| Criteria | Mark Band 1 | Mark Band 2 | Mark Band 3 | Mark Band 4 |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Technical control and accuracy (pitch, intonation, rhythm, tone and articulation) | A performance that contains many inaccuracies that disrupt the overall flow of the music or where the demands of the music are mostly beyond the technical ability of the candidate. | A fairly competent performance that contains inaccuracies but still manages to sustain the overall flow of the music. | A performance that is largely accurate across the full range of the programme, but which contains lapses in some areas. | A performance that demonstrates good technical control and accuracy across the full programme, achieving a high level of fluency. |
| | (1–5) | (6–9) | (10–13) | (14–17) |
| Expressive interpretation, sense of style and communication (choice of tempo, dynamics, phrasing and other stylistic conventions) | A performance that displays a limited understanding of the stylistic features of the music, with very little sense of colour or musical meaning. | A performance that displays some sense of style and interpretation and some ability to identify with the music itself. However, the music may be mechanical or limited in its communication. | A performance that has a good sense of style, with some ability to communicate the style of the music in line with the composer's intentions. | A performance that displays a strong knowledge and understanding of the music performed, including the ability to interpret and communicate its expressive content and style. At the upper end, there is evidence of a high level of musical maturity. |
| | (1–5) | (6-9) | (10–13) | (14–17) |
| Viva voce | Limited ability to discuss the chosen programme in terms of technical challenges and/or points of interpretation. | Some knowledge of the chosen programme and ability to discuss technical challenges and/or points of interpretation. | Good knowledge of the chosen programme and ability to discuss in detail the technical challenges and points of interpretation. | Excellent knowledge of the chosen programme and ability to discuss analytically the technical challenge and points of interpretation. |
| | (1–2) | (3-4) | (5–6) | (7-8) |
| Level of demand | Music equivalent to Grade 4 | Music equivalent to Grade 5 | Music equivalent to Grade 6 or above | |
| | (3) | (6) | (9) | |