

MTB Grade 8

Alto Saxophone

Section One: Recital (60 marks)

Select **three** pieces from the following list (20 marks each)

As an alternative to the pieces below, candidates may perform up to 3 free choice pieces.
For guidance on selecting and approving free choice pieces please [click here](#)

Composer/Artist	Title	Book/Cat. Ref	Publisher/ Buy Here
Monti	Czardas	Tomplay	tomplay.com or Edition Darok
Ellington	Take A Train	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Billy Joel	Just the Way You Are	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Wood	Schwarzer Tanzer	Eb/Bb Edition	Saxtet Publications
Hold	Tango and Charleston for Alto Saxophone	Thames	Music Sales
Bennett	No.1 Samba Triste	Three Piece Suite for Alto Saxophone	Novello or Music Sales
Grovlez	Sarabande et Allegro for Alto Saxophone	N/A	AL23218 Lebug or UMP
Heiden	1st Movt: Allegro	Sonata for Eb Saxophone	Schott ED 1195 or MDS
Guilhaud	First Concertino trans. Voxman [complete]	Eb Edition	Rubank or Studio Music
Rae	3 rd Movt: East Coast Mainline	Alto Saxophone Sonatina	Reedimensions RD002
Koechlin	Étude No.9	15 Etudes for Alto Saxophone and Piano	Billaudot or EFM 1008
Koechlin	Étude No.15	15 Etudes for Alto Saxophone and Piano	Billaudot or EFM 1008

Tomplay pieces often include accompaniments and can be purchased individually using the link next to each piece or via a discounted subscription for MTB teachers/learners. To learn more about Tomplay and the subscription [click here](#).

MTB Grade 8

Alto Saxophone

Composer/Artist	Title	Book/Cat. Ref	Publisher/ Buy Here
Tomasi	Introduction et Danse	N/A	Leduc AL24936
Milhaud	Brazilliera	Scaramouche for Alto Saxophone	Salabert EAS15280b
Debussy	Syrinx	HXJJ12733	Jobert
Agay	Rhapsody in Waltz Time	N/A	Presser 114-40930
Bozza	Pulcinella	N/A	Leduc AL20298
Grundman	Concertante	N/A	Boosey
Woods	Sonata 1 st Movt	N/A	ADV07045
Parker	Anthropology	In Session with Charlie Parker	Faber
Allen	No.1	Sonatina for Solo Saxophone	Emerson Edition 589
Harvey	Denmanesque for Solo Saxophone	RD005	Reedimensions
Cowles	I Will Give My Love an Apple	N/A	Studio Music
Wilson	Sahasrara	The Seven Chakra for Solo Saxophone	Camden CM239
Mintzer	Rhythm Check	14 Blues and Funk Etudes	Alfred
Rae	Tabasco	12 Modern Etudes	UE18795
Wood	Balletico	Sax Scorchers	Saxtet
Wood	Seesaw	Sax Scorchers	Saxtet
J. S. Bach	Menuet 1, 2 and Gigue from Suite No.1 arr. Londeix	N/A	Lemoine

Section Two: Technical (25 marks)

Prepare either option 1 or 2 below

Technical Option 1

Technical Exercises:

Perform all the technical exercises required for this grade

[Page 4](#)

PLUS

Scales from Memory:

Perform the scales from memory required for this grade from the sheet

[Page 5](#)

Technical Option 2

Technical Exercises:

Perform all the technical exercises required for this grade

[Page 4](#)

PLUS

Alternative to Scales from Memory:

Perform the alternative to scales from memory required for this grade from the sheet

[Page 6](#)

Section Three: Musicianship (15 marks)

Prepare either option 1 or 2 below

Musicianship Option 1

Reading Skills:

Perform the rhythm exercises for this grade

[Page 11](#)

PLUS

Listening Skills:

Sing the prepared aural tests for this grade

[Page 13](#)

Musicianship Option 2

Reading Skills:

Perform the rhythm exercises for this grade

[Page 11](#)

PLUS

Duet:

Perform the duet for this grade

[Page 7](#)

Technical Exercises

Exercise 1 - ♩=c90

Exercise 2 - ♩=66+

Exercise 4 - ♩=c120

Scales & Arpeggios from Memory

For the examination, the candidate should be asked to perform all starred (*) scales and arpeggios below, plus any two other items from memory. They should perform each scale and arpeggio either tongued or slurred as requested by the teacher. The teacher should aim for an even distribution of articulations.

Scales ♩=132 Chromatic & Arpeggios ♩=86

B major scale



** F# major scale



Db major scale



F# melodic minor scale



** Eb harmonic minor scale



** Bb melodic minor scale



** Dominant 7th in A



** Diminished 7th on Bb - 2 octaves



** Bb chromatic scale - to high F



** B major arpeggio



F# major arpeggio



Db major arpeggio



** F# minor arpeggio



Eb minor arpeggio



Bb minor arpeggio



Alternative to Scales from Memory

The following do not need to be played from memory. For the examination perform all the starred (***) scales and arpeggios below plus any two other items

Scales ♩=132 Arpeggios ♩=86

B major scale

Musical notation for the B major scale in treble clef, 4/4 time. The scale consists of eight measures: B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, followed by a whole rest.

*** F# major scale

Musical notation for the F# major scale in treble clef, 4/4 time. The scale consists of eight measures: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, followed by a whole rest.

Db major scale

Musical notation for the Db major scale in treble clef, 4/4 time. The scale consists of eight measures: Db4, Eb4, Fb4, Gb4, Ab4, Bb4, C5, Db5, followed by a whole rest.

F# melodic minor scale - swung quavers

Musical notation for the F# melodic minor scale in treble clef, 4/4 time. The scale consists of eight measures: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, followed by a whole rest.

*** Eb harmonic minor scale

Musical notation for the Eb harmonic minor scale in treble clef, 4/4 time. The scale consists of eight measures: Eb4, Fb4, Gb4, Ab4, Bb4, C5, D5, Eb5, followed by a whole rest.

*** Bb melodic minor scale

Musical notation for the Bb melodic minor scale in treble clef, 4/4 time. The scale consists of eight measures: Bb4, Cb4, Db4, Eb4, Fb4, Gb4, Ab4, Bb5, followed by a whole rest.

*** Dominant 7th in A

Musical notation for the dominant 7th chord in A in treble clef, 4/4 time. The scale consists of eight measures: A4, B4, C#4, D4, E4, F#4, G#4, A5, followed by a whole rest.

*** Diminished 7th on Bb

Musical notation for the diminished 7th chord on Bb in treble clef, 4/4 time. The scale consists of eight measures: Bb4, Cb4, Db4, Eb4, Fb4, Gb4, Ab4, Bb5, followed by a whole rest.

*** Bb chromatic scale - up to high F

Musical notation for the Bb chromatic scale in treble clef, 2/4 time. The scale consists of two lines of eight measures each, with triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The scale starts on Bb4 and ends on F5.

*** B major arpeggio

Musical notation for the B major arpeggio in treble clef, 2/4 time. The arpeggio consists of two lines of four measures each, with triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The notes are B4, D5, F#5, and B5.

F# major arpeggio

Musical notation for the F# major arpeggio in treble clef, 2/4 time. The arpeggio consists of two lines of four measures each, with triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The notes are F#4, A4, C5, and F#5.

Db major arpeggio

Musical notation for the Db major arpeggio in treble clef, 2/4 time. The arpeggio consists of two lines of four measures each, with triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The notes are Db4, Eb4, Fb4, and Db5.

*** F# minor arpeggio

Musical notation for the F# minor arpeggio in treble clef, 2/4 time. The arpeggio consists of two lines of four measures each, with triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The notes are F#4, A4, C5, and F#5.

Eb minor arpeggio

Musical notation for the Eb minor arpeggio in treble clef, 2/4 time. The arpeggio consists of two lines of four measures each, with triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The notes are Eb4, Fb4, Ab4, and Eb5.

Bb minor arpeggio

Musical notation for the Bb minor arpeggio in treble clef, 2/4 time. The arpeggio consists of two lines of four measures each, with triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The notes are Bb4, Cb4, Db4, and Bb5.

Duets

Alto Saxophone 1 **Grade 8: Select ONE of the following two duets**

Alto Saxophone 2

Grade 8.1 - Romantic Dream

Andante espressivo

1

Musical notation for measures 1-5. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff (Alto Saxophone 1) begins with a *mf* dynamic. The second staff (Alto Saxophone 2) begins with a *mf* dynamic. The piece is marked *Andante espressivo*. Measure 5 includes the marking *sim.*

6

Musical notation for measures 6-11. The first staff (Alto Saxophone 1) has dynamics *mp*, *cresc.*, and *f*. The second staff (Alto Saxophone 2) has dynamics *mp*, *cresc.*, and *f*.

12

Musical notation for measures 12-16. The first staff (Alto Saxophone 1) has dynamics *mf*, *cresc.*, *dim.*, and *mp*. The second staff (Alto Saxophone 2) has dynamics *mf*, *cresc.*, *dim.*, and *mp*.

17

Musical notation for measures 17-20. Both staves (Alto Saxophone 1 and 2) feature a *cresc.* marking throughout this section.

21

Musical notation for measures 21-24. The first staff (Alto Saxophone 1) has a *f* dynamic. The second staff (Alto Saxophone 2) has a *f* dynamic.

25

Musical notation for measures 25-28. The first staff (Alto Saxophone 1) has dynamics *dim.* and *mp*. The second staff (Alto Saxophone 2) has dynamics *dim.* and *mp*.

Duets

[Click here to find exam speed duet recordings](#)

[Click here to find practise speed duet recordings](#)

Alto Saxophone 1
Alto Saxophone 2

Grade 8.2 - Contra-punkt

1 **Decisively**

Measures 1-6 of the duet. The music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo/mood is 'Decisively'. Both parts start with a forte (f) dynamic. The first staff (Alto Saxophone 1) features eighth-note patterns with slurs and accents. The second staff (Alto Saxophone 2) features a more rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests.

7

Measures 7-11 of the duet. The first staff continues with eighth-note patterns and slurs. The second staff features a complex accompaniment with sixteenth-note runs and slurs.

12

Measures 12-16 of the duet. The first staff continues with eighth-note patterns and slurs. The second staff features a complex accompaniment with sixteenth-note runs and slurs.

17

Measures 17-20 of the duet. The first staff continues with eighth-note patterns and slurs. The second staff features a complex accompaniment with sixteenth-note runs and slurs.

21

Musical score for measures 21-26. The music is in a key with two flats and a 4/4 time signature. It features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand.

27

Musical score for measures 27-29. The music continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *cresc.* (crescendo). The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand.

30

Musical score for measures 30-32. The music continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand.

33

Musical score for measures 33-38. The music continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo) and *p subito* (piano subito). The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand.

39

Musical score for measures 39-44. The music continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte). The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand.

44

Musical score for measures 44-48. The music is in 2/4 time and B-flat major. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests.

49

Musical score for measures 49-53. The music continues in 2/4 time and B-flat major. The right hand has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *p* (piano) in measure 53.

54

Musical score for measures 54-57. The music continues in 2/4 time and B-flat major. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *cresc.* (crescendo) in measures 54 and 55.

58

Musical score for measures 58-62. The music continues in 2/4 time and B-flat major. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *ff* (fortissimo) in measures 58 and 59.

Reading Skills

Candidates should practise the six clapping exercises below as part of their preparation to take this grade.

For the exam itself, the candidate should perform all six exercises in the order below at the indicated tempi. The candidate part should be clapped and the lower part should be provided using either the MTB Reading Skills recording for this grade, which can be downloaded [here](#), or a metronome (not clapped).

♩ = 244
candidate

1

metronome

metronome

♩ = 80

2

metronome

metronome

♩ = 104

3

metronome

♩ = 200

4

♩ = 90

5

♩ = 62

6

Listening Skills

The candidate should practise all the exercises on this sheet with the accompanying Listening Skills recording as part of their preparation for the exam. The exam can be conducted either with the candidate responding to the recording or the teacher can deliver them using this sheet.

Only the teacher should have this sheet in front of them during the exam.

For each test, select *either* the treble *or* the bass clef exercises as appropriate to the range of the candidate's voice.

Test 1 - Singing notes from a chord.

I will play a 4 note chord and you will sing back **all** of the notes, starting with the highest.

We shall do this for 4 chords.

Treble Clef

1. 2. 3. 4.

Bass Clef

1. 2. 3. 4.

Test 2 - Scales

I shall ask you to sing a whole tone scale up and down after giving you the starting note.

Then, I shall ask you to sing a melodic minor scale up and down after giving you the same starting note again.

Treble Clef

Bass Clef

Test 3 - Triads

I shall give you the starting note, and then you shall sing the major, minor, diminished and augmented triads in root position all starting on that same note. The starting note will be given before you sing each of the 4 triads.

Treble Clef

Bass Clef