

## Theory Markers Report 2008

Comments from Marking Team for Teachers

It is recommended that teachers not confine themselves to using only one workbook. Different methods suit different students and not all workbooks cover the work as thoroughly as may be needed. There are currently four systems that cover the basics along with the use of Harmony Step by Step by Dulcie Holland:

Dulcie Holland Master Your Theory

Gordon Spearritt Essential Music Theory

Lina Ng Music Theory made Easy

Samantha Coates How to Blitz Grade.... Theory.

### Grades One and Two

The stems of the notes should be one octave long.

When adding a key signature it needs to be on both lines if it is a two line excerpt.

Many Grade One students transposed the melody into G not F. They worked down a fourth.

The dots after the notes (i. e. dotted crotchets, quavers, etc) were often written in the wrong place. These need to be placed either in the middle of the space directly after the note for a space note, or in the middle of the space above for a line note. Care needs to be taken with notes written with ledger lines and their associated dots.

There were many misplaced staccato dots.

### Grade Three

Markers recommend working through Dulcie Holland Harmony Step by Step from Grade 3 to develop a good understanding of four part harmony and provide more examples.

In this grade the quaver rests were often written in the wrong space.

Many students did not understand the difference between cut time and common time.

### Grade Four

Not all the workbooks have a section on Ib – VIIb – I in the grade 4 level. This is explained in Dulcie Holland Master Your Theory Grade Four.

Many times where students were asked to mark the scale tones in a minor scale, they marked them and also marked the tone and a half.

### Grade Five

Markers were unhappy with the use of second inversion chords and felt that the students had not fully mastered the doubling rules from Grade Four.

Students need a better understanding of diatonic intervals and where they occur in scales.

Dulcie Holland Grade Five workbook may help with this.

Four Part Harmony. In future students will be asked to write in chord indications.

### Grade Six

The students who sat this level all did very well.

The word lists and meanings are on the web site and.....

cantabile does not mean contained and smorzando does not mean smothered !!!!!



sound values