

CHORAL SIGHT-READING CRITERIA

A guide to aid Indiana Choral Directors
as they prepare choirs for the
ISSMA High School Organization Auditions



This information is a compilation of the
Concert Organization Committee's Guidelines
to be used in conjunction with the ISSMA Rules and Regulations Manual.

Fall 2023 Update

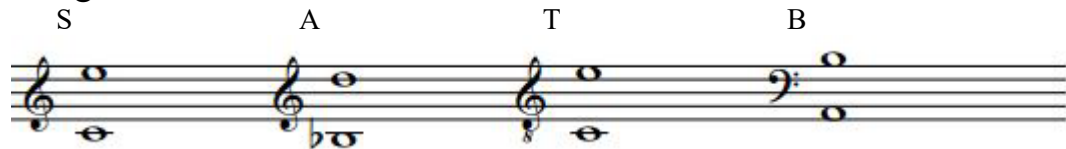
GROUP III

(GROUP IV Optional– For Comment Only)

General Guidelines – Beginning Difficulty

Meter: 4/4 or Common Time, 2/4, 3/4
Keys: Major Tonalities – C, F, G, or B^b
(No key changes during exercises)
Rhythm: Any or all of the following figures:
○ ■♪ ■♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪
Exercises: Unison and two-part exercises (a cappella)

Vocal Range:



Rhythmic Exercise – Unison

Length: 16 measures
Composition: Predictable rhythm patterns, simple syncopation possible
Execution: Clapping, counting, singing, or reciting on neutral syllables
Time Limit: One-minute preparation – Performance to follow immediately.

Melodic Exercise – Unison

Length: 16 measures
Composition: Tonic as starting pitch, stepwise motion, small intervallic skips up and down. Based upon chordal movement and using Group III prescribed rhythmic figures.
Execution: Singing on a neutral syllable, numbers, or solfege
Time Limit: Two-minute preparation; optional 30 seconds to establish tonality. Performance to follow immediately.

Harmonic Exercise – 2 Part

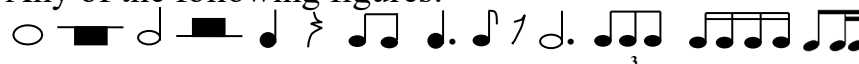
Length: 16 measures
Voicing: At director’s discretion – any combination, Mixed/TB, SA
Composition: Stepwise motion, small intervallic skips up and down. Based upon chordal movement and using Group III prescribed rhythmic figures, no use of accidentals.
Execution: Singing on a neutral syllable, numbers, or solfege
Time Limit: Three-minute preparation; optional 30 seconds to establish tonality. Performance to follow immediately.

GROUP II

General Guidelines – Intermediate Difficulty

Meter: 3/4, 4/4 or Common Time, 2/4
Keys: Major Tonalties – C, F, B, E, G, D, A, or B^b
(No key changes during exercises)

Rhythm: Any of the following figures:



Exercises: Unison and three/four-part exercises (a cappella)

Vocal Range:



Rhythmic Exercise – Unison

Length: 16 measures

Composition: Moderate rhythmic challenges, use of rests and subdivision of beat.

Execution: Clapping, counting, singing, or reciting on neutral syllables

Time Limit: One-minute preparation – Performance to follow immediately.

Melodic Exercise – Unison

Length: 16 measures

Composition: Predictable rhythm and melodic patterns, some stepwise motion, small to intermediate skips up and down, limited use of chromatics. Based on chordal movement and using Group II prescribed rhythmic figures.

Execution: Singing on a neutral syllable, numbers, or solfege.

Time Limit: Two-minute preparation; optional 30 seconds to establish tonality. Performance to follow immediately.

Harmonic Exercise – 3 Part / 4 Part

Length: 16 measures

Voicing: SSA/TTB/TBB (Univoiced), SAB/SATB (Mixed)

Composition: Some stepwise motion, small to intermediate skips up and down. Based upon chordal movement, and using Group II prescribed rhythmic figures, potential use of accidentals at composer's discretion.

Execution: Singing on a neutral syllable, numbers, or solfege

Time Limit: Three-minute preparation; optional 30 seconds to establish tonality. Performance to follow immediately.

GROUP I

General Guidelines – Advanced Difficulty

Meter: 6/8, 3/4, 4/4 or Common Time, 2/4
Keys: Major Tonalities – C, F, B, E, G, D, A, or B^b

(No key changes during exercises)

Rhythm: Any or all of the following figures:



Exercises: Unison and three/four-part exercises (a cappella)

Vocal Range:



Rhythmic Exercise – Unison

Length: 16 measures
Composition: Non-predictable rhythmic patterns, duration, syncopation, and subdivision of beat.
Execution: Clapping, counting, singing, or reciting on neutral syllables
Time Limit: One-minute preparation – Performance to follow immediately.

Melodic Exercise – Unison

Length: 16 measures
Composition: Some stepwise motion, small to intermediate skips up and down, intervals of sixth and seventh possible, melodic patterns outlining diatonic chords and chromatic usage more frequent. Traditional composition techniques will be employed combined with prescribed Group I rhythmic figures.
Execution: Singing on a neutral syllable, numbers, or solfege
Time Limit: Two-minute preparation; optional 30 seconds to establish tonality. Performance to follow immediately.

Harmonic Exercise – 3 Part / 4 Part

Length: 16 measures
Voicing: SSA/TTB/TBB (Univoiced), SATB (Mixed)
Composition: Some stepwise motion, small to intermediate skips up and down. Intervals of sixths and sevenths possible. Traditional composition techniques will be employed combined with prescribed Group I rhythmic figures, limited use of accidentals at composer's discretion.
Execution: Singing on a neutral syllable, numbers, or solfege
Time Limit: Three-minute preparation; optional 30 seconds to establish tonality. Performance to follow immediately.