



## MUSIC READING SKILLS ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT


by Paul G. Hill, DMA


The purpose of this instrument is to measure the music-reading skills of the participant. Please answer each question to the best of your knowledge by checking either the YES, or NO answer box. If you are unsure of the answer or not confident enough in your answer to declare it, please check the Don't Know/Unsure box. **Please do not guess at the answers and do not leave any answer blank.**


All questions are worth one point each, with the following exceptions: Questions 27, 28, and 35


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- 1) The following note is a half note: 


Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
  - 2) The following rest is a quarter rest: 



Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
  - 3) The following note is an eighth note: 

Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
  - 4) The following note always receives one beat regardless of the time signature: 

Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
  - 5) The following notes  (as indicated) are equal to one quarter note.
 

Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
  - 6) Placing a dot behind a note doubles the value of that note as in 

Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
  - 7) The following is a half rest: 

Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
  - 8) The following note grouping () when found in the following time signature  means that these three notes will be divided equally across one beat.
 

Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
  - 9) Alto I (1) is higher than Alto II (2) (the same can apply to Soprano, Tenor, or Bass).
 

Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
  - 10) The term *legato* means: smoothly.
 

Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
  - 11) The term *crescendo* means: maintain current volume.
 

Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure

- 12) The term *staccato* means: short and detached.  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
- 13) The term *diminuendo* (*dim.*) means: shorter than usual.  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
- 14) The term *poco a poco* means: little by little.  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
- 15) *pp* is the symbol that refers specifically to the volume term: *piano*.  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
- 16) *ff* is the symbol that best represents: very loud.  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
- 17) D.C. (*da capo*), translated into English and applied to music means "return to the sign" (♫).  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
- 18) This symbol (⦿) represents the *coda*.  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
- 19) Two sharps (#) in a key signature indicates the following major key: E major.  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
- 20) One flat (♭) in a key signature indicates the following major key: F Major.  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
- 21) The middle line on this clef (♩) is known as the D line.  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
- 22) The space above the very top line in the bass clef (♮) is the G space.  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure
- 23) The top number in the time signature  $\frac{4}{4}$  indicates the type of note receiving the beat.  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure

24) If only one note was permitted in the following measure, which note would it be? (Select from A-D below and enter your answer.)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

A)

B)

C)

D)

25) If only one rest was permitted in the following measure, which rest would it be?



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

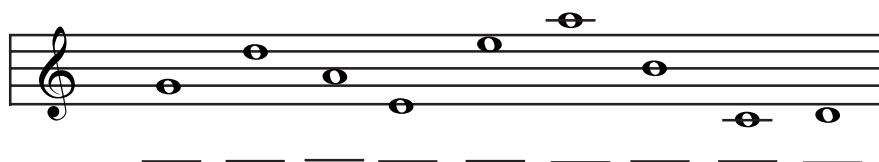
- A)       B)       C)       D) 

26) Does the following rhythm have too few notes/rests, the correct number of notes/rests, or too many notes/rests within this measure to equal a rhythm value indicated by the time signature to complete the measure?

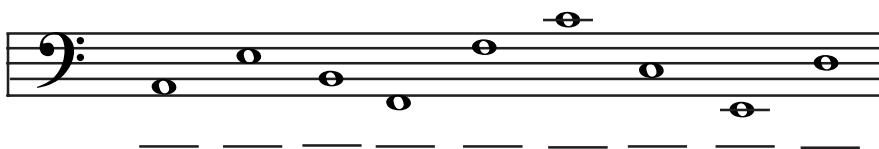



- Too few notes/rests       Correct amount of notes/rests       Too many notes/rests

27) Place the name of the line or space on the line beneath each note on the following staff (9 points):



28) Place the name of the line or space on the line beneath each note on the following staff (9 points):



29) The name of this clef symbol () is:

- Alto clef       Bass clef       Tenor clef       Treble clef       Don't know/Unsure

30) The name of this clef symbol () is:

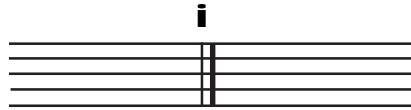
- Alto clef       Bass clef       Tenor clef       Treble clef       Don't know/Unsure

31) Indicate the type (name) barline indicated by the star over the barline by selecting from the list of possible answers beneath the example.



- Final     
  Normal     
  Repeat     
  Double     
  Don't know/Unsure

32) Indicate the type (name) barline indicated by the star over the barline by selecting from the list of possible answers beneath the example.



- Final     
  Normal     
  Repeat     
  Double     
  Don't know/Unsure

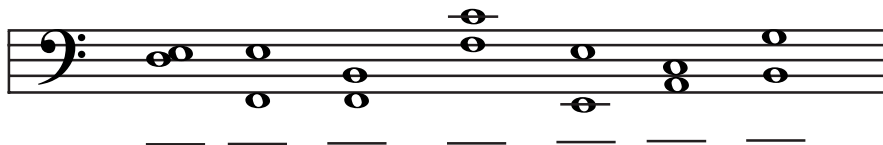
33) The term *adagio* refers to what in music?

- Dynamics     
  Tempo     
  Expressiveness     
  Range     
  Don't know/Unsure

34) The term *tenuto* best refers to the following:

- Hold for full note value  
 Performed with feeling  
 Slightly longer than staccato  
 Don't know/Unsure

35) Identify the intervals of each of the following two note examples. Place only the number of the interval in the blanks below the intervals (7 points).



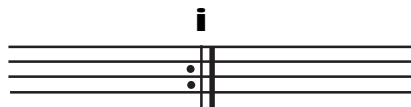
36) Generally speaking, the tempo term *Lento* refers to which of the following in music?

- Average tempo   
  Fast Tempo   
  Slow Tempo   
  Conductor's discretion   
  Don't know/Unsure

37) In the time signature , quarter notes will represent the beats in each measure.  
 Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure

38) The Alto part is below the Tenor part.       Yes       No       Don't know/Unsure

39) Is the following repeat sign (at the star) found at the *beginning* of a repeated section or the *end* of the same passage?



Beginning       End       Don't know/Unsure


40) Three sharps in a key signature represents which of the following major keys?  
 A major       G major       E major       G# major       Don't know/Unsure

41) In a key signature with flats representing a flat major key, the flats will appear in this order (all flats): B - E - A

Question: which flat is the *next* in this sequence?

G       C       F       D       Don't know/Unsure

42) In the key of C major what is the "tonic" note?  
 D       G       F       C       Don't know/Unsure

43) In terms of note type and value, are the following notes the same or different: a)  b) 

(a) and (b) are the same       (a) and (b) are not the same       Don't know/Unsure

*The remaining questions require that you fill in the blanks to identify the following symbols:*

44) This symbol ( — ) when placed above or below a note is called: \_\_\_\_\_

45) This symbol ( > ) when placed above or below a note is called: \_\_\_\_\_

46) This symbol ( ♪ ) when located in the music (not the words) is called: \_\_\_\_\_

47) This symbol ( ♯ ) when placed before a note is called: \_\_\_\_\_

48) This symbol ( ^ ) when placed above a note is called: \_\_\_\_\_

**TEST CONCLUSION**

### **Additional Information Regarding this Instrument**

This instrument only tests basic music-reading skills based on commonly occurring music-reading symbols, terms, and applications. There has been no effort to measure the “music-making” skills of those being tested (e.g., aural pitch and interval recognition, tone production). Some music-reading elements are tested more extensively than others. This test only provides a “snap-shot” of music-reading skills. The resulting scores can provide the tester an indication of the music-reading strengths or weaknesses among those being tested. It is strongly suggested that those being tested not place their name on the test if the purpose is only to determine the reading skills of the choir membership as a whole. This might free the participant to be more forthcoming with an accurate score of their music-reading ability.

### **Scoring Procedure**

- 1) Tabulate any question answered incorrectly or “Don’t Know/Unsure” as an incorrect answer.
- 2) Give each correct answer a score of one (1) point (note the additional points available on questions 27, 28, and 35). Then total the correctly answered questions together and divide that number by 70.  
**53 correct / 70 = 76% correct, or 24% incorrect**
- 3) Each tester may determine what “Pass” or “Fail” might be. It is generally accepted that a score between 65% to 70% or higher is considered a “Pass” score. A score of 70% or higher would be a solid “Pass” score and would fairly represent basic music reading competence.

### **Musical Element Groupings**

Symbols, Music Staff, Barlines Questions 31, 32	Naming Lines and Spaces Questions 21, 22, 27, 28
Treble/Bass Clefs Questions 29, 30	Interval identification (number only) Question 35
Repeats Questions 17, 18, 39	Expression/Articulation markings Questions 10, 11, 34, 44, 45, 46, 48
SATB voicing Questions 9, 38	Tempo markings Questions 33, 36
Notes/Rests ( <i>alone, not in combination with other elements</i> ) Questions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 43	
Time Signatures ( <i>alone, not in combination with other elements</i> ) Questions 4, 23, 37	
Key Signatures/Pitch Modifiers Questions 19, 20, 40, 41, 42, 47	
Rhythms ( <i>alone, not in combination with other elements</i> ) Question 8	
Time Signatures, Rhythms, Notes/Rests <u>combined</u> Questions 24, 25, 26	
Dynamic markings Questions 11, 13, 14*, 15, 16 (* as a modifier, <i>poco a poco</i> is found mostly in dynamics, but can appear with other markings as well)	