

AMEB 7TH GRADE VIOLIN EXAMINATION

– General Knowledge

LIST A – STUDY IN A MINOR BY RUDOLPHE KREUTZER

Music

Studies are compositions designed to develop and consolidate the technical aspects of playing. Usually they have a special focus on the left hand or bowing arm and it is very important that the purpose of a study be identified and kept in mind while practising. Studies should be played as musically as possible – usually they are based on a logical harmonic structure. If patterns and sequences are noted and expressed in some musical way, the technical side of the work becomes much easier.

Composer

Rudolphe Kreutzer is a French violinist and composer. He born in 1766 and died in 1831. This piece is in classical period. German composer Ludwig van Beethoven dedicated his sonata opus 47 (for violin and piano) to him, known as the ***Kreutzer Sonata***.

Works

- Operas
- Violin concertos
- String quartets
- 42 Studies (which are used by most violinists and teachers)

Terms	Definitions
Allegro moderato	Quick tempo, moderate

LIST B – SONATA No. 1 BY GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL

Music

Sonata is a work for solo instrument, or instrument with accompaniment, with 3 or 4 contrasting movements.

Composer

Born in 1685 and died in 1759, Handel is a German-born composer who settled in England and took English nationality. He is a violinist, keyboard player and composer.

His father was a barber-surgeon who sent his son to study law at Halle University, but the young Handel rebelled and became a violinist at the Hamburg Opera House, where his first operas, Almira and Nero, were produced. He lived in Italy for three years but settled in London in 1712. He readily found favour with the English court of Queen Anne and, subsequently, George I. His talent was allowed to flourish in England and he wrote some 20 operas. However, he eventually abandoned the writing of 'Italian' operas for commercial reasons, and instead composed oratorios. This process led to MESSIAH, possibly his greatest, and certainly his most well known, piece of music. During the last years of his life he was troubled with blindness.

Handel succeeded in amalgamating Italian and German styles and traditions with his own notable originality. In his oratorios, in particular, he has given the world some of the most stupendous and magnificent music ever written.

WORKS

- **20 Operas** – Almira, Rodrigo, Agrippa, Rinaldo, Alessandro, Orlando, Arianna, Atlanta, Imeneo
- **Oratorios** – **Messiah** (most famous work), Esther, Israel in Egypt, Samson, Hercules, the Triumph of Time and Truth
 - **Oratorios are religious work for vocal soloists, choir and orchestra**
- Concerti grossi, organ concertos
- Harpsichord works and chamber orchestras pieces
- Sonatas, Songs, Cantatas
- **Orchestral pieces** – Water Music, Fireworks Music
- **Secular choral works** – Acis and Galatea, Ode for St Celcilia's Day
- **Passion** – St John passion

The fugue can be divided into 4 sections

1. Exposition
2. Episode
3. 2nd Exposition
4. Coda or Codetta

Fugue		
EXPOSITION	Subject (1 st voice)	Tonic
	Countersubject	Accompany Melody
	Answer (2 nd voice)	Dominant (same theme)
	Countersubject	Accompany Melody
	Subject (3 rd voice)	Tonic
	Countersubject	Accompany Melody
	Answer (4 th voice)	Dominant
Episode		Development
Then Entries of each voice and countersubjects as in the EXPOSITION		

Terms	Definitions
Andante	Moderate tempo, walking pace
Allegro	Lively, quick tempo
Allarg	Allargando, getting broader

LIST C – **CONCERTO IN D MINOR “ROMANCE”** BY HENRI WIENIAWSKI

Music

Concerto is a work with 3 or 4 contrasting movements, for solo instrument with orchestral accompaniment.

The Romance is the 2nd movement of Wieniawski's **Concerto in D minor** for violin. However the Romance is in Bb major.

Composer

Born in 1835 and died in 80, Henri Wieniawski is a Polish violinist and composer, one of the greatest violinists of his time. He born in Lublin, studied in Paris and lived and taught in Russia. He has toured the U.S.A. as a violinist. Wieniawski popularized the use of vibrato as an element of tone in violin playing. His two violin concertos and the *Légende* for violin and orchestra (1859) are admired for their Slavic coloring and bravura.

Works

- Violin concertos, fantasias
- Pieces in Polish style – mazurkas, Polonaises for violin with piano accompaniment

Terms	Definitions
Andante non troppo	Moderate tempo but not too much
Semplice	Lively, quick tempo
Dim. Poco a poco	Getting slightly softer
Poco rit	Getting slower
A tempo	In time, indicates that a piece should revert its normal TEMPO after a change of speed
Expressivo	Expressive
Con suono	
Sul D	String D
Animato	Animated
Breit	Broadly, grandly
Rall	Getting slower
L'istesso tempo	The same tempo
Dolce	Sweet or gentle

LIST D – **PLAYERA** BY PABLO DE SARASATE

Music:

Playera is a song that is also danced. It is called a **Gypsy Seguidilla** from Andalusia (a place). It consisted of:

- A guitar introduction
- Then a verse of 3 6-syllable-lines
- And a verse of 12 line of 11 syllables
- With a break in the middle

(This version is based only loosely on that form.)

Spanish dances for violin and piano.

Composer:

Pablo de Sarasate born in 1844 and died in 1908. He was a brilliant Spanish violinist and composer. He composed mostly for the violin. His pieces were based on Spanish Folk Music.

He was born in Pamplona and studied music at the Paris Conservatoire. Sarasate devoted most of his career to concert tours in Europe, the Americas, and the Orient.

Works:

Own composition:

Zigeunerweisen (Romani, or Gypsy, Melodies, 1863).

Composed for him:

Introduction et rondo capriccioso (1870) by the French composer Camille Saint-Saëns

Symphonie espagnole (performed 1875) by the French composer Édouard Lalo.

Terms	Definitions
Lento	Slow