

# CLINICAL AUDIOLOGY A SEMESTER 1

## SUMMARY SHEETS

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### MASKING – KEY POINTS

**The need for masking:** Depends on the interrelationship of three factors:

- The intensity of the test tone
- The bone conduction threshold in the non-test ear
- The interaural attenuation (IA) – the intensity reduction across the skull from the test ear to the non test cochlea

**Interaural attenuation (IA):**

*Air conduction:* 40 – 80 dB

*Bone conduction:* 0 – 20 dB

***In this case we will use insert tube earphones:***

They have a larger IA range

70 to 110 dB in the low frequencies

50 to 95 dB in the high frequencies

**When to mask AC thresholds:** masking should be applied whenever the AC response in the test ear exceeds the BC threshold in the non-test ear by 40 dB or more

**What do we mask:** mask the non-test ear

**When to mask BC thresholds:** masking should be applied to the non-test ear whenever there is an air-bone gap of 15 dB or more in the test ear

**Kinds of masking noise:**

- *White noise:* contains energy at all frequencies in the audible spectrum at approximately equal intensities.