

UIL Sight-Reading Evaluation Instruction Period Pilot Procedures

(updated for the 22-23 school year, pilot year two)

2023 Participating Regions: At the discretion of each region.

Prior to the Instruction Period: At the conclusion of completing the written evaluation for a performing ensemble and prior to the start of the next ensemble's instruction period the three judges shall leave the sight-reading room and not return until the next ensemble's instruction period concludes. Either one of the judges or a person appointed by the contest chair shall monitor the time to ensure that the judges punctually return to the sight-reading room to adjudicate each performance.

Compliance Official: A compliance official, as selected by the region executive secretary and compensated at the same rate as a judge, shall remain in the sight-reading room during the instruction period to monitor time, ensure compliance with procedures, and read the official TMAA script to the ensemble. The compliance official may be a current or prior music teacher, or any other person determined by the executive secretary to be competent to perform the responsibilities. At the discretion of the region the compliance official may provide feedback to the director.

Score Study Period:

- Prior to the instruction period the director will be given three minutes to study the sight-reading music full score during which time the director may take notes or utilize removable notes in the score, but not mark directly on the score.
- During the score study period music will be distributed to the students, but the students may not view or study the music until the instruction period begins.

Instruction Period:

- Only one director may instruct and direct the ensemble.
- There shall be one instruction period as follows for all organizations:
Conference 5A and 6A Varsity: 10 minutes
Conference 3C, 3B, 4A Varsity and 6A Non-Varsity: 8 minutes
All other conferences: 7 minutes
Sub Non-Varsity: may extend the explanation period for their conference by one minute.
- The director may not play an instrument – string, wind, keyboard or otherwise.
- The director may not utilize technology devices.
- The students may play the sight-reading evaluation music individually, in small groups, or with the full ensemble, at the discretion of the director.
- The students and/or the director may sing the music and/or count, clap, and tap rhythms during the instruction period.
- Neither the director nor the students may mark on the music unless instructed to do so by a judge.

After the Instruction Period and Prior to the Performance:

- The students will be instructed to turn the music face down at the end of the instruction period.
- The judges will enter the sight-reading room.
- Immediately following the instruction period, while the music is face down and prior to the performance, the ensemble may play a sustained note – unison or chord. No further warm-up or musical instruction of any kind is permitted by the director.

Performance:

- When the judges are ready, the ensemble shall turn the music face up and perform the piece.
- In the event the director chooses to stop the performance, it should be for the sole purpose of designating a starting point. No further instructions may be given.
- An ensemble whose director makes an obvious contribution to the performance either by singing with or speaking to the students while they are performing shall be disqualified. An obvious deliberate attempt by a director to be disqualified may result in the assignment of a rating by the adjudication panel. A judge's decision of what is obvious and deliberate is final.
- The ensemble's performance shall be evaluated by the adjudicators in accordance with the Texas Music Adjudicators Association sight-reading adjudication rubric and the performance shall be the sole criteria for assigning a rating.

TMAA Adjudicator Sight-Reading Procedure/Script for Band and Orchestra

When the Conductor Enters the Room (Judges may still be in the room):

- Compliance Official (CO) should approach the conductor with a professional greeting.
- Allow the conductor (or assistant) to help get the group situated in their proper ensemble set up.
- Confirm that the conductor received the instrumentation information and percussion requirements for the sight-reading selection to be performed. If not, provide him/her a copy of the email or mailing sent by the executive secretary to all participants.
- If applicable, remind the conductor of the timpani pitches (have them on the board if possible). Also remind the conductor that the timpani need to be tuned prior to the beginning of the instruction period. An assistant conductor may assist with timpani tuning, if necessary. Once the explanation begins no one other than the primary conductor explaining the selection will be allowed to assist the timpanist with tuning or any other form of instruction.
- Allow conductor to quickly check tuning with the group before everything starts (orchestra only).
- **While the music is being passed out to the ensemble, ask the conductor how they want their time called out with any warnings (ex. 4 min left, 2 min left, 30 seconds left, etc.) (CO is the time keeper.)**
- Show the conductor the selection to be performed and ask the following question verbatim: **"This organization will be reading (title of selection) which has been chosen for conference _____ (varsity or non-varsity groups). Is this the correct conference for your organization?"**
- **At this point, excuse the conductor to a predetermined place in the room for the 3 minute score study.**

Compliance Official (CO) Instructions to the Ensemble:

- After a brief professional greeting to the ensemble, have the students open their folder and remove the parts for the correct selection they are to read for their conference. Then ask the following:
"Does everyone have the correct part and clef sign for your instrument?"
Have the students turn the music over so it is not available for viewing. The compliance official should then solve any problems that might exist.
- Ask the conductor and group the following question verbatim:
"Has this organization or any of its student members heard, read, rehearsed or performed this selection (indicating the music) at any time prior to this evaluation?"
If the answer is "yes", refer to Section 1111, (A) and (B) of the "UIL Constitution and Contest Rules".

Read the following without embellishment:

"Your conductor will have, (10 minutes/8 minutes/7 minutes) to explain this piece of music. He/She may use the time as he/she sees fit including singing, clapping/tapping, and/or counting. However, your conductor may not perform the music on any instrument. Students may play the sight-reading evaluation music individually, in small groups, or with the full ensemble, at the discretion of the director. Students may also sing the music and/or count, clap, and tap rhythms during the instruction period. Neither the director nor the students may mark on the music unless instructed to do so by the compliance official.

After the instruction period and prior to the performance, the sight-reading music must be turned face down. The judges will come back in the room. The performing group may then play a sustained note – unison or chord. No further warm-up or musical instruction of any kind is permitted by your director. Are there any questions regarding the procedure? Your timing will begin when your conductor asks you to turn the music over or when he/she opens his/her score. Good luck."

The judges need to be out of the room by this point for the director's instruction period. Instruction period ends – turn music face down and judges come back in room. Once judges are seated, music is turned over and performance begins.

At The Conclusion of the Performance, the Compliance Official will:

- Thank the students and ask them to be sure and leave the sightreading music on the music stand.
- Remind them to be sure that they take all their personal items with them as they leave the room.