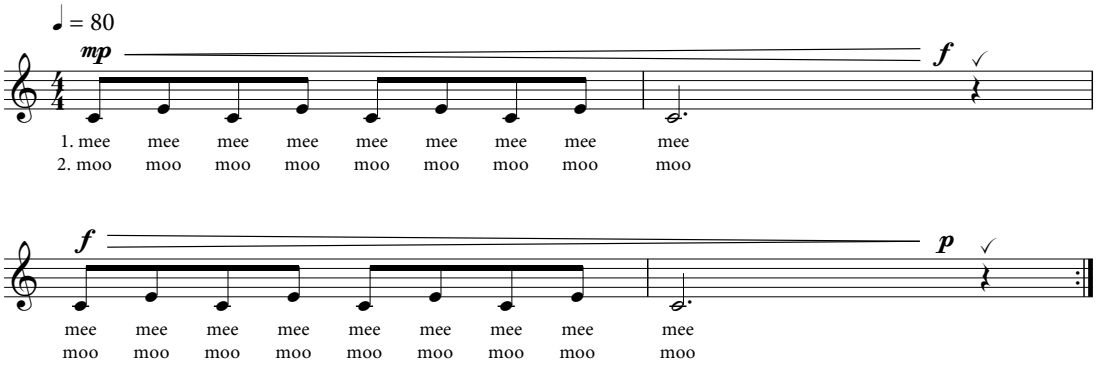
It is not mandatory to select any of the exercise examples outlined in this document. Candidates are encouraged to perform exercises that are personal to them and to the programme they will perform.

Customised vocal exercises

Candidates may align the exercises with the technical requirements of their programme. For example, the following exercise is based on the opening phrase of 'The Sun Has Got His Hat On' (Me And My Girl). The exercise aims to help with tone, pitch and smoothness of vocal line, and it can be sung using any vowel. The choice of dynamic is open to the candidate.

Vocal exercises

Candidates can perform the following exercise, breathing only on the rests. All vowels should be sung as pure vowels/monophthongs.



Customised articulation exercises

Candidates can perform (spoken or sung on a single note) any lyric from a song from their programme that is particularly challenging e.g. 'Supercalifragilistic'. The lyric should be performed twice through with a breath in between and maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy.

Tongue twisters

Candidates can perform one of the following tongue twisters either spoken or sung using one note. Each to be performed twice with a breath in between, as fast as possible whilst maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy:

- Thirty-three thousand feathers on a thrushes throat
- The great Greek grape growers grow great Greek grapes
- Smelly shoes and socks shock sisters

Grade 3

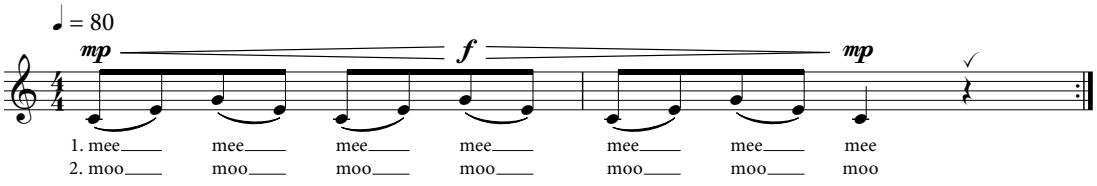
It is not mandatory to select any of the exercise examples outlined in this document. Candidates are encouraged to perform exercises that are personal to them and to the programme they will perform.

Customised vocal exercises

Candidates may align the exercises with the technical requirements of their programme. For example, the following exercise is based on the opening phrase of 'Good Morning Baltimore' (Hairspray). The exercise aims to help with pitch, tone and energy, and it can be sung using any vowel. The choice of dynamic is open to the candidate.

Vocal exercises

Candidates can perform the following exercise, breathing only on the rests. All vowels should be sung as pure vowels/monophthongs.



Customised articulation exercises

Candidates can perform (spoken or sung on a single note) any lyric from a song from their programme that is particularly challenging e.g. 'Supercalifragilistic'. The lyric should be performed twice through with a breath in between and maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy.

Tongue twisters

Candidates can perform one of the following tongue twisters either spoken or sung using one note. Each to be performed twice with a breath in between, as fast as possible whilst maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy:

- Chester Cheetah chews a chunk of cheap cheddar
- Five frantic frogs fled from fifty fierce fish
- Fred fed Ted bread, and Ted fed Fred bread

Grade 4

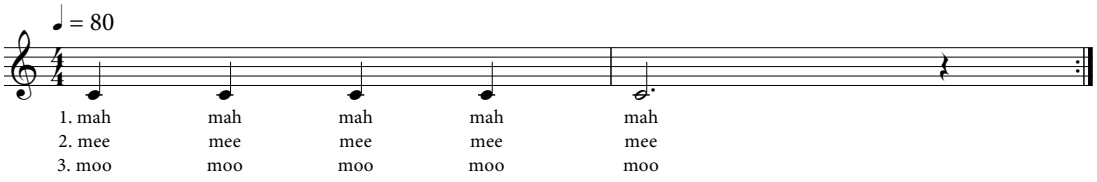
It is not mandatory to select any of the exercise examples outlined in this document. Candidates are encouraged to perform exercises that are personal to them and to the programme they will perform.

Customised vocal exercises

Candidates may align the exercises with the technical requirements of their programme. For example, the following exercise is based on the opening phrase of 'Over The Rainbow' (The Wizard of Oz). The exercise aims to help with pitch, tone and smoothness of vocal line, and it can be sung using any vowel. The choice of dynamic is open to the candidate.

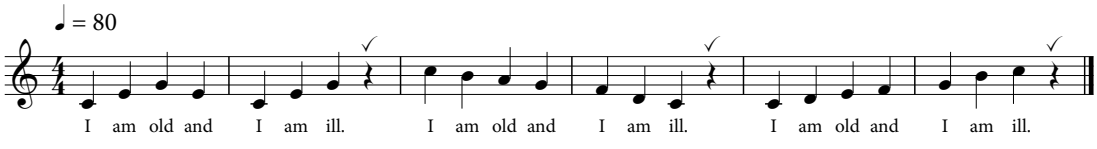
Vocal exercises

A. Candidates can perform the following exercise, breathing only on the rests. All vowels should be sung as pure vowels/monophthongs.



B. Demonstration of slide/glissando siren on ng or lip-trill. Choice of dynamics open to the candidate.

C. Demonstration of speech quality, sometimes referred to as 'parlando' or 'sprech', using glottal onsets. Choice of dynamics open to the candidate.



Customised articulation exercises

Candidates can perform (spoken or sung on a single note) any lyric from a song from their programme that is particularly challenging e.g. 'Supercalifragilistic'. The lyric should be performed twice through with a breath in between and maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy.

Tongue twisters

Candidates can perform one of the following tongue twisters either spoken or sung using one note. Each to be performed twice with a breath in between, as fast as possible whilst maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy:

- Ned Nott was shot and Sam Shott was not, so is it better to be Shott than Nott?
- Yellow butter, purple jelly, red jam, black bread, spread it thick, say it quick
- There was a fisherman named Fisher who fished for some fish in a fissure

Grade 5

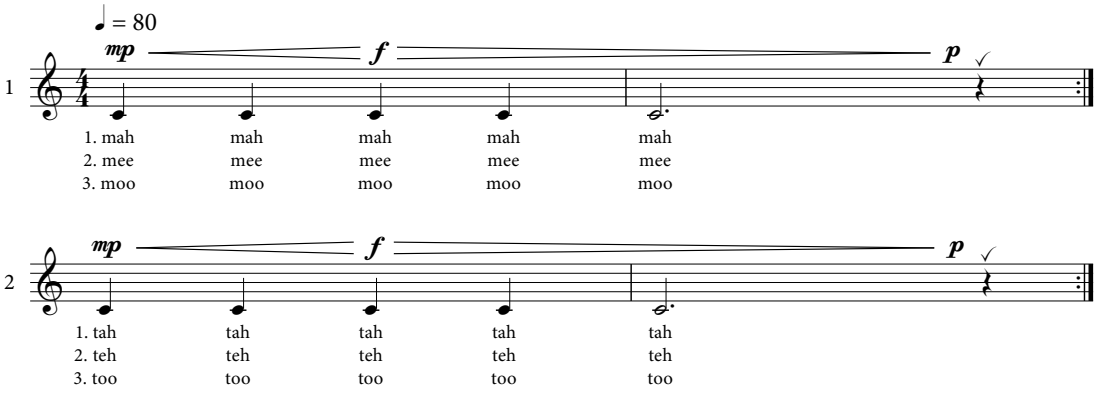
It is not mandatory to select any of the exercise examples outlined in this document. Candidates are encouraged to perform exercises that are personal to them and to the programme they will perform.

Customised vocal exercises

Candidates may align the exercises with the technical requirements of their programme. For example, the following exercise is based on the descending melodic figure in the chorus of 'Song On The Sand' (La Cage Aux Folles). The exercise aims to help with pitch, tone and smoothness of vocal line, and it can be sung using any vowel. The choice of dynamic is open to the candidate.

Vocal exercises

A. Candidates can perform the following exercises, breathing only on the rests. All vowels should be sung as pure vowels/monophthongs.



B. Slide/glissando siren on ng or lip-trill. Choice of dynamics open to the candidate.

C. Demonstration of speech quality, sometimes referred to as 'parlando' or 'sprech', using glottal onsets. Choice of dynamics open to the candidate.

Customised articulation exercises

Candidates can perform (spoken or sung on a single note) any lyric from a song from their programme that is particularly challenging e.g. 'Supercalifragilistic'. The lyric should be performed twice through with a breath in between and maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy.

Tongue twisters

Candidates can perform one of the following tongue twisters either spoken or sung using one note. Each to be performed twice with a breath in between, as fast as possible whilst maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy:

- To begin to toboggan first buy a toboggan, but don't buy too big a toboggan
- Imagine an imaginary menagerie manager managing an imaginary menagerie
- Rory the warrior and Roger the worrier were reared wrongly in a rural brewery

Grade 6

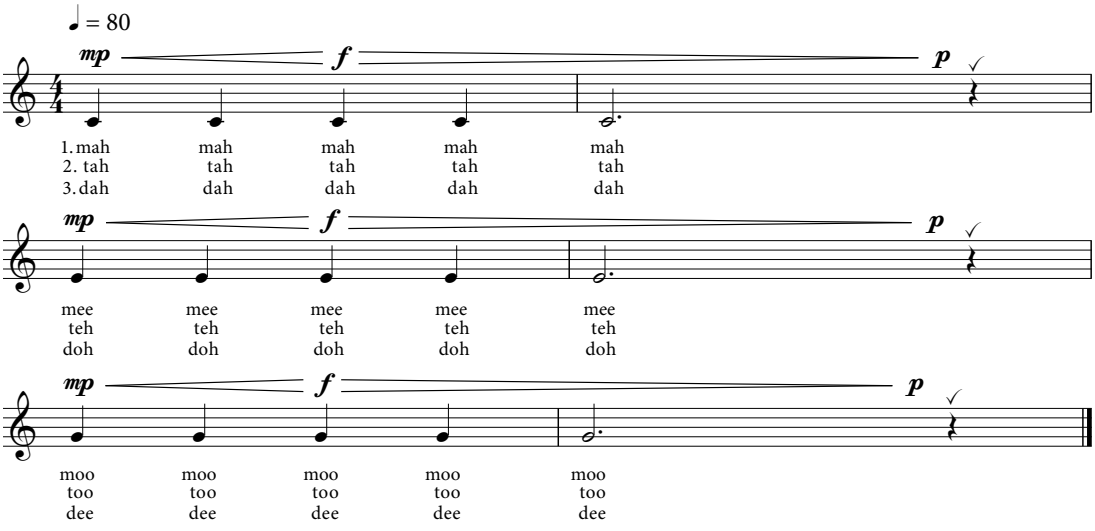
It is not mandatory to select any of the exercise examples outlined in this document. Candidates are encouraged to perform exercises that are personal to them and to the programme they will perform.

Customised vocal exercises

Candidates may align the exercises with the technical requirements of their programme. For example, candidates can perform the following arpeggios reflecting the use of the 7th in 'The Fire Within' (Little Women). The exercise aims to help with pitch, tone and smoothness of vocal line, and it can be sung twice through using a different vowel each time. The choice of dynamic is open to the candidate.

Vocal exercises

A. Candidates can perform the following exercise, using either verse 1 *or* 2 *or* 3, breathing only on the rests. All vowels should be sung as pure vowels/monophthongs.



B. Demonstration of speech quality, sometimes referred to as 'parlando' or 'sprech', using glottal onsets. It can be repeated using tilt/cry quality, sometimes referred to as 'head voice', without glottal onsets. Choice of dynamic and starting note open to the candidate.

Customised articulation exercises

Candidates can perform (spoken or sung on a single note) any lyric from a song from their programme that is particularly challenging e.g. 'Supercalifragilistic'. The lyric should be performed twice through with a breath in between and maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy.

Tongue twisters

Candidates can perform one of the following tongue twisters either spoken or sung using one note. Each to be performed twice with a breath in between, as fast as possible whilst maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy:

- Thirty-three thirsty, thundering thoroughbreds thumped Mr. Thurber on Thursday
- Brisk brave brigadiers brandished broad bright blades, blunderbusses and bludgeons, balancing them badly
- Send toast to ten tense stout saints' ten tall tents

Grade 7

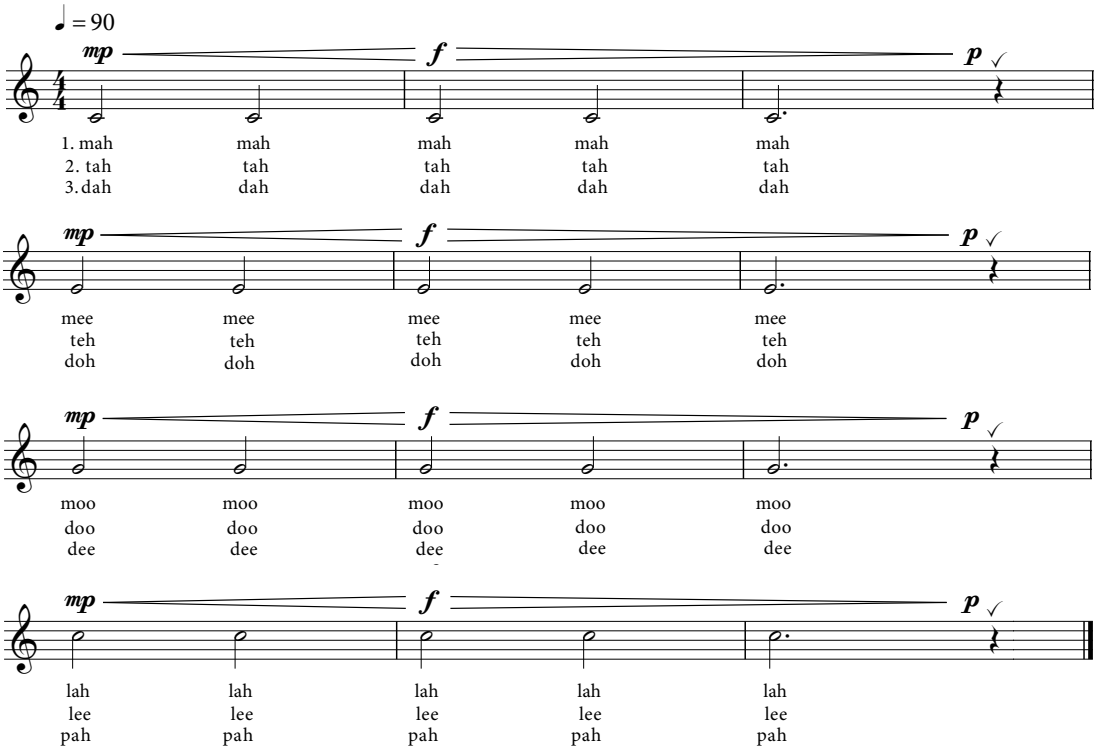
It is not mandatory to select any of the exercise examples outlined in this document. Candidates are encouraged to perform exercises that are personal to them and to the programme they will perform.

Customised vocal exercises

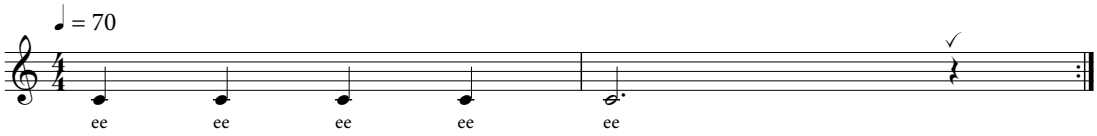
Candidates may align the exercises with the technical requirements of their programme. For example, candidates can perform the following exercise based on broad, repeated notes using a breathy tone, reflecting the opening phrase of 'Hold Me In Your Heart' (Kinky Boots). The exercise aims to help with pitch, tone and smoothness of vocal line, and it can be sung twice through using a different vowel each time. The choice of dynamic is open to the candidate.

Vocal exercises

A. Candidates can perform the following exercise twice, using a different verse for each repetition, breathing only on the rests. All vowels should be sung as pure vowels/monophthongs.



B. Demonstration of onsets: glottal, simultaneous (glide), aspirate (breathy) and creak (vocal fry), to be sung on one note using the candidate's choice of two vowels from 'ah' 'eh' 'ee' 'oh' 'oo'. The choice of dynamic is open to the candidate.



C. Demonstration of speech quality, sometimes referred to as 'parlando' or 'sprech', using glottal onsets. It can be repeated using tilt/cry quality, sometimes referred to as 'head voice', without glottal onsets. Choice of dynamic and starting note open to the candidate.

Customised articulation exercises

Candidates can perform (spoken or sung on a single note) any lyric from a song from their programme that is particularly challenging e.g. 'Supercalifragilistic'. The lyric should be performed twice through with a breath in between and maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy.

Tongue twisters

Candidates can perform one of the following tongue twisters either spoken or sung using one note. Each to be performed twice with a breath in between, as fast as possible whilst maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy:

- Supposed to be pink pistachio, supposed to be pistachio pink
- The thirty-three thieves thought that they thrilled the throne throughout Thursday
- Six sleek swans swam swiftly southwards

Grade 8

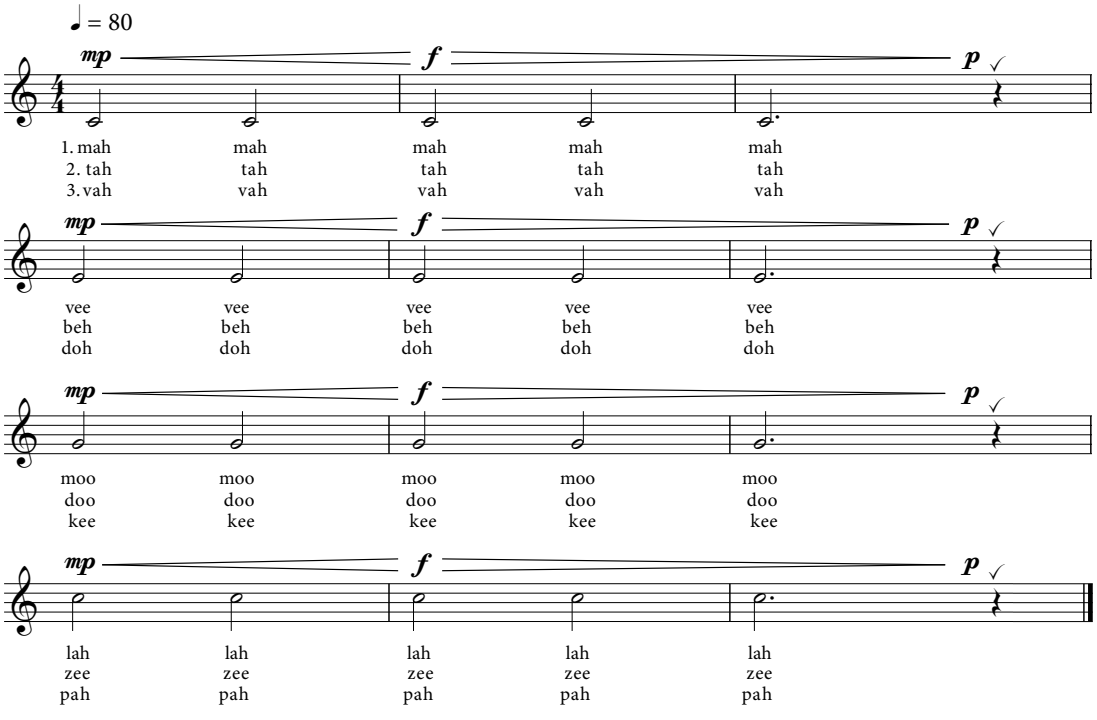
It is not mandatory to select any of the exercise examples outlined in this document. Candidates are encouraged to perform exercises that are personal to them and to the programme they will perform.

Customised vocal exercises

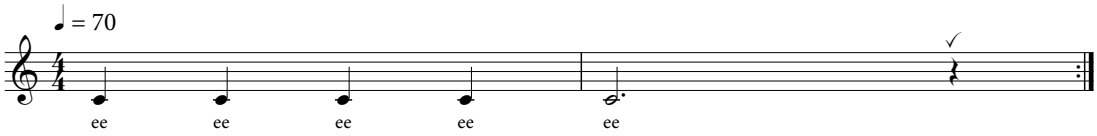
Candidates may align the exercises with the technical requirements of their programme. For example, candidates can perform the following full chromatic scale reflecting the opening phrase of 'Don't Rain On My Parade' (Funny Girl). The exercise aims to help with pitch, tone and smoothness of vocal line, and it can be sung twice through using a different vowel each time. The choice of dynamic is open to the candidate.

Vocal exercises

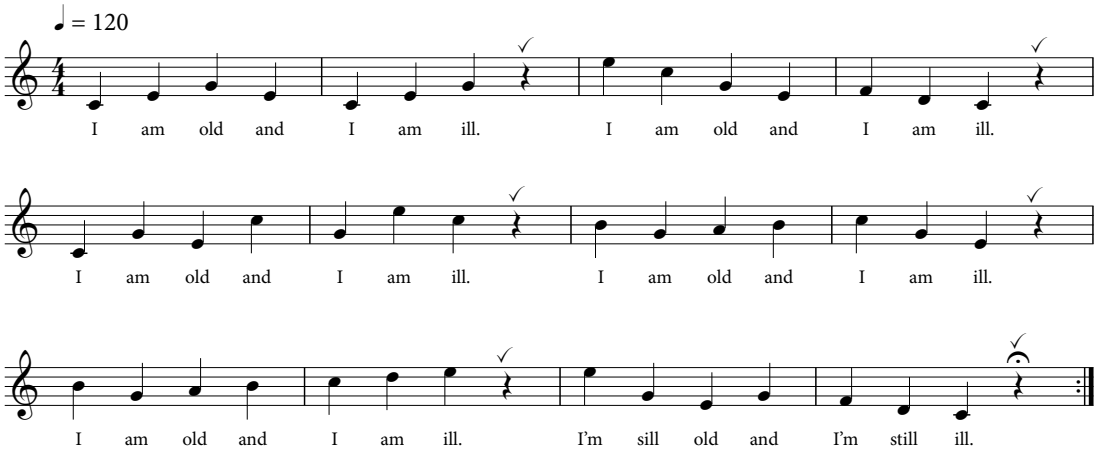
A. Candidates can perform the following exercise twice, using a different verse for each repetition, breathing only on the rests. All vowels should be sung as pure vowels/monophthongs.



B. Demonstration of onsets: glottal, simultaneous (glide), aspirate (breathy) and creak (vocal fry), to be sung on one note using the candidate's choice of two vowels from 'ah' 'eh' 'ee' 'oh' 'oo'. The choice of dynamic is open to the candidate.



C. Demonstration of speech quality, sometimes referred to as 'parlando' or 'sprech', using glottal onsets. It can be repeated using tilt/cry quality, sometimes referred to as 'head voice', without glottal onsets. The choice of dynamic and starting note is open to the candidate.



Customised articulation exercises

Candidates can perform (spoken or sung on a single note) any lyric from a song from their programme that is particularly challenging e.g. 'Supercalifragilistic'. The lyric should be performed twice through with a breath in between and maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy.

Tongue twisters

Candidates can perform one of the following tongue twisters either spoken or sung using one note. Each to be performed twice with a breath in between, as fast as possible whilst maintaining clarity of diction, accuracy and energy:

- Seven sleazy shysters in sharkskin suits sold sheared sealskins to seasick sailors
- If you must cross a coarse cross cow across a crowded cow crossing, cross the cross coarse cowacross the crowded cow crossing carefully

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