

# **KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATION COUNCIL KCSE, 2014**

## **MUSIC PAPER 2 ANALYSIS**

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### 3.10.3 Music Paper 2 (511/2): AURAL TESTS

This paper tested the candidates' aural skills: listening and the ability to write what is heard. This included the candidates' ability to identify and write pitch and rhythm presented in form of different tests. Different elements of music were tested here.

All questions and instructions in this paper were administered through a pre-recorded tape. There were 5 broad areas covered.

Candidates were required to aurally identify and write rhythms (in simple and compound time), melodies (in major and minor), harmonic intervals, cadences and modulations. Out of the five tests, test 1 and 2 presented the biggest challenge to the candidates.

#### Test One

This tested rhythmic recognition and writing.

- i. It was noted that many candidates were unable to identify the correct time signatures for both simple and compound times.
  - ii. Grouping of notes and insertion of bar lines was also noted as a problem area.
- These skills are all developed progressively with consistent and appropriate practice.

#### Test Two

This tested the ability to listen to and write melodies in major and minor keys. The melodies were broken into phrases each, making it easier for the candidates to internalize and write. Full marks would only be awarded to a candidate who writes the correct notes (pitch and rhythm).

This test was poorly done by majority of the candidates. Some candidates were not able to even write the stated key signatures on the staff!

More practice is required for better melody writing from dictation.

#### Tests Three, Four and Five

These tests were fairly well performed by most candidates. They generally require consistent practice and preparation.

#### Advice to teachers

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Aural practice and training should be introduced early in form 1 and integrated into every basic skills music lesson. Continuous and consistent practice will enable the candidate to develop the aural skill and be able to comfortably handle all these tests.

Participation of music students in various music activities such as hymn practice, choir training and singing etc will enable the students to develop appreciation and ability to discriminate sound, pitches and rhythms.

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