

End of Term Viola Exam

December 2021

Q1. If you look closely at your viola* (*sometimes referred to as "the Instrument"*) you will notice there are strings attached on one side but not the other. When in use, should the strings be...

- a. Facing upwards
- b. Facing downwards
- c. Neither of those. Explain _____

Q2. You will see that your instrument comes with a bow (*see diagram in the instruction booklet*). Should you hold the bow...

- a. In your right hand
- b. In your left hand
- c. In both hands
- d. Between the knees
- e. With your teeth

Q3. In order to identify the strings they each have a specific name represented by a letter from the alphabet. So, with the instrument facing you with the narrow end uppermost, choose the correct order from left to right...

- a. A-B-C-D
- b. W-X-Y-Z
- c. C-G-D-A
- d. A-A-A-A

Q4. Which part of the bow is usually used to produce a sound on the instrument?

- a. The wooden shaft
- b. The little hook at the end
- c. The hairs
- d. None of the above. Explain _____

Q5. Given that you have 4 strings and you use 4 fingers to select the notes (*not the thumb, see instruction booklet**), how many different notes can you produce on an unmodified viola?

- a. 4
- b. 8
- c. 16
- d. 20
- e. This is a trick question
- f. None of the above. Explain _____

Q6. When using your instrument, what part of your anatomy would you normally place on the chin rest?

- a. Your knees
- b. Your elbows
- c. Your foot
- d. Your chin
- e. Your bottom
- f. None of the above. Explain _____

Q7. Arrange the letters in the correct order to produce the name of a musical instrument.

- a. I-O-L-A-V
- b. B-A-P-G-I-P-S-E
- c. P-I-O-A-N
- d. N-I-I-L-O-V
- e. C-E-L-O-L
- f. One of the above is not a musical instrument. Which one? _____

Q8. The clef is a symbol at the start of a written line of music. There is a clef that is most often seen in viola music. Can you give that clef a name?

- a. Twirly thing
- b. Curvy thing
- c. Alto
- d. Kevin

Q9. There is much mystique surrounding the use of key signatures. In earlier times they were thought to be the work of the devil. However, in the viola booklet that is provided, you will see that the keys are simply categorised as NICE or NASTY.

Choose the correct category for each of these keys:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| a. C major | NICE / NASTY |
| b. E minor | NICE / NASTY |
| c. A flat minor | NICE / NASTY |
| d. C sharp major | NICE / NASTY |
| e. F major | NICE / NASTY |
| f. D major | NICE / NASTY |

Q10. When a conductor gives a “down-beat”, does his arm usually move:

- a. Sideways
- b. Up
- c. Down
- d. Forwards
- e. Backwards
- f. In circles

Q11. When playing your instrument, the bow may be going in any of two directions. Can you select them from this list?

- a. Down
- b. Up
- c. Yes

Q12. In the booklet you will observe in the advanced chapter (*page 2*), there is an easy way to never lose your place when reading music. Write a paragraph on the important orchestral techniques from this list:

- a. Moving the bow as if you are playing, but don't allow it to touch the strings
- b. Being certain to stop when everyone else does.
- c. Creating a distraction by standing up and shouting, “Fire”
- d. Attaching lots of mutes to the bridge (*see booklet*)
- e. Applying high performance engine oil to your bow hair (*available from specialist music shops*)

Q13. Tuning your instrument. How often should this be done? Select all that apply.

- a. Every time you play it
- b. Once a week, but only if it needs it
- c. Once a month, whether it needs it or not
- d. Never
- e. This is a trick question

Q14. How important is it to practice scales? Select the one that you most agree with (*and then justify it*)

- a. On a daily basis
- b. On an occasional basis
- c. Never, because you really, really, hate them
- d. Only for the five days preceding an exam
- e. None of the above. Explain _____

Examination time: 3 hours