# Preliminary Grade

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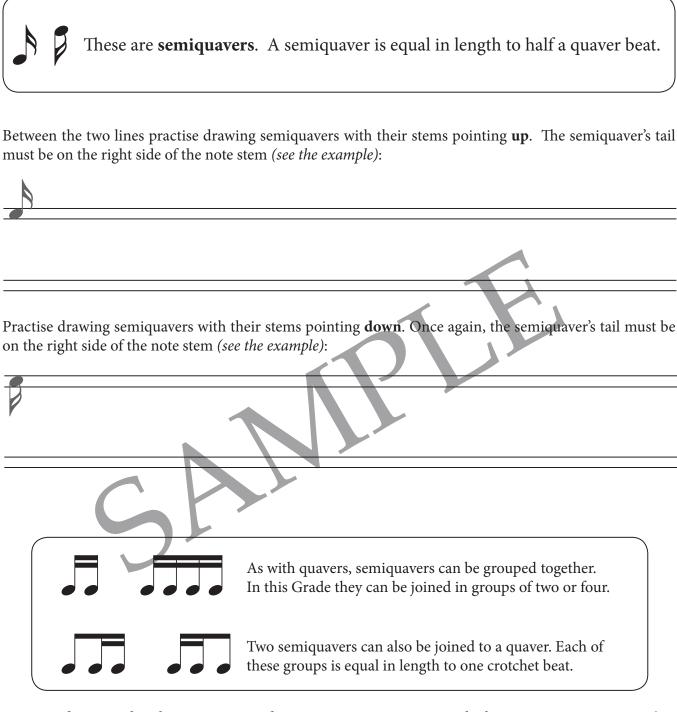
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> Theory of Music - Preliminary Grade ISBN 978-1-921273-74-2 First edition 2012

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#### Semiquavers



Practise drawing the above quaver and semiquaver groupings, with their stems pointing **up** (see *the example*):

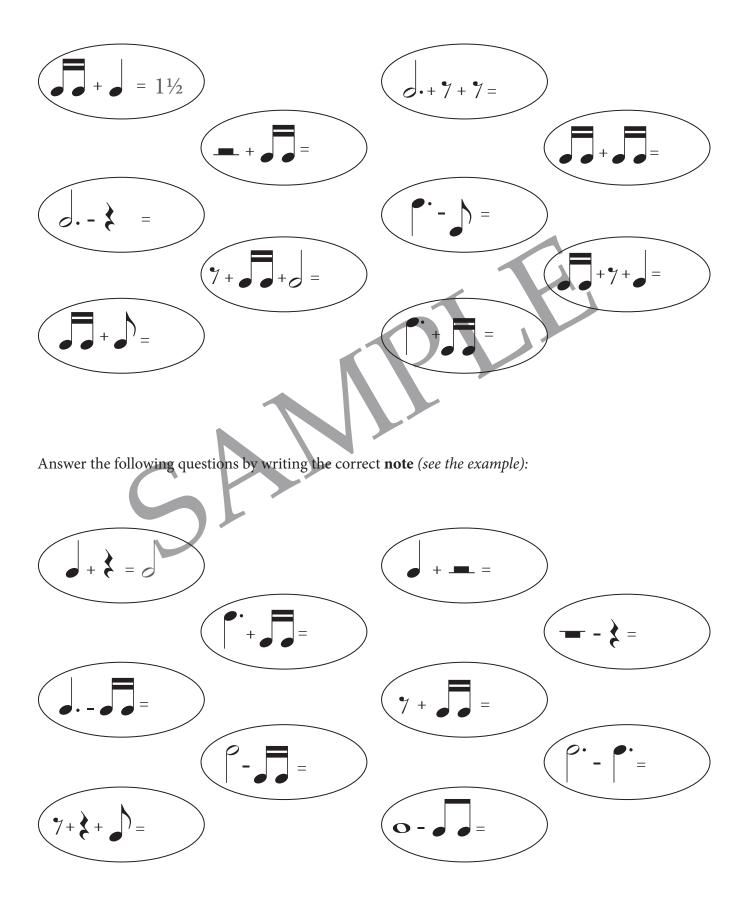


Practise drawing the above quaver and semiquaver groupings, with their stems pointing **down** (*see the example*):



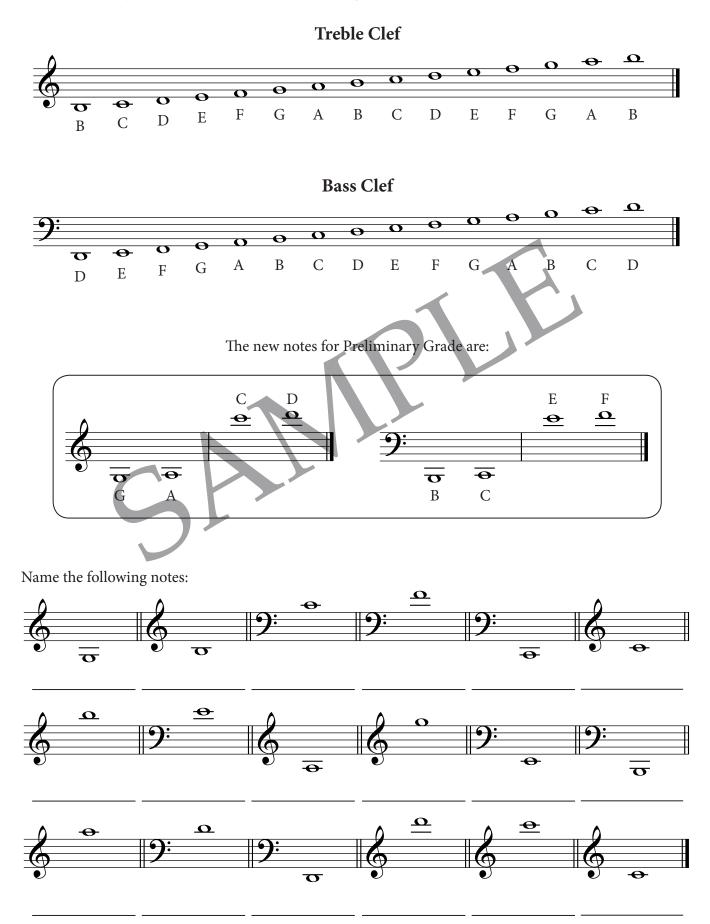
#### **Musical Maths**

Answer the following questions by writing the correct **number** (see the example):



#### Notation

In Junior Grade you were introduced to the following **treble** and **bass** clef notes:





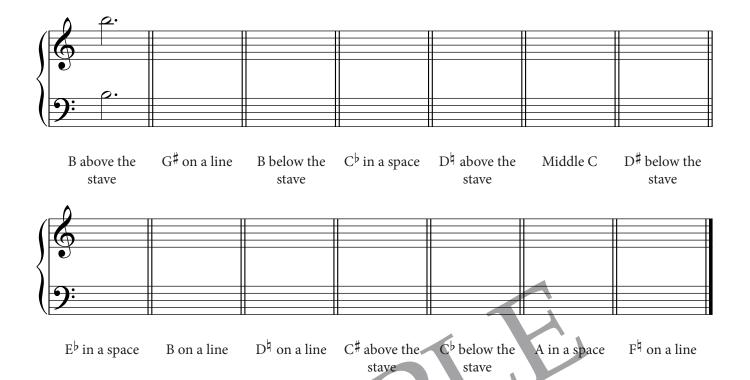
A<sup>#</sup> below the stave  $C^{\natural}$  above the stave F in a space F on a line Middle C  $C^{\sharp}$  in a space  $A^{\natural}$  above the stave D above the stave A in a space  $B^{\flat}$  above the stave G<sup>#</sup> below the stave G above the stave  $\mathbf{B}^{\natural}$  below the stave  $D^{\flat}$  below the stave G on a line Write the following **bass clef** notes as **semiquavers**:  $B^{\flat}$  on a line E<sup>#</sup> in a space C<sup>‡</sup> below the stave  $B^{\flat}$  below the stave D on a line  $C^{\#}$  in a space  $B^{\natural}$  above the stave  $D^{\sharp}$  above the stave  $D^{\natural}$  above the stave Middle C 9 G<sup>#</sup> on a line  $E^{\natural}$  below the stave  $E^{\flat}$  above the stave D below the stave F on a line

#### Write the following **treble clef** notes as **dotted crotchets** (see the example):

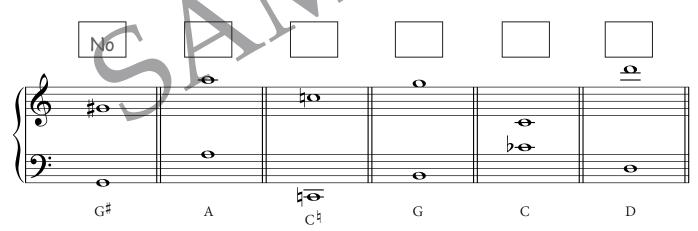
F<sup>#</sup> above the stave

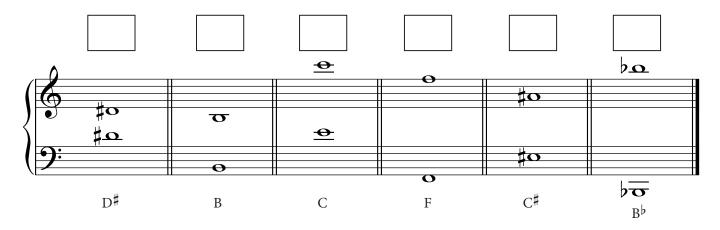
G<sup>‡</sup> in a space

#### On the grand staff below, write the following notes as **dotted minims** (see the example):



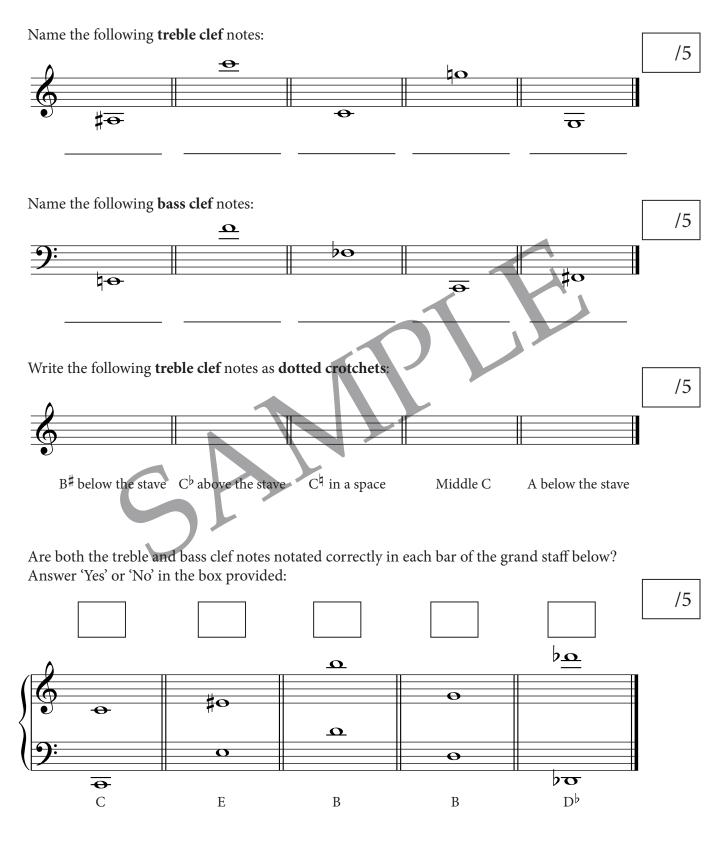
Are both the treble and bass clef notes notated correctly in each bar of the grand staff below? Answer 'Yes' or 'No' in the box provided (*see the example*):





#### **Revision Test - Notation**

Complete this revision test at your lesson.



/20

Total:

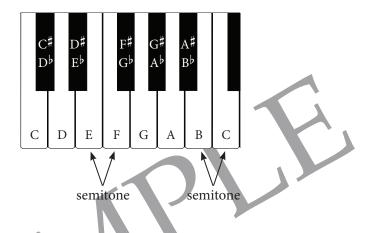
8

#### **Tones and Semitones**

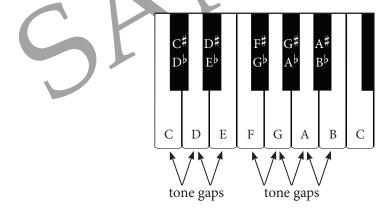
The gap between any two successive notes of a major scale can be described as either a **tone** or **semitone**.

- When two notes are right next to each other (with no other note in-between) they are a semitone apart.
- When two notes have **one other note** in-between them they are a **tone** apart.

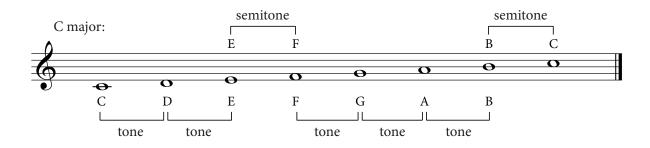
In Preliminary Grade you are required to recognise the difference between **tones** and **semitones** within the C major scale using the piano keyboard as reference. If you look at the keyboard below, you will see that the gap between E - F and B - C is a **semitone**, as there is no other note in-between them.



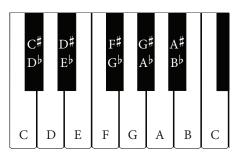
All the other letters of the musical alphabet  $(C - D \quad D - E \quad F - G \quad G - A \quad A - B)$  are a **tone** apart, as there is one other note in-between each of them (eg. between C & D is  $C^{\sharp}/D^{\flat}$ ).



Below is a one octave C major scale. Notice where the tones and semitones fall within the scale:



Using the piano keyboard below as reference, mark each pair of bracketed notes as a **tone** or **semitone** (*see the example*):







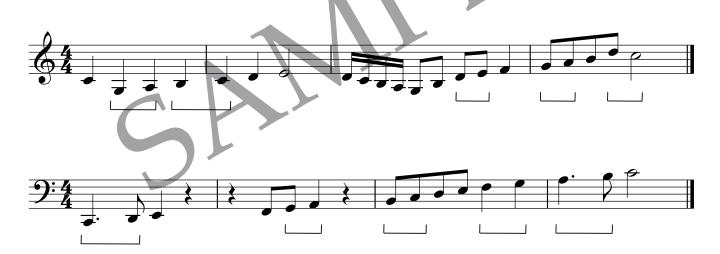


#### 10







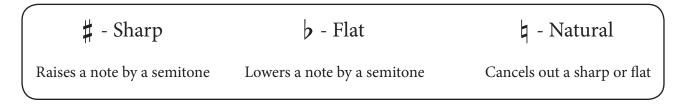




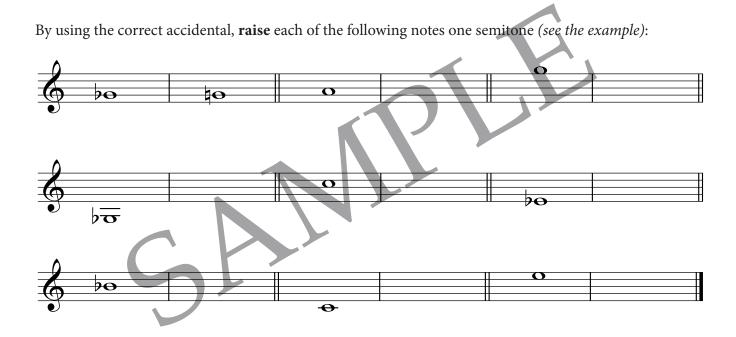


## Accidentals

In Preliminary Grade, you are required to understand how the following accidentals affect the notes they are attached to:



- A natural placed next to a note that was previously a **sharp** will **lower** the note by one semitone.
- A natural placed next to a note that was previously a **flat** will **raise** the note by one semitone.



By using the correct accidental, **lower** each of the following notes one semitone:

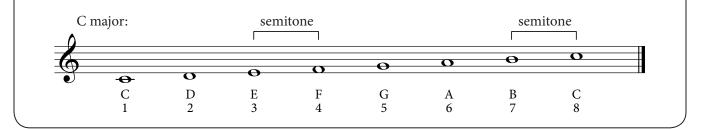




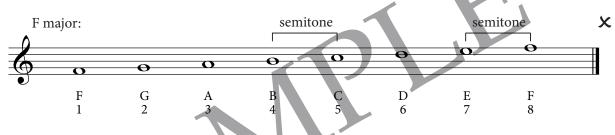


#### Scales

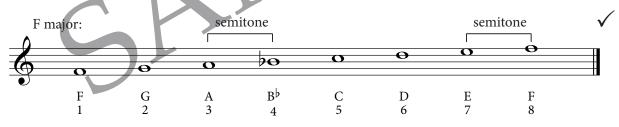
In Junior Grade you were required to write a one octave C major scale *(see below)*. You will notice that accidentals are not required when writing a C major scale. In order to make a scale sound like a major scale, there must be a **semitone gap** between notes **3 & 4**, and notes **7 & 8** of the scale. The gap between all other notes must be a tone gap.



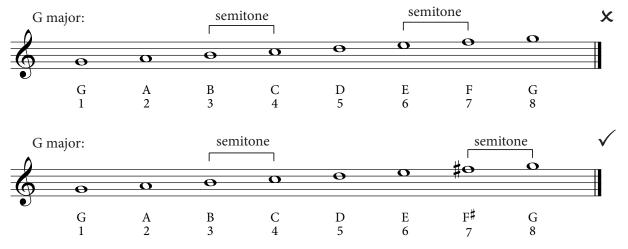
In Preliminary Grade you are also required to write one octave **F major** and **G major** scales. If you write the **F major scale** without using any accidentals, you will notice that one of the semitone gaps is not where it should be:



In order for there to be a semitone gap between notes 3 & 4 (and not notes 4 & 5) you must lower the 4th note 'B' by a semitone. The 4th note of the F major scale will now be ' $\mathbf{B}^{\flat}$ '.



Similarly, if you write the **G major scale** without any accidentals, there will be a semitone gap between notes 6 & 7 (and not notes 7 & 8). For there to be a semitone between notes 7 & 8 you will need to raise 'F' to 'F<sup> $\ddagger$ </sup>'.



Using **accidentals** where necessary, write the following one octave major scales (see the example):

F major, ascending in quavers (grouped in fours)

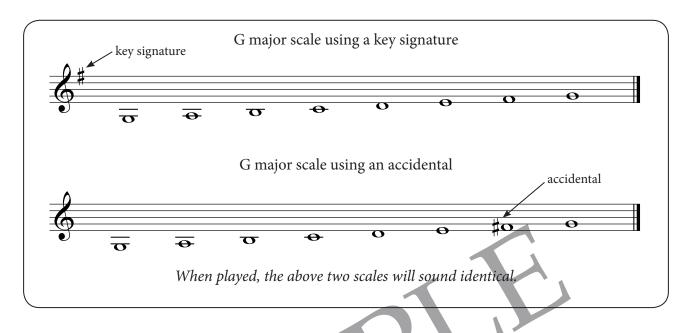


C major, descending in minims

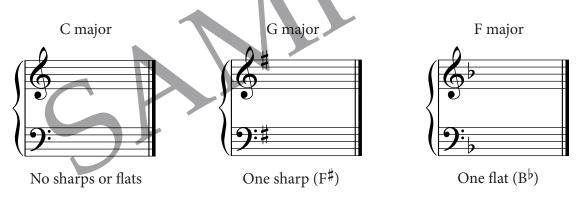
F major, ascending in semibreves

## **Key Signatures**

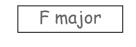
Instead of writing accidentals next to notes to establish the tonality of a scale, you can place the required accidental(s) at the **beginning of each stave**. This is called a **key signature**.



For Preliminary Grade you are required to know the following key signatures:



In the box provided, identify each of the following **major key signatures** (see the example):



















Using the correct **key signature**, write the following one octave major scales (*see the example*):

G major, descending in dotted minims

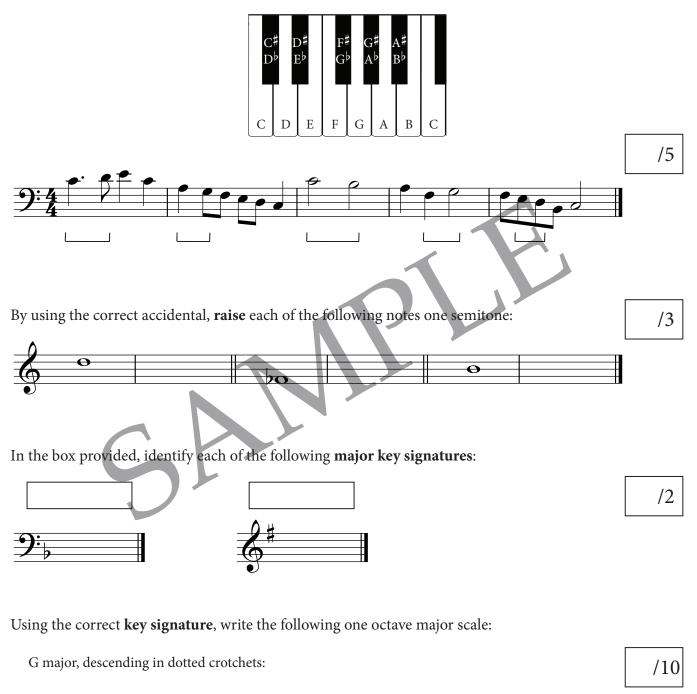


F major, descending in semiquavers (grouped in pairs)

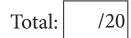
## **Revision Test - Notation 2**

Complete this revision test at your lesson.

Using the piano keyboard below as reference, mark each pair of bracketed notes as a **tone** or **semitone**:

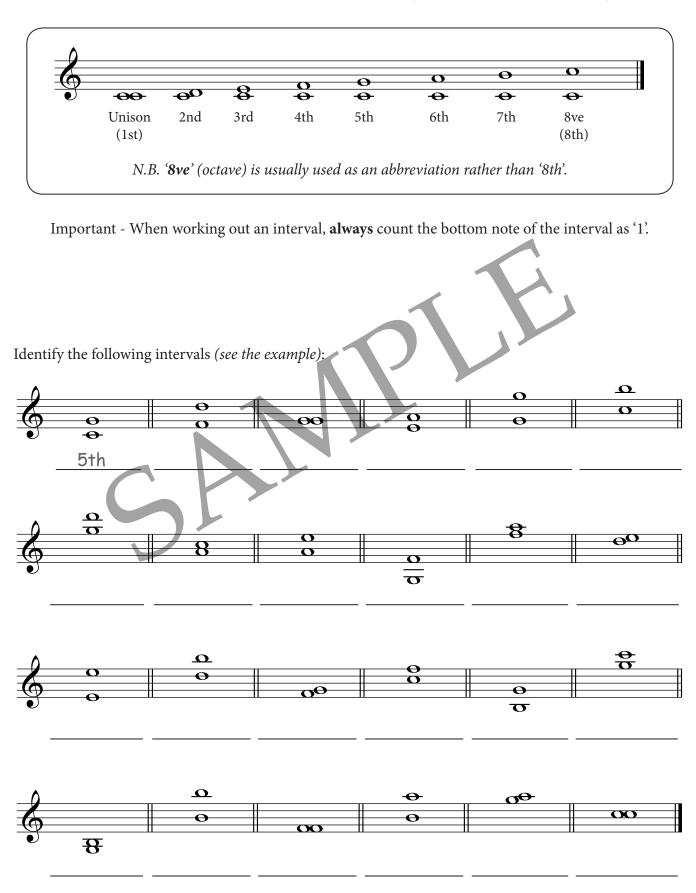






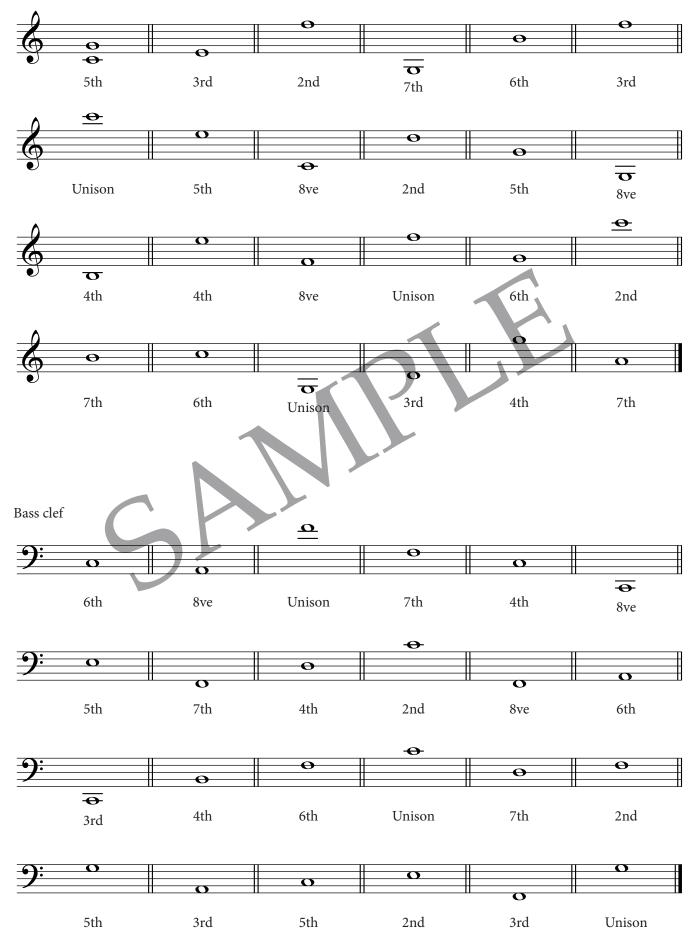
#### Intervals

In Preliminary Grade, you are required to identify the following interval numbers above any given note:

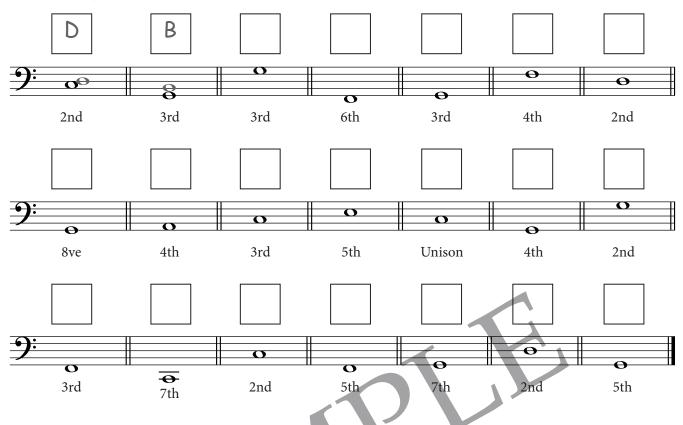


Write the following intervals above the given note (see the example):

Treble clef



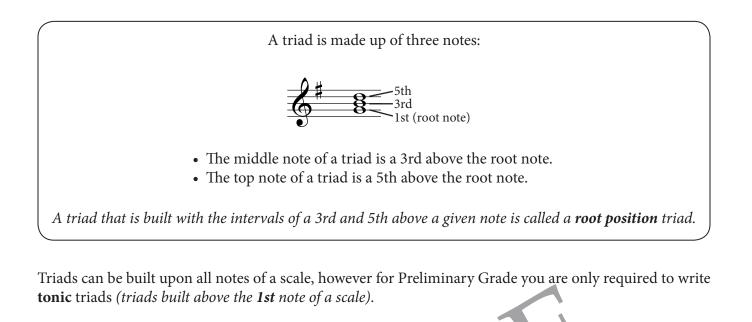
Write the following intervals above the given note, and then write the letter of the upper note in the box provided (*the first two bars have been completed as an example*):



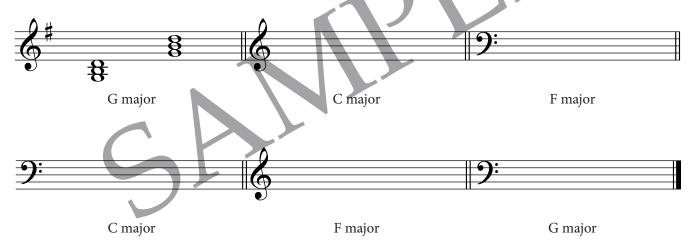
Make your way through the maze below by linking the boxed letters from the previous exercise. (*the first two links have been completed as an example*):

Start			_									
	D	A	Е	G	A	Е	F	G	Е	С	Е	D
	 B	В	D.	F	В	А	F	В	Е	В	С	F
	D	А	В	В	Е	А	Е	С	F	G	D	Е
	Е	D	А	F	G	Е	F	G	F	G	F	Е
	E	С	D	G	D	Е	D	А	В	Е	D	D
	А	С	Е	Е	А	В	G	F	В	С	D	В
	D	В	В	А	D	С	С	А	Е	F	G	G
	E	F	С	G	E	F	В	А	F	D	Е	A
	E	А	В	G	F	D	Е	В	D	С	F	F
	E	F	F	E	D	С	G	С	G	Е	Е	D
												— Fi

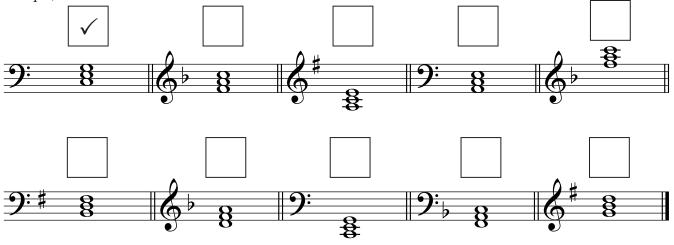
## Triads



Using the **correct key signatures**, write the following root position **tonic** triads and then write the same triad **one octave** higher or lower (*see the example*):

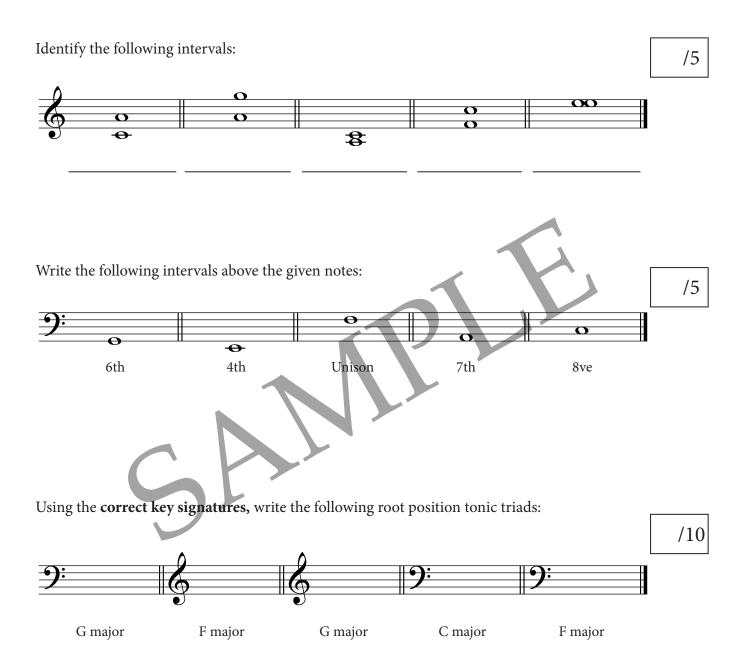


Place a tick or a cross in each box to indicate whether each **tonic triad** has been written correctly (*see the example*):



#### **Revision Test - Intervals & Triads**

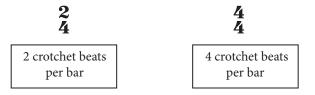
*Complete this revision test at your lesson.* 



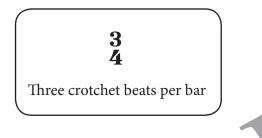
Total: /20

#### **Time Signatures**

In previous grades the following time signatures have been introduced:



The new time signature for Preliminary Grade is:



Remember, every time signature is made up of two numbers. The top number tells you how many counts or beats are in every bar. The bottom number tells you what kind of note is equal to one count or beat for that particular time signature.

In  $\frac{3}{4}$  time there are **three crotchet beats** in every bar. The three beats can be made up in many ways. Here are some examples:



Add bar lines to the following melodies:





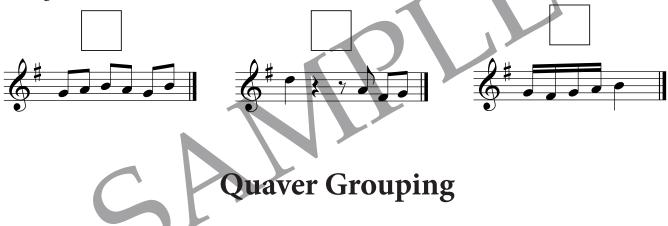
#### **Common Time**

C	)
Four crotchet beats per bar	

Sometimes, the symbol 'C' is used to represent  $\frac{4}{4}$  time. We call this time signature common time.

N. B. The symbol '**C**' does not stand for the first letter of 'common', however it is an easy way to remember it. The use of this symbol dates back hundreds of years, when  $\frac{3}{4}$  time was considered to be the 'perfect' time signature, and was represented by a full circle.  $\frac{4}{4}$  time was considered to be 'imperfect' time, and as a result was often represented by a broken (half) circle.

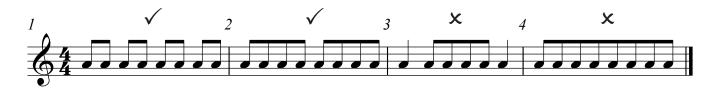
Place a tick or a cross in each box to indicate whether the bar could be represented correctly by the '**C**' time signature:



For a full bar of quavers in  $\frac{2}{4}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$  time, the quavers can either be grouped together in **pairs** (to represent each beat) or as **one whole group** of quavers.



If there is a full bar of quavers in  $\frac{4}{4}$  time, the quavers can also be grouped together in pairs to show each beat of the bar (*see bar 1 below*). Alternatively, you can group together all four quavers for beats 1 and 2, and/or all four quavers for beats 3 and 4 (*see bar 2*). You **cannot** join the quavers for beats 2 and 3 together (*see bar 3*), or join all eight of the quavers (*see bar 4*).



Using the given time signature, complete each bar with correctly grouped quavers. Write your answer beneath the asterisk *(the first bar has been completed as an example)*:



Place a tick or a cross in each box to indicate whether the correct number of beats is in each bar, according to the time signature (*the first box has been completed as an example*):

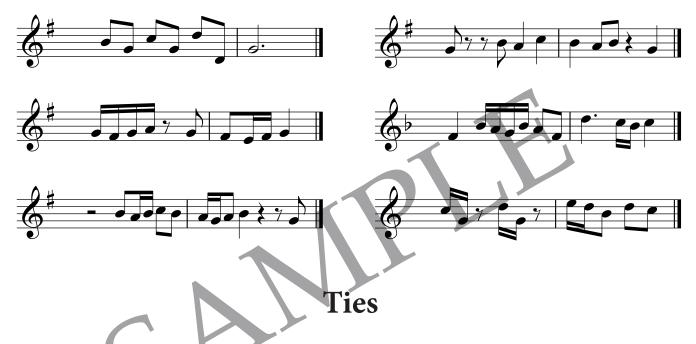


### **Adding Time Signatures**

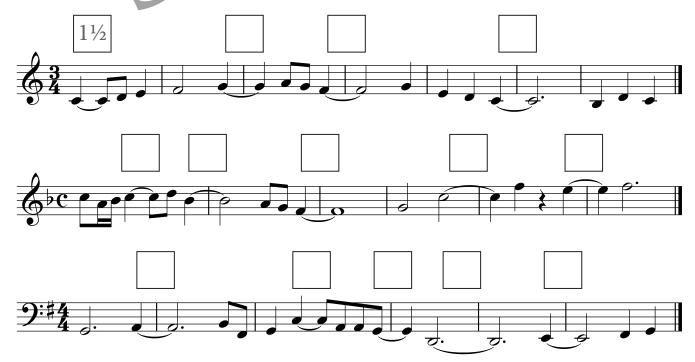
When writing a time signature, you should use the top two spaces of the stave to write the top number and the bottom two spaces to write the bottom number.



Add the correct time signature to the following short melodies:



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. Write the number of crotchet beats each of the following ties should be held for in the box provided (*see the example*):



#### **Circling Beats**

Place a single circle around **beat 2** in each bar below (*see the example*):





Place a single circle around **beats 2 and 3** in each bar below:



Place a circle around **beat 1** and a circle around **beat 4** in each bar below (see the example):



#### **Bar Lines**

Add bar lines and a double bar line to each of the following staves:







### **Revision Test - Timing**

Complete this revision test at your lesson.

Using the given time signature, complete each bar with correctly grouped quavers. Write your answer beneath the asterisk:



Add the **correct time signature** to the following melody, <u>and</u> write the **number of crotchet beats** each tie should be held for in the box provided:



## Terminology

Understanding and following the terminology in your pieces will enable you to perform more musically. There are six new terms for you to learn in Preliminary Grade, as well as a more detailed explanation of the sharp, flat and natural signs. You will also be tested on terms introduced in previous Grades. You will most likely have already come across most of the terms before in the pieces you play. Study them, and then have someone test you on them at home.

#### **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 (^)
Sharp (♯) - raises a note by a semitone
Flat (♭) - lowers a note by a semitone
Natural (♯) - cancels out a sharp or flat

You must also know:

Beginner Grade:	Junior Grade:
Forte - loud $(f)$	Fortissimo - very loud ( $ff$ )
Piano - soft ( <b>p</b> )	Pianissimo - very soft ( <b>pp</b> )
Mezzo forte - moderately loud ( <i>mf</i> )	Accelerando - gradually becoming faster (accel.)
Mezzo piano - moderately soft (mp)	Ritenuto - held back, slower immediately (rit.)
Crescendo - gradually becoming louder	Staccato - short and detached
(cresc. or )	Legato - smooth and connected
Decrescendo - gradually becoming softer	Slur - a curved line over or under two or more notes
(decresc. or)	to indicate the notes are to be played <i>legato</i>
	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 (>)
<u>_</u>	

N. B. Tempo markings (eg. '*Allegro*') provide a guide as to the approximate speed of a piece. A tempo marking is normally placed above the first note of a piece (*see the example*):



Complete each question and task regarding the following pieces:



The dynamic marking in **bar 1** tells you to play:

In **bar 3** you should:

On the last note you should:

- Place a tempo marking to indicate the piece should be 'fast'.
- Raise the 'C' in **bar 3** by a semitone.

• Slur together all of the quavers in **bar 4**.



The dynamic marking in **bar 1** tells you to play:

The dots below the notes in **bar 1** indicate that they should be played:

In **bar 3** you should: \_\_\_\_\_

- Place a tempo marking to indicate the piece should be 'at an easy pace'.
- Tie the first two notes together in **bar 2**.
- Cancel out the 'F<sup>#</sup>' on the third beat of **bar 3**.



The dynamic marking in **bar 1** tells you to play: \_\_\_\_\_\_

The volume in **bar 2** should: \_\_\_\_\_\_

The last half of **bar 3** should:

- Place a tempo marking to indicate the piece should be 'at a moderate speed'.
- Cancel out the 'B<sup> $\flat$ </sup>' in **bar 2**.
- Place an accent over the 'C' in **bar 2**.
- Slur each of the quaver groups in **bar 3** (one slur for each group of four notes).
- Place a *fermata* over the final note of the piece.

### **Metronome Markings**

A metronome is a device that produces a noise (*click or beep*) to represent each beat of a bar. The speed of each beat can be adjusted to suit the tempo of a particular piece. The metronome is both an important practice tool, and a way for a composer to indicate the exact speed a piece is intended to be played. There are three main ways a metronome speed can be indicated:

= 100	M.M. $\bullet = 100$	• = circa 100
100 crotchet beats per minute	Maelzel's Metronome: 100 crotchet beats per minute	Approximately 100 crotchet beats per minute

**M.M.** = 100: Johann Maelzel was the first person to successfully manufacture a metronome that was both able to beat very fast, and very slow *(the other metronomes before Maelzel's did not work well for pieces with a very slow tempo)*. This brand of metronome became known as Maelzel's Metronome, and the abbreviation 'M.M.' was placed before the metronome speed.

 $\bullet$  = circa 100 (usually abbreviated to  $\bullet$  = c. 100): The piece should be played at approximately 100 beats per minute. It is acceptable to take the piece a little faster or slower, depending on the performer's interpretation.

## Da Capo and Dal Segno

In previous Grades you were introduced to repeat signs, as well as 1st & 2nd time bars. In Preliminary Grade, you are also required to understand the terms *Da Capo*, *Dal Segno*, *Coda* and *Fine*.

**Da Capo** (*D*.*C*.): From the beginning of the piece.

**Dal Segno** (*D.S.*): From the sign (**%**).

**Da Capo al Fine**: From the beginning of the piece, and finish when you get to the word '*Fine*', which means 'end'.

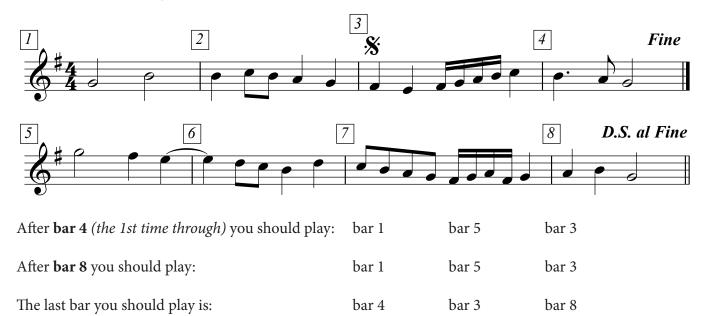
**Dal Segno al Fine**: From the sign (**%**), and finish when you get to the word '*Fine*'.

**Da Capo al Coda**: From the beginning of the piece, and when you get to the '*To Coda*  $\oplus$ ' instruction you should move to the section of the piece marked ' $\oplus$  Coda'.

Dal Segno al Coda: From the sign (𝔅), and when you get to the '*To Coda* ↔' instruction you should move to the section of the piece marked '↔ Coda'.

In is important to note that **repeat signs are not observed** after following the instructions '*Da Capo*' or '*Dal Segno*' in a piece of music.

Complete the following (and circle when required):



- Add a metronome marking to indicate that the piece should be played at 120 crotchet beats per minute.
- Place the abbreviation for *pianissimo* under the first note of **bar 1**
- Tie the last note of **bar 1** with the first note of **bar 2**.
- Place an accent over the first note of **bar 5**.
- Slur together all of the semiquavers in **bar** 7.
- Indicate that the first two notes of **bar 8** should be played *staccato*.



The last bar you should play is:

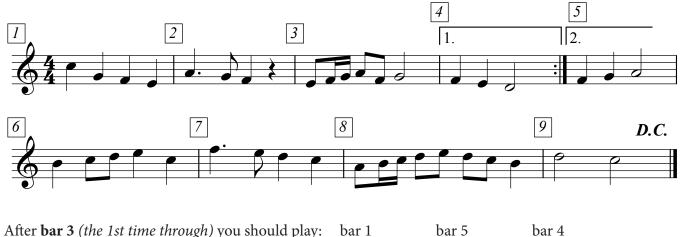
• Add a metronome marking to indicate that the piece should be played at 72 crotchet beats per minute on Maelzel's Metronome.

bar 1

bar 4

bar 8

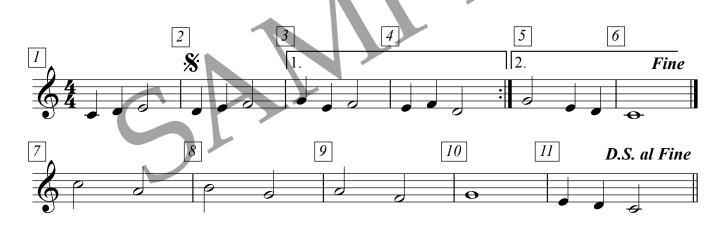
- Place the abbreviation for *mezzo forte* under the first note of **bar 1**.
- Tie the last note of **bars 1, 3, 5 and 7** with the first note of the following bar.
- Indicate that the first two notes of **bar 5** and **bar 7** should be played *staccato*.
- Indicate that the piece should speed up from **bar 8**.



After bar 3 (the 1st time through) you should play:bar 1bar 5bar 4After bar 3 (the 2nd time through) you should play:bar 1bar 4bar 5After bar 9 you should play:bar 1bar 5bar 4The last bar you should play is:bar 4bar 5bar 9

• Add a metronome marking to indicate that the piece should be played at 90 crotchet beats per minute.

- Slur together all of the notes in beat 1 of **bar 3** and **bar 8**.
- Indicate that the first two notes of **bar 5** and the last two notes of **bar 7** should be played *staccato*.



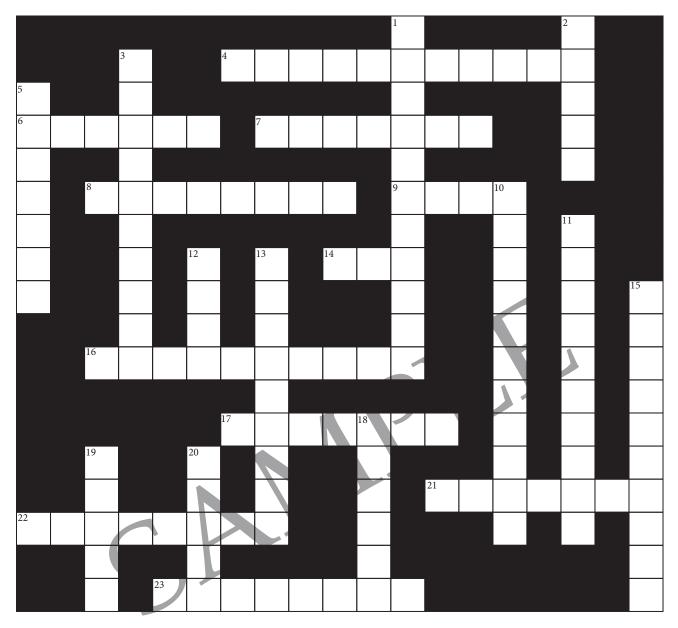
After <b>bar 2</b> ( <i>the 1st time through</i> ) you should play:	bar 3	bar 5	bar 7
After <b>bar 2</b> ( <i>the 2nd time through</i> ) you should play:	bar 3	bar 4	bar 5
After <b>bar 6</b> ( <i>the 1st time through</i> ) you should play:	bar 1	bar 2	bar 7
After <b>bar 11</b> you should play:	bar 1	bar 2	bar 5
After <b>bar 2</b> ( <i>the 3rd time through</i> ) you should play:	bar 3	bar 5	bar 7
The last bar you should play is:	bar 4	bar 6	bar 11

• Add a metronome marking to indicate that the piece should be played at approximately 60 crotchet beats per minute.

• Place the abbreviation for *fortissimo* under the first note of **bar 1**.



# **Musical Crossword**



## Clues:

#### Across:

- 4. Gradually becoming faster
- 6. Smooth and connected
- 7. Cancels out a sharp or flat
- 8. Held back, slower immediately
- 9. A curved line connecting two or more notes to indicate they are to be played *legato*.
- 14. A curved line connecting two notes that are the same pitch. They are be played as one single note.
- 16. Very loud
- 17. Pause, hold the note longer than written
- 21. At an easy pace
- 22. Short and detached
- 23. At a moderate speed

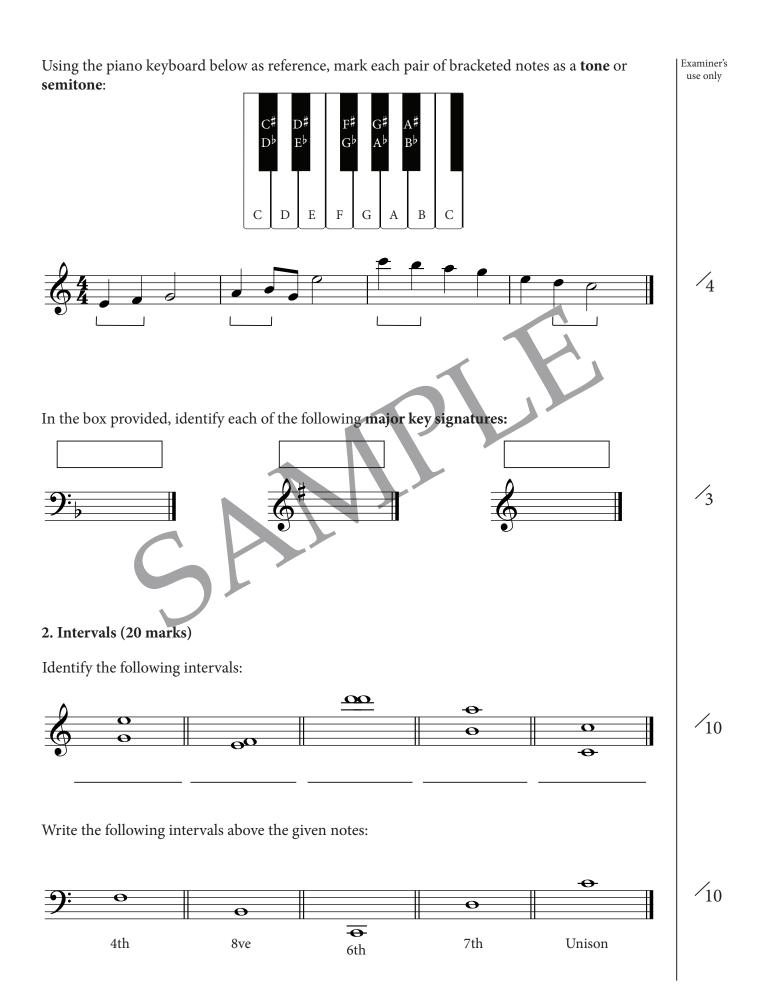
## Down:

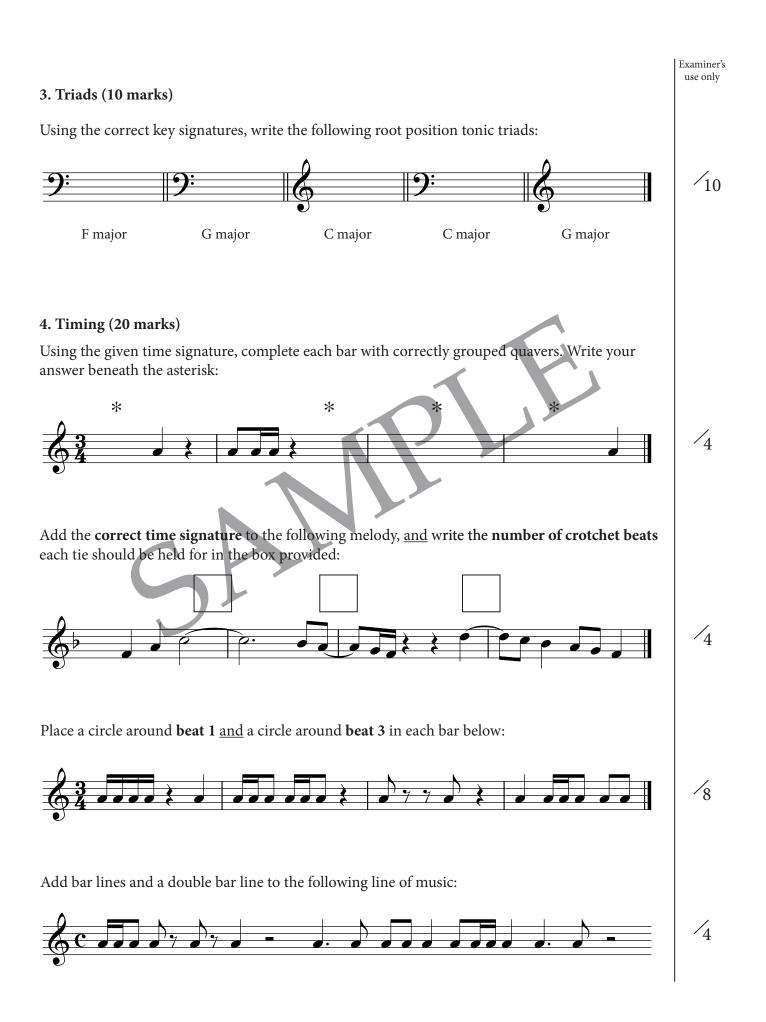
- 1. Gradually becoming softer (decresc.)
- 2. Loud
- 3. Very soft
- 5. Fast
- 10. Gradually becoming slower
- 11. Moderately soft
- 12. Lowers a note by a semitone
- 13. Gradually becoming louder
- 15. Gradually becoming softer (dim.)
- 18. Make the note stand out stronger than the other notes
- 19. Raises a note by a semitone
- 20. Soft

	Sample Examination Paper 1	
Your name:		
Teacher's name: _		
Exam centre:	Date:	

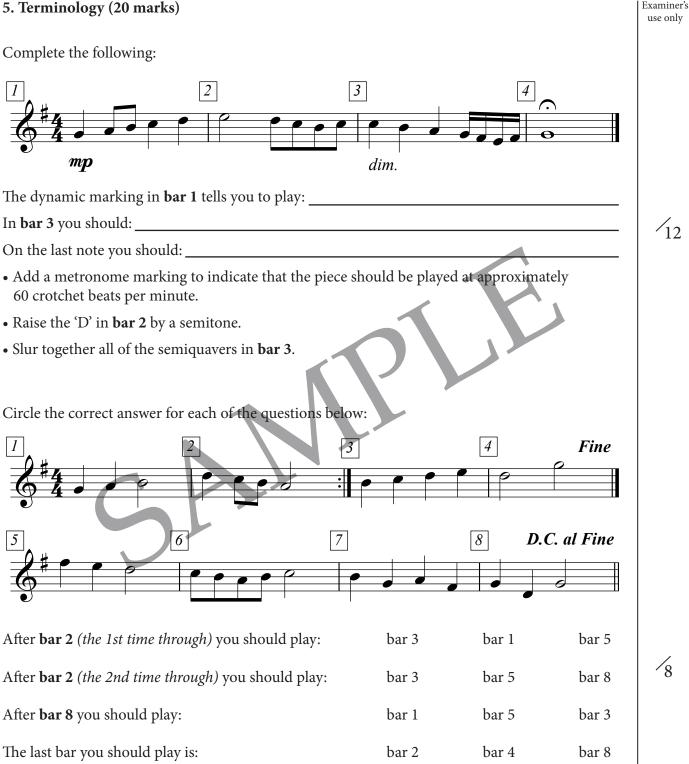
	Examiner's use only
1. Notation (30 marks)         Name the following treble clef notes:	
	5
In the grand staff below, write the following notes as <b>quavers</b> :	
	/10
$D^{\sharp}$ below the stave $~B^{\flat}$ above the stave $~E^{\natural}$ in a space $~MiddleC~~B$ on a line	
Using the correct key signature, write a one octave G major scale ascending in semibreves:	
9 <sup>:</sup>	/5
By using the correct accidental, <b>lower</b> each of the following notes one semitone:	
	/3

*Time allowed for this examination: 1 Hour Please complete all questions in pencil or ink. Read all questions carefully.* 





#### 5. Terminology (20 marks)



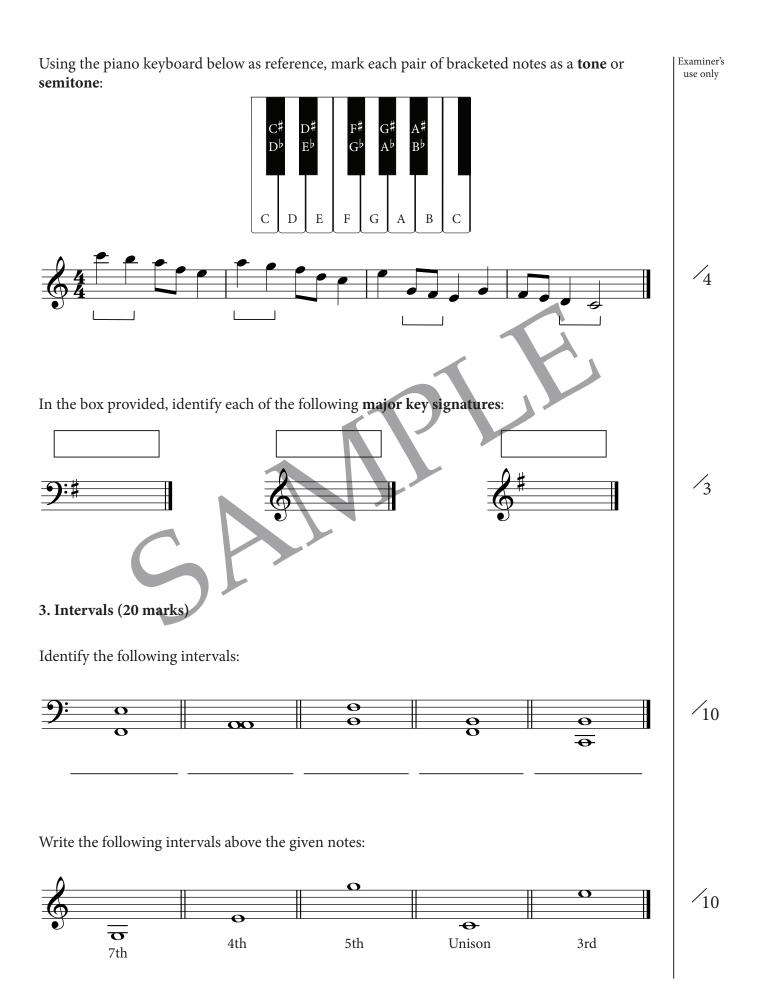
Total:

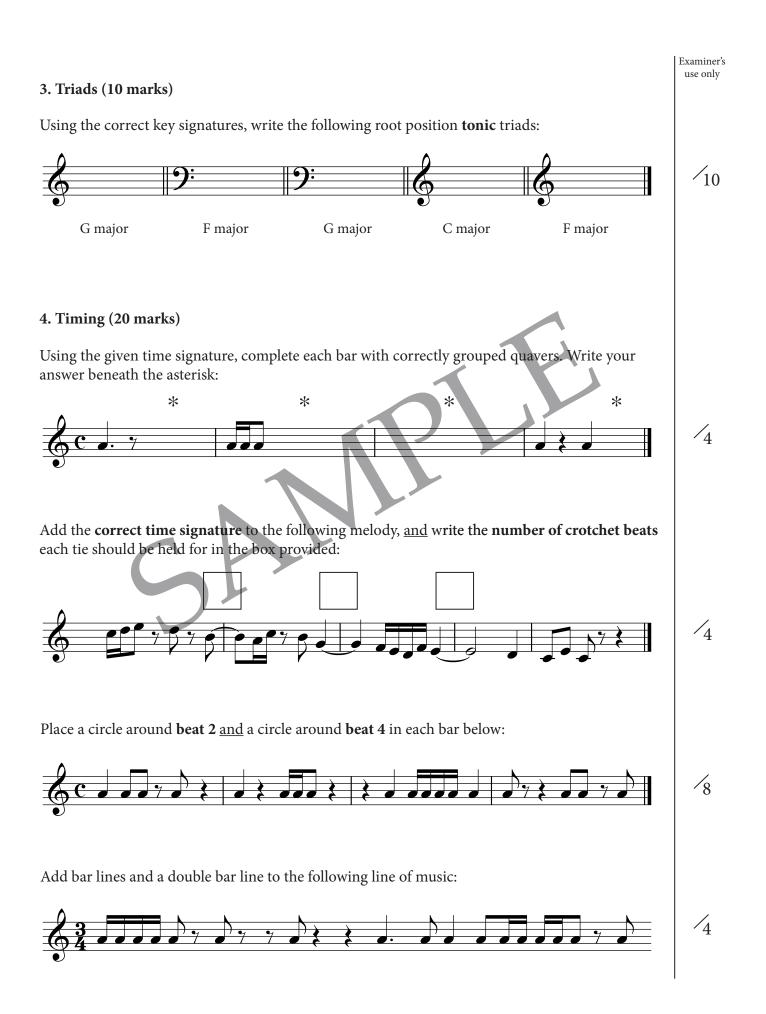
For more sample papers purchase the 'Preliminary Grade - Sample Papers' book.

(	Sample Examination Paper 2	
Your name:		
Teacher's name: _		
Exam centre:	Date:	

Time allowed for this examina	tion: <b>1 Hour</b>
Please complete all questions in pencil or ink.	Read all questions carefully.

1. Notation (30 ma	urks)				Examiner's use only
Name the following		↓ <del>→</del>	- <del>0</del>	<b>∦o</b>	1/5
In the grand staff b		wing notes as <b>minim</b>	s: G on a line	B <sup>#</sup> below the stave	10
semiquavers (group	ped in fours):	one octave F major			15
By using the correct	t accidental, <b>raise</b> ea	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	notes one semito	one:	1/3





### 5. Terminology (20 marks)

