

**MMEA Eastern District
Choral Sight Reading Guidelines for Senior District**

1. Examples will be in the same clef that the student's solo song part is written in (treble clef for women, tenor clef for tenors, bass clef for basses).
2. Examples will start and end on the tonic and the tonic pitch will be given to the student.
3. Examples will be written in a Major key of up to 4 sharps or flats. Examples may or may not be in the same key as the solo song.
4. Examples will be 8 measures long.
5. Examples will be in 4/4 or 3/4 meter and may use any or all of the following note values:
 - quarter notes
 - dotted quarter notes (including dotted quarter-eighth groups)
 - half notes
 - dotted half notes
 - whole notes
 - eighth-note triplets
 - quarter note rests
 - half note rests
6. The melody will contain both steps and skips.
7. Students must sing (no humming or whistling) and may use solfège, numbers, or a neutral syllable.
8. Students will be given 30 seconds to look at the example before being asked to start.

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Adjudicator Scoring Guidelines***

1. If the student performs the exercise at a *faster* tempo than set by the judge, the student score should *not* be affected. If, however, the tempo is slower than that set by the judge, the section that is affected should be counted as incorrect.
2. The singer may sing the exercise using solfege, numbers, or a neutral syllable. Because of a lack of projection and clarity, singers are discouraged from humming the exercise. The judge should not penalize a singer for singing the wrong scale degree number or the wrong solfege syllable as long as the actual pitches and rhythms the singer produces match those of the exercise.
3. Once the singer has begun to sing the exercise, he/she should not stop until the end of that exercise or until he/she cannot go any further.
 - i. The judge will use his/her discretion as to what a “stop” is in the exercise as opposed to a “hitch”, “stumble”, “pause without completely stopping”, etc. The judge will be the sole determiner as to what constitutes a “stop” during the singing.
4. If the singer stops before finishing the exercise, the singer will be given time to request to begin the exercise again or may be asked, at the discretion of the judge, whether or not the singer wants to begin the exercise again *as long as the singer has not “started over” before*.
 - i. If the singer elects to begin again, the re-start will count as his/her **one** “start-over” for the sight-singing part of the audition.
 - ii. The exercise that is re-started will be done **immediately** after the scale, arpeggio and starting pitch are played again. The exercise should be “counted off” *without* additional study time.
5. If the singer finishes singing the exercise but feels he/she can perform it better, the singer may be allowed to re-do the exercise as long as the singer has not already used his/her one “starting-over” option. It will not be the judges’ responsibility to ask the singer whether or not he/she wants to begin the exercise over again.
 - i. If the singer informs the judge that he/she would like to start the exercise over, the singer will have to start at the beginning of the exercise and **will receive a score based on the number of measures sung correctly only on the “start-over”**, completely erasing the score on the their first attempt to sing the exercise.
 - ii. The singer **cannot** be given the best score between the two attempts; only the “start-over” score, for better or worse, will be recorded.
6. If the singer does not ask to repeat the exercise, the judge, after giving the singer time to request a “start-over”, will end the audition.
7. The judge will not give the singer a “running count” of the number of measures correctly sung and will not inform the singer of their score conclusion of their sight-singing audition. It will be the responsibility of the singer’s choral teacher to inform him/her of all scores associated with the district choral audition.
8. The judge should sign the adjudication form. He/she may leave a comment for the student if desired.

*Based on the Florida Vocal Association’s procedures. Revised for MMEA-ED by Michael Driscoll and Claudia Hopewell, September 2008.

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Audio Instructions/Script**

Welcome to the sight-singing audition.

Your sight-singing excerpt is face down on the music stand in front of you. Please leave it face down while I review the sight-singing instructions.

The key and tonic note will be played for you and a suggested tempo will be given. You may perform at a tempo that is faster than the suggested tempo, but it has neither a negative nor positive effect on your score.

You will be given 30 seconds to study the excerpt. If you wish to begin before the 30 second study period is over, you may do so.

Please turn over the sight-singing excerpt on the music stand in front of you. You may leave the sheet on the music stand or hold onto it.

The key will now be set. The final note played will be the tonic note.

<AUDIO INSERT>

Here is the suggested tempo.
1, 2, 3, 4 <quarter note = 60>

Your study period begins now.

<20 SECONDS OF SILENCE>

10 seconds more

<10 SECONDS OF SILENCE>

Your study time is up. The key, starting note and suggested tempo will be set once more.

<AUDIO INSERT>

Here is the suggested tempo.
1, 2, 3, 4 <quarter note = 60>

You may now begin.