



NCBA Sightreading Criteria

February 2025

Grade II

Length: 1.5 minutes or less

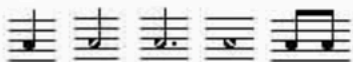
Key: Concert F, B-flat, or E-flat without any key changes

Meter: Listed below with no meter change.

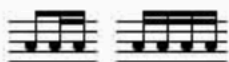


Rhythm:

Basic Patterns - Quarter rests on count 1 & eighth rests are not permitted.



Percussion Only



Grade III

Length: 2 minutes or less

Key: Concert F, B-flat, or E-flat without any key changes

Meter: Listed below with no meter changes.



The 2023 Level 3 composition contains a meter change from 4/4 to 3/4. All bands will stop at the end of the last 4/4 measure.

Rhythm:

Basic Patterns



Percussion Only



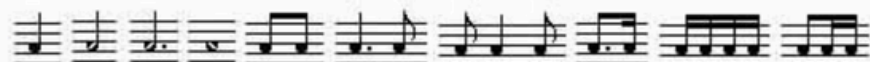
Grade IV

Length: Two and one-half minutes or less.

Key: Concert F, B-flat, E-flat, A-flat Major & relative minors with one key change.

Meter: SAME AS LEVEL III with a meter change

Rhythm: Basic patterns for winds & percussion.



Grade V

Length: Three minutes or less.

Key: Concert F, B-flat, E-flat, A-flat Major & relative minors with up to two key changes.

Meter: Listed below with two meter changes.



Rhythm: Basic patterns for winds & percussion.



Grade VI

Length: Three and one-half minutes or less.

Key: Concert C, F, B-flat, E-flat, A-flat Major, & relative minors with up to three key changes.

Meter: SAME AS LEVEL V with three meter changes.

Rhythm: SAME AS LEVEL V

NCBA Sightreading Criteria

Sightreading Ranges for Band

Group/Grade 2

Group/Grade 3

Group/Grade 4

Group/Grade 5

Group/Grade 6

The following table summarizes the sightreading ranges for each instrument across the five grade levels, based on the musical score provided.

Instrument	Group/Grade 2	Group/Grade 3	Group/Grade 4	Group/Grade 5	Group/Grade 6
Flute/Piccolo	C4	C4	B3	C4	B3
Oboe	C4	C4	C4	C4	C4
Bassoon	C3	C3	C3	B2	C3
Clarinet	C4	C4	C4	B3	B3
Low Clarinets	B2	C3	C3	C3	C3
Alto Saxophone	C4	C4	C4	C4	C4
Low Saxs	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3
Trumpets	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2
French Horns	C3	B2	B2	B2	B2
Trombone/Euphonium	B2	C3	C3	C3	C3
Tuba	B2	C3	B2	C3	C3

Specific Criteria for Composing Band Sight-Reading Music

Composers of UIL band sightreading music are provided the following specific criteria:

- **Composers of Level I-II-III compositions are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the scoring practices that are common place in Grade I-II-III educational music. A comprehensive listing of such works can be found in the UIL Prescribed Music List. Music directors of bands at these levels should realistically expect the music their students encounter in the sight-reading room to be similar in craft to the music they see everyday in the rehearsal hall. For example, isolated entrances, independent lines for single instruments or exposed passages for color instruments (regardless of how simple) should be avoided.**
- **Include measure numbers and appropriately placed rehearsal numbers should be present throughout the score.**
- **Avoid specific metronome markings. Instead use tempo indications such as andante, allegro, etc.**
- **Do not indicate cues in either the score or the parts. They tend to create confusion in the sight-reading room. Either double the parts (usually a good idea, especially at Levels I-II-III) or omit the cues entirely.**
- **Strive to keep the notation as large as possible and the score page as uncluttered as possible. Very small notation as well as excessive lines and measures on a page are difficult to read and tend to cause both confusion and frustration for the directors.**
- **Be very specific and clear about percussion instrumentation. For example directors should not find themselves looking at the score during the explanation period and wondering if the part is for crash cymbals or suspended cymbal.**
- **Try to avoid any device that might be viewed as a “trick”. Technically, rhythmically and harmonically, the music should be straightforward and logical.**
- **Be very careful about the use of divisi. Placing multiple parts on the same staff with accidentals, polyrhythms and note stems going in opposite directions can be confusing.**
- **Time your composition at performance tempo to make sure that it meets the time limit requirement.**