

HOW DOES MR. HELLER GRADE A PLAYING TEST?

Below is listed what characteristics the scale or musical line could possibly exhibit when you play a playing test. Each set of characteristics corresponds to a certain number of points up to five points. Five is the highest number of points you can score on a playing test.

5 points

Tone: *A fine characteristic tone quality*
Pitches and Rhythms: *No errors in pitches or rhythms*
Articulation: *Clear, stylistically appropriate articulation*
Dynamics (if indicated): *All dynamics observed and musically executed*
Phrasing: *Phrasing points well chosen and musically shaped*
Tempo: *Appropriate and even, except for variations indicated in the music*
Intonation: *No significant intonation flaws*

4 points

Tone: *A characteristic, perhaps slightly less refined tone than a superior performance.*
Pitches and Rhythms: *No errors in pitches or rhythms*
Articulation: *All articulations correctly observed*
Dynamics (if indicated): *All dynamics observed, but perhaps lacking the control of a superior performance*
Phrasing: *Phrasing points well chosen*
Tempo: *Appropriate and even, except for variations indicated in the music*
Intonation: *May have a few very minor intonation flaws*

3 points

Tone: *Acceptable, but lacks the refinement of a pure characteristic tone*
Pitches and Rhythms: *No errors in pitches or rhythms*
Articulation: *Correct, but not necessarily stylistically appropriate*
Dynamics (if indicated): *Observed somewhat*
Phrasing: *Phrasing points well chosen but not musically shaped*
Tempo: *Perhaps slightly too fast or too slow with variations not indicated in the music.*
Intonation: *May have several intonation flaws*

2 points

Tone: *Acceptable, but noticeably lacking refinement*
Pitches and Rhythms: *May have a few errors in pitches and/or rhythms*
Articulation: *Not consistently followed and/or may lack stylistic appropriateness*
Dynamics (if indicated): *Barely observed or not observed at all*
Phrasing: *Phrasing points may not be appropriate or musically shaped*
Tempo: *May not be correct or appropriate and may be quite uneven in places, not called for in the music.*
Intonation: *May have a number of intonation flaws*

1 point

Tone: *May be greatly lacking in refinement*
Pitches and Rhythms: *Numerous missed pitches and/or incorrectly played rhythms*
Articulation: *Unclearly executed or not observed at all*
Dynamics (if indicated): *Barely observed or not observed at all*
Phrasing: *Little evidence of musically chosen phrasing points*
Tempo: *May be too slow or too fast or so uneven as to be undefinable*
Intonation: *May be numerous intonation flaws*