

8D Mock aural test answer guide, 2020 Set 1

For Test 8D, the candidate is required to describe the characteristic features of a piece played by the examiner. Ideally, the candidate should respond freely without prompting, but if necessary the examiner will prompt with questions about particular features. A description of the piece is given here, with points listed for each of the features covered in the prompting questions. The points listed are neither definitive nor comprehensive and there are other ways of responding that would be equally successful. Candidates would not have to mention all the features given in order to receive full credit; as a guide they would need to mention features from within about two thirds of the main bullet points.

7. J. S. Bach

- Texture (number of parts/relationship between parts)

Polyphonic/contrapuntal texture, use of imitation, texture gradually thickens as each part enters, eventually four parts

- Use of dynamics

One dynamic level, but dynamic shaping emphasizes points of entry and phrasing

- Metre and tempo

Duple metre, regular/even tempo

- Style and period

- *Baroque (Bach, Buxtehude)*
- *Fugal style, suspensions create tension and release, use of a limited range of the keyboard and single dynamic level suggest it was written for harpsichord/organ*