

Higher MUSIC

Preparation for Listening Paper

Revision Guide

Recommended Websites:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqmusic/>

www.youtube.com

www.dsokids.com



Literacy Revision

Section 1: Bass clef

The treble clef, or G clef is just one of a number of different clefs used in music.



The **bass clef** appears in the left hand of piano music, and is also normally used in music for the cello, double bass, trombone, bassoon and bass guitar.

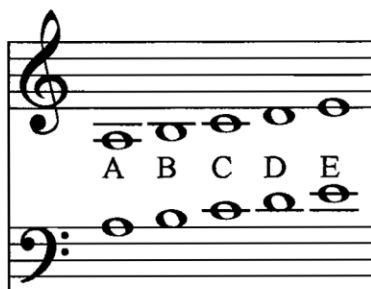
The bass clef has been developed from an archaic form of the letter **F**; the two dots in the clef are written on either side of the second top line, which denotes the position of the note F.



Letter names of notes in the **bass clef**.



The relationship between the treble and bass clefs can be seen in the following:



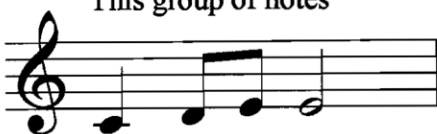
From this, it can be seen that the note **middle C** in the treble clef,



is written like this in the bass clef. They are the same pitch.



This group of notes



would be written in the bass clef as



This group of notes



would be written in the treble clef as



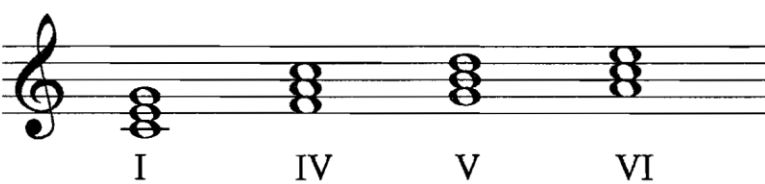
This phrase

Section 3: Chords

You will be familiar with chords I, IV, V and VI in the key of C major. Here is how those chords appear in written notation in the keys you are required to know.

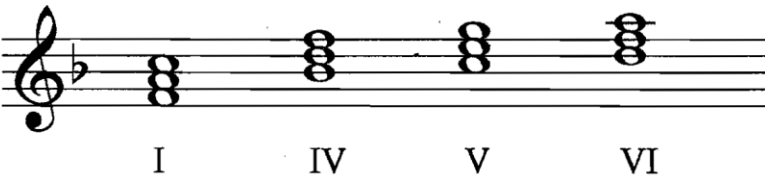
Three-note chords written this way are called triads.

Key of C major



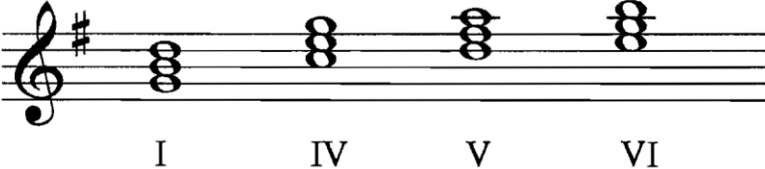
I IV V VI

Key of F major



I IV V VI

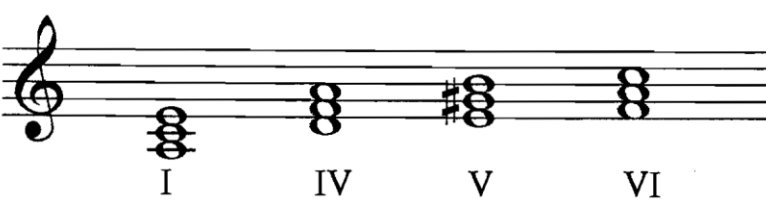
Key of G major



I IV V VI

In a major key, chords I, IV and V are major, while chord VI is minor.

Key of A minor



I IV V VI

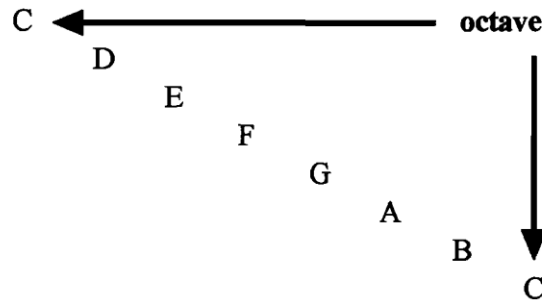
In a minor key, chords I and IV are minor, while chords V and VI are major.

Note also that chord V normally requires an accidental to raise the middle note by one semitone.

Section 4: Intervals

An **interval** is the scale distance between 2 notes. You already know some intervals:

an **octave** is the distance of 8 notes between 2 notes of the same name.



Other intervals you will have met are a **semitone** (e.g. F# - G)
and a **tone** (e.g. F - G)

Intervals can occur
together (harmonically)



or consecutively
(melodically)



To calculate the size of an interval, whether visually or aurally, treat the lower note as '1' and go up by step until the upper note is reached.

This example shows the
interval of a 4th, A-D



Regard note 'A' as '1',
then ascend in
alphabetical steps
until 'D' is reached.



Section 5: Triplets

Sometimes, in music in simple time, a group of 3 equal value notes, in the time of one beat, is used. This is called a **triplet**, and is indicated by a '3' being written over or under the notes:



Here are some well known fragments of melodies which use triplets:

(a) 

(b) 

(c) 

(d) 

(e) 

(f) 



Section 6: Compound Time



Up to this point we have been dealing with music in simple time with time signatures of

2	3	4
4	4	4

Music can also be written in **compound time**. In **compound time** each beat is a dotted note, and each beat can be divided into three pulses. It is this subdivision into three that gives **compound time** its distinctive feel.

The most commonly met **compound time** signature and the only one which you will be required to work with in Higher music is $\frac{6}{8}$.

In $\frac{6}{8}$ time there are 2 dotted crotchets   in each bar.

Each dotted crotchet  is equal to 3 quavers. 

In $\frac{6}{8}$ there are 6 quavers in one bar.

The quavers are grouped as shown with the accents coming on pulses 1 and 4.



In $\frac{3}{4}$ there are 6 quavers in one bar.

The quavers are grouped as shown with the accents coming on pulses 1, 3 and 5.



Here are some of the most common groupings of notes found in $\frac{6}{8}$ time.


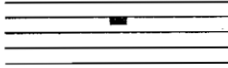

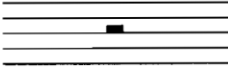



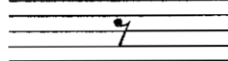


Here are some well-known melodies which use 6/8 time. Hear them in your head or play them on an instrument. Listen carefully for the division of the beat into 3s; some people say that if you can sing the word 'elephant' with the tune, the music is in compound time.



Section 7: Rests

For every note in music there is a corresponding sign for silence, called a **rest**. The most common rests, with their corresponding notes, are shown in the following table:

Note	Length	Name	Rest
	4 beats	semibreve	
	2 beats	minim	
	1 beat	crotchet	
	$\frac{1}{2}$ beat	quaver	

A complete bar's rest FOR ANY TIME SIGNATURE is shown by a semibreve rest, for example:



Here are some examples of how rests are used:



When completing a bar which requires rests, make the structure of beats in the bar clear.

Imagine that a bar of 4/4 is split into 2 sections of 2/4.



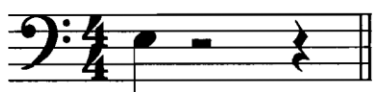
This bar



should be completed



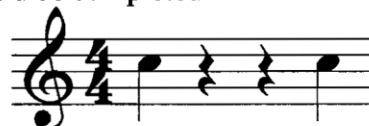
and not



Similarly, this bar



should be completed



and not



Section 8: Signs And Symbols

D.C. This is short for '**Da Capo**' and means 'from the beginning'. Its use avoids the rewriting or reprinting of the opening section of a piece of music.

A **da capo aria** is a ternary (ABA) structure in which the repeat of the opening A section is indicated by *D.C.* at the end of the B section.

D.S. This is short for '**Dal segno**' and means 'from the sign'. It indicates the return to a point earlier in the music but not the very beginning. The symbol is often written as



Slur A **slur** is a curved line over or under 2 or more notes, of DIFFERENT PITCH, indicating that the notes are to be played *legato* (smoothly).



For a singer, a slur would indicate a melisma.



And all the peo - ple re - joic'd _____

Accent This is a sign > used to indicate notes which are to receive much greater stress than normal.



Sometimes, instead of the signs used above, the terms **fz** (forzando) or **sfz** (sforzando) are used. These mean to 'force the tone' and create much the same effect as strong accents.



Staccato This word means 'detached', and indicates that notes are to be played shorter than their normal value. It is indicated by dots written over or under the affected notes.



**Phrase
marks**

These look similar to slurs, but are usually longer and indicate the structure of a melody. A singer or wind player would often breathe at the end of a phrase, thus helping to shape the music.



Remember, you still need to know previous literacy from Nat 4 and Nat 5. There is a National 5 Revision booklet on the Music page of the Lenzie Academy website that you can revise from too.

Exam Technique

Multi-Choice Questions:

Listen to this excerpt and identify three concepts in the music from those listed below.

Read through the list before hearing the music.

<i>Basso Continuo</i>	<i>Chamber Music</i>
<i>Classical</i>	<i>Interrupted Cadence</i>
<i>Concerto Grosso</i>	<i>Obbligato</i>
<i>Sonata</i>	<i>Ritornello</i>
<i>Melismatic</i>	

Give your answers on the lines below:

3

- Copy three concepts from the list - doesn't matter which column unless it states so in the question.
- 1 correct concept = 1 mark
- Look for pairings of concepts & opposites for example you wouldn't choose CLASSICAL and CONCERTO GROSSO as the Concerto Grosso was from the Baroque period. You wouldn't choose CLASSICAL and BASSO CONTINUO but you could choose BASSO CONTINUO and CONCERTO GROSSO.
- Always take an educated guess if you're unsure - never leave a blank space.

Questions

Musical Map Question

1.	The ornament is a/an _____.
2.	The rhythmic feature in the accompanying instruments is a/an _____.
3.	The instrument playing the melody is a/an _____.
4.	The bass line outlines a descending _____ scale.
5.	The instrumental group performing the excerpt is a/an _____.

Table into Paragraph Question

Rough work

Melody/Harmony	
Texture	
Timbre	

General Questions

- (b) (i) Listen to the following excerpt and name the playing technique used by the guitar. (Italian term) 1
- _____
- (ii) Listen to a different excerpt and name the playing technique used by the guitar. 1
- _____
- (c) Listen to a new excerpt, which will be played twice, and name the concept which describes the time signature. 1
- Here is the music for the first time.
- Here is the music for the second time. 1
- _____



As you will see, there are quite a few questions in the listening paper that require you to fill in the concept from the question or heading given. If you do not understand what the question is asking, you can lose valuable marks.

Example answers:

Name the concept which best describes the style of vocal music:	ARIA, CHORUS, RECITATIVE, WAULKING SONG, LIED, DA CAPO ARIA, PLAINCHANT etc
Name the overall work this excerpt is from:	MASS, OPERA, ORATORIO, SYMPHONY, CONCERTO, SONATA etc
Comment on the texture	HOMOPHONIC, POLYPHONIC, CONTRAPUNTAL, SOLO etc
Comment on the tonality of this excerpt	MAJOR, MINOR, MODAL, etc
Comment on the timbre in this excerpt (this is asking you to comment on how the sound is being produced)	A CAPPELLA, LEGATO, CON SORDINO, FLUTTER TONGUING etc
The word-setting in this excerpt is...	MELISMATIC or SYLLABIC (try and work out what it is mainly)
Name the MELODIC feature present here	SEQUENCE, IMITATION, REPETITION, etc
Name the HARMONIC feature present here	MODULATION, TIERCE DE PICARDIE etc
Name the RHYTHMIC feature present here	TRIPLETS, 3 AGAINST 2, SYNCOPATION, ANACRUSIS etc
Name the Cadence used at the end of this excerpt	PERFECT, PLAGAL, IMPERFECT or INTERRUPTED
The ornament featured is a/an	TRILL, MORDENT, ACCIACCATURA, GRACE NOTES
The Instrument playing the melody is the...	VIOLIN, CELLO, FRENCH HORN, GLOCKENSPIEL etc
The _____ scale is heard in this excerpt	MAJOR, MINOR, BLUES, PENTATONIC, WHOLE-TONE, CHROMATIC, PENTATONIC

Music is in _____ time	SIMPLE or COMPOUND
The Instrument Technique used here is	CON SORDINO, TREMOLANDO, FLUTTER TONGUING, ARCO, PIZZICATO etc
Comment on the time signature	4/4, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8 IRREGULAR METRE etc
The overall style of the music is...	MINIMALIST, JAZZ, CLASSICAL, ROMANTIC, RAGTIME, SCOTTISH etc
The overall ensemble in this excerpt is...	STRING QUARTET, CHOIR, ORCHESTRA, FOLK BAND, BRASS BAND, WIND BAND, STRING ORCHESTRA etc

Literacy


In the literacy question, you will most likely be asked the following questions:

- 1) The key of the music is: _____
- 2) Insert the time signature in the correct place(s)
- 3) Insert a suitable tempo in Italian at the appropriate place(s)
- 4) Name the interval with the box around it.
- 5) Insert the correct chords you are hearing at the places marked.
- 6) Insert the pitch and rhythm where marked.
- 7) Add in the missing rests where required.




Example Answers for a Literacy Question

The key is G major as there is an F#. Make sure if you are writing a key sig, you place the sharp/flat between the clef and time signature. Notice the key sig is written at the start of every stave. You need to know:

C MAJOR 

G MAJOR

F MAJOR 

A MINOR
(G#s, raised 7th)

Italian tempo marking above bar 1

LENTO - SLOWLY
ANDANTE - WALKING PACE
MODERATO - MODERATELY
ALLEGRO - QUICK

Interval is the distance between two notes - this example is a 6th.

D up to B
D, E, F, G, A, B = 6

Moderato

Time Signature - only write this in bar 1, no line - it's not a fraction!

Add up the value of the bar and insert the correct values of rests.

Grid Comparison Question

This question asks you to listen to two pieces of music and tick what you hear within each piece. The third column asks you to select what concepts are common to both pieces and the number of marks allocated is the number of ticks required.

Like the multi-choice questions, be careful when selecting concepts, make sure they are not opposites and look for pairings - example CONCERTINO and RIPIENO go together.

	Concepts	Column A Excerpt 1	Column B Excerpt 2	Column C 5 features common to both
Melody/Harmony	Interrupted cadence			
	Tierce de picardie			
	Trill			
	Dominant 7th			
Rhythm	Augmentation			
	Anacrusis			
	Rubato			



GOOD LUCK!

