# Grade One 

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## Notation

For Grade One you need to know all the note names up to three leger lines above and below the stave.

## Treble Clef



## Bass Clef



Write the following treble clef notes as semibreves:


F below $\quad A^{b}$ above $E^{\natural}$ within $C$ below $D^{\#}$ above $B$ above $E \#$ below $B^{b}$ below the stave the stave the stave the stave the stave the stave the stave the stave

$G^{\natural}$ below $E^{\natural}$ above $F$ within A below the stave the stave the stave the stave

B\# above the stave
$D^{b}$ above the stave
$F \#$ below $\quad F^{b}$ above the stave the stave

Write the following bass clef notes as minims:


|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| the stave | the stave | the stave | the stave | the stave | the stave | the stave | the stave |


$A^{b}$ below

the stave \begin{tabular}{l}
F above <br>
the stave

 

G within <br>
the stave

 

E below <br>
the stave

 

$\mathrm{D} \#$ above <br>
the stave

 

$\mathrm{C}^{b}$ above <br>
the stave

 

$\mathrm{C} \#$ below <br>
the stave

 

A below <br>
the stave
\end{tabular}


E月 below

the stave \begin{tabular}{l}
F above <br>
the stave

$\quad$

$\mathrm{E}^{\natural}$ within <br>
the stave

 

G below <br>
the stave

 $\mathrm{G}^{\#}$ above 

$\mathrm{A}^{b}$ above <br>
the stave

 

$\mathrm{B}^{\#}$ below <br>
the stave

 

E above <br>
the stave
\end{tabular}

Name the following notes:


## Key Signatures

For Grade One you need to know the following key signatures:


Practise writing the following major key signatures:


Practise writing the following minor key signatures:


## Major Scales

When writing scales it is necessary to use either a key signature at the beginning of the scale, or a sharp or flat next to any notes affected by the key signature (These are called 'accidentals').


Write the following one octave major scales:
G major scale in semibreves, using accidentals


F major scale in minims, using the correct key signature


C major scale in crotchets, using the correct key signature


G major scale in quavers (grouped in twos), using accidentals

## ₹

F major scale in semibreves, using accidentals


C major scale in minims, using the correct key signature

## Harmonic Minor Scales

As with major scales, when writing minor scales it is necessary to use either a key signature, or a sharp or flat next to any notes affected by the key signature. There is however one extra rule that you must follow when writing harmonic minor scales: Raise the 7th note.

When working out which note is the 7th note, be sure to count the lowest note of the scale as the 1st note.


Write the following one octave harmonic minor scales:

E harmonic minor scale ascending in crotchets, using accidentals

A harmonic minor scale descending in semibreves, using accidentals

## -7:

E harmonic minor scale descending in minims, using the correct key signature


D harmonic minor scale ascending in crotchets, using accidentals

Write the following one octave major and harmonic minor scales:

F major scale ascending in crotchets, using the correct key signature


E harmonic minor scale descending in semibreves, using accidentals


A harmonic minor scale ascending in quavers (grouped in fours), using aceidentals

-7):


G major scale descending in minims, using the correct key signature


D harmonic minor scale ascending in crotchets, using accidentals

## 7):

E harmonic minor scale ascending in quavers (grouped in twos), using the correct key signature

## Relative Keys

If two different keys share the same key signature, they are said to be related or relative keys. The relative keys for Grade One are:

- No sharps or flats in the key signature - C major / A minor
- One sharp (F\#) in the key signature - G major / E minor
- One flat $\left(\mathrm{B}^{b}\right)$ in the key signature - F major / D minor

Circle the correct answer for each of the questions below:
The key of C major has:
The relative minor key of C major is: A minor
The relative major key of D minor is:
The key of F major has:
The key of D minor has:
The relative minor key of G major is:
The relative major key of A minor is:
C major

| The key of E minor has: | no sharps or flats | one sharp ( $\mathrm{F}^{\#}$ ) | one flat ( $\mathrm{B}^{b}$ ) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| The relative major key of E minor is: | C major | G major | F major |
| The key of A minor has: | no sharps or flats | one sharp ( $\mathrm{F}^{\#}$ ) | one flat ( $\mathrm{B}^{b}$ ) |
| The key of G major has: | no sharps or flats | one sharp $\left(\mathrm{F}^{\#}\right)$ | one flat ( $\left.\mathrm{B}^{b}\right)$ |

## Tones and Semitones

In Preliminary Grade you were asked to recognise the difference between tones and semitones within the C major scale using the piano keyboard as reference. The following notes are always a semitone apart:

$$
\boldsymbol{E}-\boldsymbol{F} \text { and } \boldsymbol{B}-\boldsymbol{C}
$$

All the other letters of the musical alphabet are a tone apart (C-D $\quad \boldsymbol{D}-\boldsymbol{E} \quad \boldsymbol{F}-\boldsymbol{G} \quad \boldsymbol{G}-\boldsymbol{A} \quad \boldsymbol{A}-\boldsymbol{B})$.


In Grade One you are also required to recognise tones and semitones within the keys of F and G major.

- G major has an $\mathrm{F}^{\#}$ in the key signature. $\boldsymbol{B}-\boldsymbol{C}$ and $\boldsymbol{F}^{\#}-\boldsymbol{G}$ are a semitone apart.
- F major has a $B^{b}$ in the key signature. $\boldsymbol{A}-\boldsymbol{B}^{b}$ and $\boldsymbol{E}-\boldsymbol{F}$ are a semitone apart.
(All the remaining notes within the above scales are a tone apart)


Beneath each bracket, mark whether the notes within the bracket are a tone or semitone apart (the first has been completed as an example):


## Revision Test - Notation

Complete this revision test at your lesson.

Write the following notes as minims:


Add the key signature and raise the 7th note for the E minor scale below:

Write the following major scale:


Beneath each bracket, mark whether the notes within the bracket are a tone or semitone apart:


Total:

## Intervals

In previous grades you have used numbers to qualify intervals (2nd, 3rd, 4th etc.). For Grade One, as well as using numbers you will now be using a name (major, minor, perfect) to qualify each interval.

## Perfect Intervals

In both major and minor scales the following intervals are always described as perfect:


Major 3rd and Minor 3rd
The interval of a 3 rd is major in a major scale, and minor in a minor scale.


You have already been introduced to the following keys:

C major (no sharps or flats)
G-major (one sharp - F\#)
F major (one flat - $\mathrm{B}^{\text {b }}$ )

A minor (no sharps or flats)
E minor (one sharp - F\#)
D minor (one flat - $\mathrm{B}^{b}$ )

To work out whether an interval of a 3rd is a major 3rd or minor 3rd you will need to decide which scale the interval is from. You do this by looking at the lower note of the interval. If the lower note is the root note (1st note) of one of the major scales listed above, the interval must be a major 3rd. If the lower note is the root note of one of the minor scales listed above, the interval must be a minor 3rd.

Name the following intervals (The abbreviations 'Maj.', 'Min.' and 'Per.' may be used.):

$\qquad$

Name the following intervals (the first has been completed as an example):
Treble Clef:


Write the following intervals above the given note:

Treble Clef:


Per. 4th
Per. 5th
Maj. 3rd
Maj. 3rd
Min. 3rd
Per. 5th

## Triads - Major Scales

A triad is made up of three notes:


The middle note of a triad is a 3rd above the root note. The top note of the triad is a 5th above the root note.

Triads can be built upon all notes of a scale, however for Grade One you will only be using the triads built above the 1st (tonic), 4th (subdominant) and 5th (dominant) notes.


Using the correct key signature write the following one octave major scales, and then form triads above notes I, IV and V. Label each triad with the correct Roman numeral (the first has been completed as an example):


F major


G major

## Triads - Minor Scales

Triads can also be built above notes of the minor scale. Remember, when writing harmonic minor scales there is one extra rule - raise the 7th.

A root position triad that is built above the 5th note of a minor scale has the 7th note of the scale as it's middle note. This note must be raised (see the example below):


Using the correct key signature write the following one octave harmonic minor scales, and then form root position triads above notes I, IV and V. Label each triad with the correct Roman numeral:


A harmonic minor
Y:

D harmonic minor


E harmonic minor

## 9:

Using the correct key signatures, write the following root position triads:

## Treble Clef:



## Naming Triads

To work out the key and number of a triad follow the following steps:

1. Work out which two possible keys (major and minor) the triad could be in.
2. On a piece of paper write the scales from the two possible keys and circle the 1 st, 4 th and 5 th notes.
3. Match the bottom note of the triad with one of the six circled notes.

Example - Name the key and number of the triad below:


1. The two possible keys are: G major and E minor


2. The bottom note of the triad is D , which is the 5th note of G major.

Answer: Key - G major Triad - V

Name the key and number of the following root position triads (the first has been completed as an example):


Key: C major
Number: $\qquad$


Key: $\qquad$
Number: $\qquad$


Key:
Number: $\qquad$


Key: $\qquad$
Number: $\qquad$

## Revision Test - Intervals \& Triads

## Complete this revision test at your lesson.




Using the correct key signatures, write the following root position triads:


Name the key and number of the following root position triads:


Key: $\qquad$
Number: $\qquad$

Total: $\square$

## Transposition

For Grade One you are required to transpose short melodies up or down an octave. When transposing by an octave, the key of the melody does not change.

Example - Transpose the following melody down an octave:


Hint - It is best to keep all the notes in your transposition in line with those in the question. This will help you to double check your transposition more effectively.

Transpose the following melody up an octave:


Transpose the following melody down an octave:


Transpose the following melody down an octave:


Transpose the following melody down an octave:


Transpose the following melody up an octave:


## Rhythm

## Triplets - Three notes played in the time of two.

The value of three crotchet notes added together would be equal to three beats, however if the three crotchet notes are marked with a triplet indication they must be played within the space of two beats.

Triplet Quavers


The value of three quaver notes added together would be one and a half crotchet beats, however if the three quaver notes are marked with a triplet indication they must be played within the space of one crotchet beat.

The triplets rule can also be applied to all other note values (eg. semiquavers and minims).

Add bar lines to the following melodies:


## Time Signatures

In previous grades the following time signatures have been introduced:


All of the above time signatures are classed as simple time signatures. In simple time, notes are grouped into beats that are not dotted (see the example below):


The new time signature for Grade one is:


The quavers are grouped in threes, each group being equal in length to a dotted crotchet. There are the same number of quavers in a bar of $\mathbf{8}_{8}^{\mathbf{6}}$ as there are in $\mathbf{4}_{4}^{\mathbf{3}}$, however note the difference in how the quavers are grouped.


Six quavers, grouped in twos

${ }_{8}^{\mathbf{6}}$ is classed as a compound time signature. In compound time, notes are grouped into dotted beats.
Two dotted crotchet beats per bar


Add bar lines to the following melodies:


## Anacrusis

An anacrusis is a note (or notes) that are played before the first complete bar of music (see the examples below). The length of the anacrusis is subtracted from the number of beats in the final bar, therefore the first and last bars of a piece that begins with an anacrusis should add up to a complete bar.


Add bar lines to the following melodies, some of which begin with an anacrusis:









Add the correct time signature to the following short melodies:


Complete any unfinished bars according to the time signature, by adding a single note ' $A$ ' beneath each asterisk:


## Rests

There are more rules for the grouping of rests than there are for the grouping of notes. These rules make it easier for musicians to know where each beat of a bar begins. The rules for this Grade are as follows:

1. In $4_{4}^{4}$ time, a minim rest is used to represent beats $1 \& 2$ or $3 \& 4$, but not beats $2 \& 3$.
2. Do not use a minim rest in $3_{4}$ time.
3. A dotted crotchet rest can only be used in compound time (not simple time) to represent a whole group of quavers. It is more common however to use a crotchet rest followed by a quaver rest.
4. In ${ }_{8}^{\mathbf{6}}$ time, a crotchet rest can be used to represent the 1 st \& 2 nd quavers of a group, but not the 2 nd \& 3rd quavers (these must be represented by two quaver rests).
5. Use a semibreve rest to represent a whole bar of silence in all Grade One time signatures.


Follow these simplesteps to successfully complete unfinished bars with rests:
Step 1 - Complete any incomplete beats or groups


Step 2 - Complete the bar by adding any remaining beats that are missing

N.B. There are many examples in printed music where a minim represents beats 1 and 2 in $\mathbf{4}_{\mathbf{4}}^{\mathbf{3}}$ time. For consistency, this publication encourages the use of two crotchet rests instead. St Cecilia Examinations will accept both versions as being correct in this instance.

Complete any unfinished bars according to the time signature by adding the correct rest or rests beneath each asterisk:


## Revision Test - Rhythm

## Complete this revision test at your lesson.

Add bar lines to the following melodies:


Add the correct time signature to the following melodies:


Complete any unfinished bars according to the time signature by adding a single note 'A' beneath each asterisk:


Complete any unfinished bars according to the time signature by adding the correct rest or rests beneath each asterisk:


Total: $\square$

## Terminology

Understanding and following the terminology in your pieces will enable you to perform more musically. There are eight new terms for you to learn in Grade One, as well as any terms introduced in the Beginner, Junior and Preliminary Grades. You will most likely have already come across most of the terms on this list in the pieces you play. Study them, and then have someone test you on them at home.

## Grade One:

Allegretto - rather fast
Lento - slow
Largo - broad
Vivace - fast and lively
Dolce - soft and sweet
Molto - much
Pesante - heavily
Tenuto - hold the note for its full length

You must also know:

## Beginner Grade:

Forte $-\operatorname{loud}(\boldsymbol{f})$
Piano - soft ( $\boldsymbol{p}$ )
Mezzo forte - moderately loud ( $\boldsymbol{m} \boldsymbol{f}$ )
Mezzo piano - moderately soft ( $\boldsymbol{m p}$ )
Crescendo - gradually becoming fouder
(cresc. or


Decrescendo - gradually becoming softer

$$
\text { (decresc. or } \longrightarrow)
$$

## Junior Grade:

Fortissimo - very loud ( $\boldsymbol{f f}$ )
Pianissimo - very soft ( $\boldsymbol{p p}$ )
Accelerando - gradually becoming faster (accel.)
Ritenuto - held back, slower immediately (rit.)
Staccato - short and detached
Legato - smooth and connected
Slur - a curved line over or under two or more notes to indicate the notes are to be played legato
Tie - A tie connects two notes of the same pitch. They are played as a single note with a duration equal to the sum of both notes.
Accent - make the note stand out stronger than the other notes ( $>$ )

## Preliminary Grade:

Allegro - fast
Andante - at an easy pace
Moderato - at a moderate speed
Rallentando - gradually becoming slower (rall.)
Diminuendo - gradually becoming softer (dim.)
Fermata - pause, hold the note longer than written $(\curvearrowright)$
Sharp ( $\#$ ) - raises a note by a semitone
Flat (b) - lowers a note by a semitone
Natural (占) - cancels out a sharp or flat

## Composers - Baroque Period

For Grade One you will be learning a few facts about three composers from the Baroque period of music. It is recommended that you listen to recordings of the pieces listed for each composer.

## Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Country of birth: Germany
Famous works:

- Brandenburg Concertos
- Toccata and Fugue in D minor
- St. Matthew Passion


## Interesting facts about Bach:

- Bach came from a very musical family. There were 60 known musicians with the name 'Bach'.
- He played the violin, harpsichord and church organ.
- Bach wrote all musical styles except for opera.

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
Country of birth: Germany
Famous works:

- Messiah
- Zadok the Priest
- Royal Fireworks Suite


## Interesting facts about Handel:

- His father wanted him to become a lawyer.
- Handel never met Bach, even though they were both born in Germany.
- He became blind in later life.


## Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Country of birth: Italy
Famous works:

- The Four Seasons
- Gloria
- Concerto Grosso in D minor


## Interesting facts about Vivaldi:

- He was nicknamed the 'red priest' because of his hair colour (and he was also a priest for many years).
- Vivaldi was the director of a school for orphaned girls.
- His father was a barber before becoming a professional violinist.

For each of the above now also complete the following:

- Find four additional interesting facts about the composer and discuss their significance with your teacher.
- Find four additional famous pieces of music which the composer has written.


## Revision Test - Terminology \& Composers

Complete this revision test at your lesson.

Give the English meaning to the following Italian terms:

Lento: $\qquad$
Ritenuto: $\qquad$
Moderato: $\qquad$
Tenuto: $\qquad$
Decrescendo: $\qquad$

Write the Italian words which mean:

Moderately loud: $\qquad$
Fast: $\qquad$
Fast and lively: $\qquad$
Rather fast: $\qquad$
Short and detached:


Circle the correct answer for the following questions:

| Handel was born in the year: | 1685 | 1650 | 1675 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Vivaldi was born in: | Italy | Germany | France |
| 'Zadok the Priest' was written by: | Vivaldi | Bach | Handel |
| 'Messiah' was written by: | Vivaldi | Bach | Handel |
| Bach's first name was: | Antonio | Sebastian | Johann |

## Sample Examination Paper 1

Your name: $\qquad$
Teacher's name: $\qquad$
Exam centre: $\qquad$ Date: $\qquad$

Time allowed for this examination: 2 hours
Please complete all questions in pencil or ink. Read all questions carefully.

## 1. Notation (30 marks)

Name the following notes:


Write the following notes as crotchets:


Name the following key signatures:


Write a one octave E harmonic minor scale descending in minims, using the correct key signature:


Circle the correct answer:

| The relative minor key of G major is: | A minor | E minor | D minor |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| The relative major key of D minor is: | C major | G major | F major |

Beneath each bracket, mark whether the notes are a tone or semitone apart:


## 2. Intervals (10 marks)

Name the following intervals:


Write the following intervals above the given note:


## 3. Triads (10 marks)

Using the correct key signatures, write the following root position triads:


Name the key and number of the following root position triads:


Key: $\qquad$
Number: $\qquad$

## 4. Transposition (10 marks)

Transpose the following melody down an octave:


## 5. Rhythm (20 marks)

Add bar lines to the following melodies:


Add the correct time signature to the following melodies:


## Sample Examination Paper - Grade One

Complete any unfinished bars according to the time signature by adding a single note 'A' beneath each asterisk:


Complete any unfinished bars according to the time signature by adding the correct rest or rests beneath each asterisk:



Circle the correct answer for the following questions:

| Bach was born in the year: | 1685 | 1650 | 1675 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Vivaldi's nickname was: | Red haired violinist | Red haired priest | Vivaldi the Great |
| 'The Four Seasons' was written by: | Vivaldi | Bach | Handel |
| 'Zadok the Priest' was written by: | Vivaldi | Bach | Handel |
| Vivaldi died in the year: | 1685 | 1741 | 1759 |
| For more sample papers purchase the 'Grade One - Sample Papers' book. |  |  |  |

## Sample Examination Paper 2

Your name: $\qquad$
Teacher's name: $\qquad$
Exam centre: $\qquad$ Date: $\qquad$

Time allowed for this examination: 2 hours
Please complete all questions in pencil or ink. Read all questions carefully.

## 1. Notation (30 marks)

Name the following notes:


Write the following notes as minims:


Name the following key signatures:


Write a one octave F major scale ascending in quavers (grouped in twos), using accidentals:


Circle the correct answer:

| The relative minor key of F major is: | A minor | E minor | D minor |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| The key of G major has: | no sharps or flats | one sharp $\left(F^{\#}\right)$ | one flat ( $\left.\mathrm{B}^{\mathrm{b}}\right)$ |

Beneath each bracket, mark whether the notes are a tone or semitone apart:


## 2. Intervals (20 marks)

Name the following intervals:


## 3. Triads (20 marks)

Using the correct key signatures, write the following root position triads:


Sample Examination Paper 2 - Grade One

Name the key and number of the following root position triads:


Key: $\qquad$
Number: $\qquad$

## 4. Transposition (10 marks)

Transpose the following melody up an octave:


## 5. Rhythm (20 marks)

Add bar lines to the following melodies:


Add the correct time signature to the following melodies:


Complete any unfinished bars according to the time signature by adding a single note 'A' beneath each asterisk:


Complete any unfinished bars according to the time signature by adding the correct rest or rests beneath each asterisk:


## 6. General Knowledge (20 marks)

Write the Italian words which mean:

Smooth and connected: $\qquad$
Slow: $\qquad$
Fast and lively: $\qquad$
Much: $\qquad$
Gradually becoming softer: $\qquad$

Circle the correct answer for the following questions:

| Vivaldi was born in the year: | 1685 | 1650 | 1678 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bach was born in: | Germany | Italy | Austria |
| 'Messiah' was written by: | Vivaldi | Bach | Handel |
| 'Gloria' was written by: | Vivaldi | Bach | Handel |
| Handel died in the year: | 1750 | 1759 | 1741 |

Total:

