

THE GARDNER'S TRUST BRAILLE MUSIC LITERACY AWARDS

VOLUME 1 GENERAL REGULATIONS REQUIREMENTS SPECIMEN TESTS (LEVELS 1 TO 5)

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THE GARDNER'S TRUST BRAILLE MUSIC LITERACY AWARDS

Introduction

These awards are designed to assess formally

- the ability to turn braille music symbols into fluent musical performance in a short space of time, and
- to read the symbols accurately and fully.

The Braille Music Literacy Awards have been sponsored by the Gardner's Trust for the Blind and administered by RNIB since 1992.

Tests take place in June and July annually at a location to suit the candidate. Entries need to be submitted to mas@rnib.org.uk by 1 May each year including preferred dates and locations. An annual report is written summarising the year's examinations and each candidate receives a detailed report and a certificate of entry. The best candidate at each level receives a financial prize providing that a minimum standard has been reached.

General Regulations

1. Candidates need to be under 19 years of age and resident in the UK.
2. Candidates may enter for any level of the Awards but only enter each level once.
3. Candidates will be required to memorise the test, and subsequently perform it on the instrument of their choice, or sing it. They may practise the test during the preparation time.
4. Candidates will be required to read the test, explaining each braille music symbol.
5. Candidates may read or play first.
6. The tests are recorded.
7. The following preparation times are permitted:
 - Levels 1 and 2: 5 minutes
 - Level 3: 10 minutes

Level 4: 15 minutes
Level 5: 20 minutes
Advanced Level: 30 minutes

8. Prizes awarded to the best candidate each year for each level, providing a minimum standard of competency has been achieved, are:

Level 1: £10
Level 2: £20
Level 3: £30
Level 4: £40
Level 5: £50
Advanced Braille Music Literacy Award: £250

Braille Music Literacy Awards

Requirements

Level 1

1. To recognise all seven notes as crotchets, minims, dotted minims or semibreves and corresponding rests.
2. To recognise 3rd, 4th and 5th octave signs, and the rules of their use.
3. To recognise treble and bass clefs.
4. The following time signatures: two four, three four, four four.



5. The signs for sharp ⠠⠨, flat ⠠⠢, bar rest ⠠⠨⠠⠨ and double bar ⠠⠨⠠⠨⠠⠨.
6. The dynamic markings:
⠠⠨⠠⠨ *p* (piano) and ⠠⠨⠠⠨ *f* (forte)
7. To show an understanding of the major keys: C, G and F.

Normally the test will be up to eight bars long, on no more than two braille lines (of 38 cells). The vocal test will be melody line only, that is, without lyrics. For vocal tests, the examiner will play the starting note if required.

Level 2

As Level 1, adding:

1. Quavers, dotted crotchets and corresponding rests.
2. The keys of D major, E minor and D minor.
3. The signs for:
natural ⠠⠨, tie ⠠⠨⠠⠨, pause ⠠⠨⠠⠨⠠⠨

In string music, signs for bowing



and fingering.

In woodwind and brass music, signs for breath

⠠⠠⠠ and musical comma ⠠⠠⠠

In vocal music, signs for breath mark ⠠⠠⠠ and lyrics.

Lyrics will be set out on the line above the music with the music indented into cell 3. Vocal tests will have one syllable per note.

6. The slur ⠠⠠

7. The musical hyphen ⠠⠠

Normally the test will be up to eight bars long, on no more than two braille lines (of 38 cells) or four lines for vocalists. For vocal tests, the examiner will play the starting note if required.

Level 4

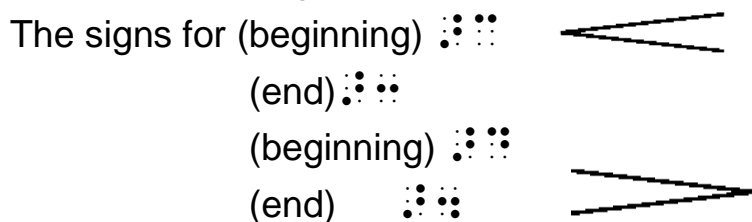
As Level 3, adding:

1. The breve and demisemiquaver.

2. The triplet ⠠⠠

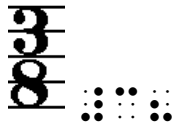
3. In keyboard music, interval signs up to the octave with intervals reading downwards in the right hand (treble clef) and upwards in the left hand (bass clef).

4. Hairpin markings as follows:



5. The major keys of E and A flat and F sharp minor.

6. The time signature of

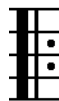


7. The signs for

a. bar or part-bar repeat ⠠⠨

b. Forward repeat ⠠⠨⠠⠨

c. Backward repeat ⠠⠨⠠⠨



8. The sign for slurs linking more than four notes together:

Beginning ⠠⠨⠠⠨

Ending ⠠⠨⠠⠨

9. The signs for:

a. staccato ⠠⠨

b. accent (V on side in print) ⠠⠨⠠⠨

10. The doubling of signs such as slur, staccato, accent, triplet and interval signs.

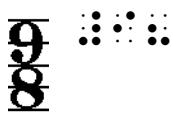
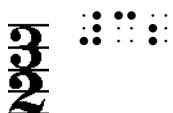
11. Tempo markings in English

Normally the test will comprise up to 12 bars, on no more than three braille lines (of 38 cells), or six lines for vocalists or keyboard music. For vocal tests, the examiner will play the starting note if required.

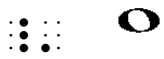
Level 5

As Level 4, adding:

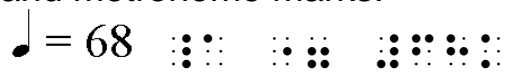
1. Time signatures three two and nine eight



2. Stem signs:



and metronome marks:



3. The keys of B and D flat major, and C sharp and F minor.

4. The double sharp and double flat.

5. All remaining octave signs.

6. The signs:

Appoggiatura ⠠⠨

Acciaccatura ⠠⠨

Tenuto ⠠⠨

Trill ⠠⠨

7. Irregular groupings of notes such as ⠠⠨ or ⠠⠨

8. Pedal signs:

down ⠠⠨

up ⠠⠨

9. The "in-accord" signs:

Full-bar ⠠⠠

Part-bar ⠠⠨

and the "part-bar division" sign: ⠠⠨⠠

10. Dynamics

fff *ppp* *sf* ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

and *cresc.* ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ *dim.* ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

11. Simple Italian terms:

Allegro *Andante* *Lento* *Adagio* *Scherzo*

legato *cantabile* *espressivo*

rit. *a tempo* *poco* *molto* *sempre*

Normally the test will comprise up to 16 bars, on no more than four braille lines (of 38 cells) or eight lines for keyboard music and vocalists. For vocal tests, the examiner will play the starting note if required.

Advanced Level

A music extract of Grade VIII standard will be set. This may include any of the Braille music signs commonly used at this level, for the chosen instrument or voice.

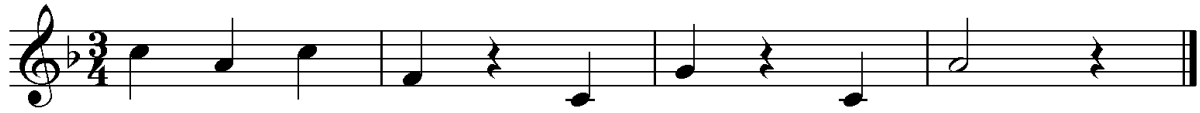
Braille Music Literacy Awards Specimen Tests

The following examples have been prepared as a guide. The purpose of the tests is to ascertain that candidates can read, understand and perform from a Braille score at a given level.

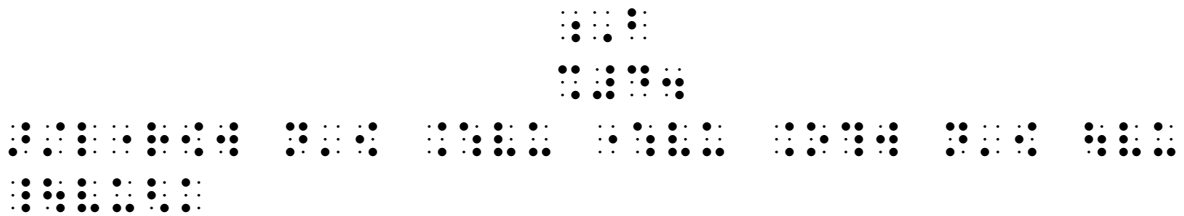
In levels 4 and 5, two versions of each test are given: one for keyboard and the other for a solo string or wind instrument.

Level 1

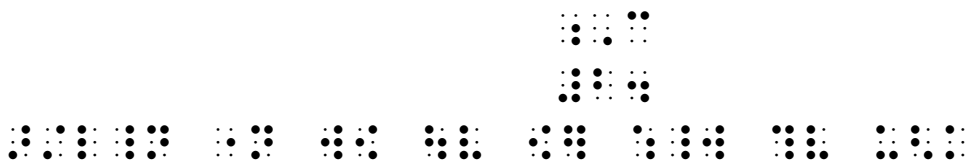
A



B



C



Level 2

A

Musical notation for exercise A, consisting of two staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The first staff contains a melody starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, then a quarter rest, a half note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note G5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4. The second staff contains a bass line starting with a quarter note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, Bb3, and C4, then a quarter rest, a half note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, a quarter note Bb3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, and a quarter note F3.

Braille notation for exercise A, consisting of two staves of Braille corresponding to the musical notation above.

B

Musical notation for exercise B, consisting of one staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of two sharps. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note G5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4.

Braille notation for exercise B, consisting of one staff of Braille corresponding to the musical notation above.

C

Musical notation for exercise C, consisting of two staves in 2/4 time with a key signature of two sharps. The first staff contains a melody starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note G5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4. The second staff contains a bass line starting with a quarter note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4, then a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, a quarter note B3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, and a quarter note F3.

Braille notation for exercise C, consisting of two staves of Braille corresponding to the musical notation above.

Level 3

A (Keyboard fingering)

Musical notation for keyboard fingering, Level 3. It consists of two staves in 6/8 time with a key signature of two flats. The first staff has notes with fingerings 1, 5, and 4. The second staff has notes with fingerings 4, 5, 4, and 1, ending with two rests.

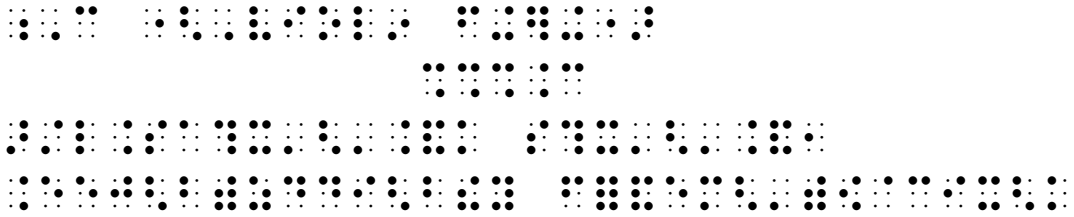
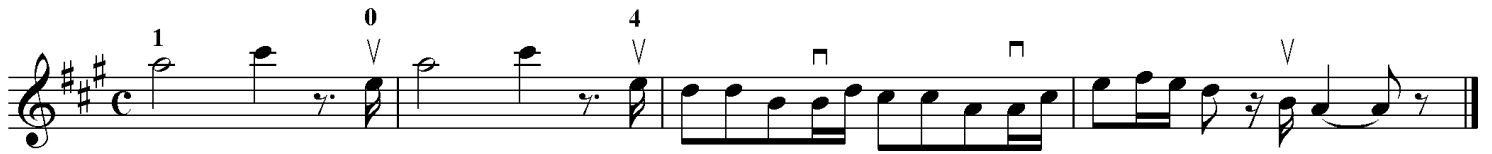
Braille musical notation for keyboard fingering, Level 3. It consists of four lines of Braille representing the two staves of music above.

B (Cello fingering)

Musical notation for cello fingering, Level 3. It consists of two staves in 2/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The first staff has notes with fingerings 1, V, 2, 1, 2. The second staff has notes with fingerings 3, 0, 0, 0.

Braille musical notation for cello fingering, Level 3. It consists of four lines of Braille representing the two staves of music above.

C (Violin fingering)



Level 4

A (Keyboard)

mp

1 3 5

1 2 5

2 4 5

3

4 2 1

5 1

pp

1 3 5

1

A (Solo part)

Musical score for 'A (Solo part)' in treble clef, 3/4 time, key of D major. The first staff begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The second staff begins with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Braille musical notation for the solo part, consisting of five lines of Braille characters representing the notes and dynamics of the score.

B (Keyboard)

Musical score for B (Keyboard) in 3/8 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems. The first system has four measures: measures 1 and 2 are marked *mf* and feature a melody in the treble clef with eighth notes and rests, and a bass line with eighth notes. Measures 3 and 4 are marked *p* and feature a descending eighth-note melody in the treble clef, with a bass line that has rests in measure 3 and eighth notes in measure 4. Fingerings 2, 1, 5, and 4 are indicated above the treble clef in measures 3 and 4. The second system has four measures: measures 1 and 2 are marked *mf* and feature a descending eighth-note melody in the treble clef with accents, and a bass line with rests. Measure 3 is a whole rest in both staves. Measure 4 is marked *ff* and features a melody in the treble clef with a slur and a fermata, and a bass line with eighth notes and a fermata. A fingering of 8wa-1 is indicated above the treble clef in measure 4.

Braille musical score for B (Keyboard). The score is represented by Braille characters corresponding to the musical notation above. It includes dynamic markings like *mf* and *ff*, and fingering numbers like 2, 1, 5, 4, and 8wa-1. The Braille is arranged in a standard musical layout with staves and bar lines.

B (Solo part)

Musical score for B (Solo part) in 3/8 time. The score consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/8 time signature. It features a melody starting with a half note G4 (marked *mf*), followed by a quarter note F4, and two eighth notes G4 and A4. This is followed by a repeat sign. The second staff continues with a half note G4 (marked *p*), a quarter note F4, and two eighth notes G4 and A4. The second staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/8 time signature. It features a melody starting with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note F4, and two eighth notes G4 and A4. This is followed by a repeat sign. The second staff continues with a half note G4 (marked *ff*), a quarter note F4, and two eighth notes G4 and A4.

Braille musical notation for B (Solo part). The notation is organized into six lines of Braille cells, representing the notes and rests of the musical score. The first line contains the first measure of the first staff. The second line contains the second measure of the first staff. The third line contains the first measure of the second staff. The fourth line contains the second measure of the second staff. The fifth line contains the third measure of the second staff. The sixth line contains the fourth measure of the second staff.

C (Keyboard)

First system of musical notation for piano. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. The left hand plays a simple bass line. Dynamics include forte (f) and piano (p).

Second system of musical notation for piano. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a more active bass line. Dynamics include forte (f) and piano (p).

Braille musical notation corresponding to the first two systems of the piano piece. It uses Braille characters to represent notes, rests, and dynamics.

C (Solo part)

Musical score for C (Solo part) in treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and common time (C). The score consists of two staves. The first staff contains eight measures of music, alternating between fortissimo (f) and piano (p) dynamics. The second staff contains eight measures, also alternating between f and p, and ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Braille musical notation for C (Solo part). The notation is organized into six lines of Braille cells, corresponding to the two staves of the musical score. The first line contains the first four measures of the first staff. The second line contains the last four measures of the first staff and the first two measures of the second staff. The third line contains the next four measures of the second staff. The fourth line contains the next four measures of the second staff. The fifth line contains the next four measures of the second staff. The sixth line contains the last two measures of the second staff, including the double bar line and repeat dots.

Level 5 A (Keyboard)

Andante ♩ = 72

A (Solo part)

Andante ♩ = 72

The first staff of music is in treble clef, key of D major (F#, C#, G), and 3/4 time. It begins with a half note D4, followed by a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note G4. The next measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The third measure has a half note D4. The fourth measure has a half note E4. The fifth measure has a half note F#4. The sixth measure has a half note G4. The seventh measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The eighth measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F#4. The piece ends with a quarter rest.

mp *espressivo*

The second staff of music continues the melody. It starts with a half note D4. The second measure has a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note G4. The third measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The fourth measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F#4. The fifth measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The sixth measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F#4. The seventh measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The eighth measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F#4. The piece ends with a quarter rest.

poco rit.

Braille musical notation for the first staff, corresponding to the notes in the first staff of music. It uses a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notation is arranged in eight lines, with each line representing a measure of music. The notes are represented by Braille characters for D, E, F#, and G, with appropriate accidentals and stems.

B (Keyboard)

Adagio ♩ = 60

mf cantabile

2 5 4 1 3 2

1 2 3

5 2 1 3 2

Ped. *

Ped. *

1 3

rit.

5 2 1 3 2

Ped. *

B (Solo part)

Adagio ♩ = 60

mf cantabile

pp

C (Keyboard part)

Lento ♩ = 52

8^{va}

p *pp*

pp *mf* *pp* *ppp*

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

rit. *a tempo*

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

C (Solo part)

Lento ♩ = 52

Musical score for C (Solo part) in 9/8 time, Lento (♩ = 52). The score consists of two staves. The first staff contains three measures: the first measure starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a melodic line with a slur; the second measure starts with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic and continues the melodic line; the third measure starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The second staff contains three measures: the first measure starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and features a melodic line with a slur; the second measure starts with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking and features a melodic line with a slur; the third measure starts with an *a tempo* marking and features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Braille musical notation for C (Solo part). The notation is organized into eight lines, each representing a measure of music. The first line contains the first measure, the second line the second measure, and the third line the third measure. The fourth line contains the first measure of the second staff, the fifth line the second measure, and the sixth line the third measure. The seventh line contains the first measure of the second staff, and the eighth line the second measure. The notation uses Braille symbols for notes, rests, slurs, dynamics (*p*, *pp*, *mf*, *mp*), tempo markings (*rit.*, *a tempo*), and fermatas.