



ABRSM

Sight-Reading

In the sight-reading test the examiner gives the candidate a piece of music they have not previously seen. The candidate is given up to half a minute in which to look through the music and, if they wish, try out any part of the test before they are required to perform it for assessment.

Sight-reading ability is an invaluable asset, making music so much more accessible and helping the learning process to be much faster.

When working towards this test, candidates should be encouraged to look slightly ahead, keep going at a manageable speed, ignore any slips and keep their nerve. It may be helpful to know that examiners rarely hear perfect attempts at these tests but will always appreciate evidence of the right approach, plus an awareness of key and time values which gradually increases with the grades.

The examiner will suggest that the candidate may try out any part or parts of the test during their practice time before going on with the full attempt. It is suggested that candidates first try the opening bars and the end, followed by any passages containing accidentals and such things as awkward changes of position!

