

MLS6 AURAL WRITTEN EXAM OVERVIEW

(version October 2010)

Excerpt from the Subject Guide:

Final aural class exam.

A recognition test that will test the student's ability to recognize the ragas and talas studied, and to apply the concepts to the aural recognition of pitch, texture, metre and rhythm. (50% weighting)

Theory, terms, and concepts to know, understand, and recognize aurally

Pitch:-

Sargam (solfege, including shuddh, tivra and komal)

Vadi and Samvadi

Aroha and Avaroha

Pakar

Tan

Drone (via tampura and other instruments)

That

Jati

Rhythm:-

Tal

Tali counting (North and South Indian style)

Bharee and Kali

Sam

Laya (vilambit, madhya and drut)

Bol

Theka

Composition:-

Asthayi and Antara

Tihai

Gat

Alap (Instrumental structure: Alap – Jor – Jhala)

Mohra

Lehara

Mukhra

Jugalbandi

Instruments

Know the sound and role of:

Tampura/tamboura

Sitar

Sarod

Tabla

Bansuri

Voice

Violin

Saranggi

Shenai

Harmonium

Santoor

Guitar

Swarmandalum

Mohan Veena

Talas

Tintal (16 matras)

Rupak (7 matras)

Ragas

Jog

Ahir Bhairav

Marwa

Exam Structure

You will be played musical examples via CD recordings and asked about what you hear. Short answers and single words are often all that is required.

You will need to aurally recognize the ragas and talas studied, and apply theoretical concepts to the solving of aural challenges.

E.g. I could play a track of a tal going wrong, and you have to observe the error and explain what happened!

Another example would be that I play an Alap of a Raga you don't know, and ask for the Aroha and Avaroha.

How to Prepare

Go over the books on reserve in the library, alongside class notes. I especially recommend *The Raga Guide* as this can be used with the CDs to support the aural skill-building.

Know the reserve recordings (referenced in the subject guide) well.

Listen to as many other recordings as possible. Many of my linked web sites have streaming audio resources with them also.

Compose your own asthayai and antara on the ragas studied, in the studied talas.

Compose your own tans and tihais in the ragas studied, in the studied talas.

Get together with your peers and talk/play/test each other on Indian music!

Good luck,

Jonathan Dimond