



St Ambrose High School

Understanding Music

NATIONAL 5

Revision Booklet



Helpful Websites

Type the following into Google and click the first result:

NQMUSIC

Also try

Learn Listening Online and Music Listening Revision

Important concepts you need to know

Homophonic – **Texture** - all parts move at same time or melody with accompaniment – same rhythms at the same time.

Polyphonic – **Texture** 2 or more parts with different rhythms - weave independently of each other. Like **Contrapuntal**

Legato – Notes played smoothly

Staccato – Notes played short and detached

Ostinato/Riff - Repeated pattern of notes over and over

Sequence – Pattern of notes repeated higher or lower

Repetition – Musical idea heard more than once.

Imitation – The melody is immediately copied in another part.

Unison – Same notes at the same time.

Harmony – Different notes at the same time.

Anacrusis – Tune starts before the first beat of the bar. Think “happy” in happy birthday.

Syncopation – Strongly accented notes playing off or against the beat. Will sound more jumpy.

Symphony – Piece for **whole orchestra**, no main solo instrument.

Concerto – Piece for **soloist** and orchestra

Cadenza – passage for soloist to show off, sounds made up – improvised.

A capella – Unaccompanied – no accompanying instruments.

Melismatic – **More than one** note per syllable.

Syllabic – **One** note per syllable.

Major – Happy, positive sounding.

Minor – Sad, scary, tense sounding.

Atonal – Not major or minor – uses dissonance – doesn't sound nice.

Forms - **Binary** – 2 sections – A & B **Ternary** – 3 sections
A B A

Rondo – Lots of sections with A repeated eg. A – B – A –
C–A – D

Theme & Variations – Main theme is played and then changed in a different way each variation eg. put into minor key, notes added to tune, different beats in a bar.

Minuet & Trio - dance with 3 beats in a bar.

Alberti bass - Broken chords played by the left hand on the piano. Low - high – middle – high.

Walking Bass – Notes move on every beat.

Ground Bass - A theme in the bass which is repeated many times while the higher parts change.

Broken chord – Notes of the chord played separately.

Vamp – Boom cha accompaniment. Bass note then chord.

Simple time – Each beat splits into 2 equal parts –
TAN-GO

Compound time – Each beat splits into 3 equal parts –
JIGG-I-TY.

Aria – Main song in an opera. Shows off the singers
ability-tuneful.

Cadence – Last 2 chords in a phrase.

Perfect Cadence = sounds finished

Imperfect Cadence = sounds unfinished.

Tierce De Picardi – Minor piece last chord major.

Pedal – **Low** note held on or repeated while other parts
change.

Inverted Pedal - **High** note held on/repeated while
other parts change

Modulation – Change of key.

Voices – Highest to lowest

Soprano
Mezzo Soprano } **FEMALE**
Alto

Tenor
Baritone } **MALE**
Bass

TEMPOS – SPEEDS

Tempo	Meaning
<i><u>Allegro</u></i>	<u>Fast</u>
<i><u>Moderato</u></i>	<u>Moderate tempo</u>
<i><u>Andante</u></i>	<u>Walking Pace</u>
<i><u>Adagio</u></i>	<u>Slow</u>
<i>Accelerando</i>	getting faster
<i>Rallentando</i>	getting slower
<i>Rubato</i>	robbed time – speeding up or slowing down to suit the mood of the piece.

DYNAMICS – LOUDS & QUIETS

Dynamic	Italian	English meaning
<i>pp</i>	<i>Pianissimo</i>	very quiet
<i>p</i>	<i>Piano</i>	quiet
<i>mp</i>	<i>Mezzo-piano</i>	moderately quiet
<i>mf</i>	<i>Mezzo-forte</i>	moderately loud
<i>f</i>	<i>Forte</i>	loudly
<i>ff</i>	<i>Fortissimo</i>	very loudly
<i>cresc.</i>	<i>Crescendo</i>	Gradually getting louder
<i>dim.</i>	<i>Diminuendo</i>	Gradually getting softer

Instruments & Related Concepts

Strings

Violin
Viola
Cello
Double Bass
Harp / Clarsach

Concepts/Playing Technique

Arco - Bowed
Pizzicato - Plucked

Woodwind

Piccolo
Flute
Oboe
Clarinet
Bassoon

Saxophone
(not in orchestra)

Blown - Air is blown through instrument to produce sound

Flutter Tonguing - Rolling your Rs while blowing a note.

Brass

Trumpet
French Horn
Trombone
Tuba

Con Sordino - Muted - creating a different sound than normally expected.

Percussion

Tuned Percussion

Xylophone(wooden)
Glockenspiel(metal)
Vibraphone
Timpani (kettle drum)
Tubular Bells

Untuned Percussion

Snare Drum	Bodhran
Drum-kit	Bongo Drums
Cow Bell	Guiro
Bass Drum	Castanets
Cymbals	Tambourine
Triangle	

Musical Groups / STYLES









<u>Orchestra</u>	-	Strings, Brass, Woodwind, Percussion
<u>Brass Band</u>	-	Brass & Percussion
<u>Wind Band</u>	-	Brass, Woodwind, Percussion
<u>Folk Group</u>	-	Fiddle, Guitar, Vocals, Accordion, Whistle, Bass, Flute, Drum kit, Bodhran
<u>Scottish dance band</u>	-	fiddle, accordion, piano, drums.
<u>Celtic Rock</u>	-	Mixes folk music with rock music.
<u>Reggae</u>	-	Off beat guitar, vocals, drums, organ, bass.
<u>Impressionist</u>	-	Sounds dreamy or blurry. Whole tone scale.
<u>Minimalist</u>	-	Simple and repetitive ostinatos.
<u>Ragtime</u>	-	Piano. Syncopated melody & vamp accomp.
<u>Blues</u>	-	Jazz style, developed from black American folk songs. Tells a story. Flattened notes.
<u>Swing</u>	-	A jazz style performed by a big band.

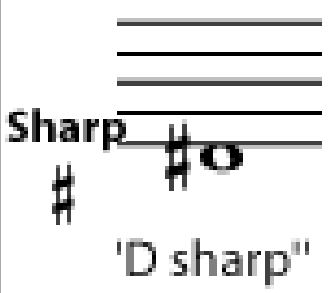
Scottish Music

Dance	Speed	Beats	Other features
Waltz	Medium	3	Only dance with 3 beats
Jig	Fast	2 – 6/8 time	STRAWBERRY, compound time,
Reel	Fast	4	TANGO, simple time, flowing
Strathspey	Medium	4	Jumpy, Scotch Snap
March	Marching speed	2 or 4	Steady, strong pulse.

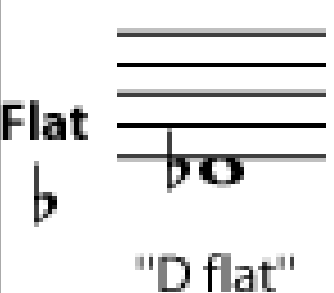
Song	Who?	Where/About?	Accomp?	Other?
Waulking Song	Women	At work	No	Beating sound
Bothy Ballad	Men	Farm work	Usually no	Tells story
Gaelic Psalm	Both	Church North Scotland	No	In Gaelic, Call & Response, not nice.
Mouth Music	Both	Nonsense made up Gaelic words	Maybe	Imitating melody of bagpipes
Scots Ballad	Both	Telling story	Maybe	Lots of verses and chorus,

Literacy Tips

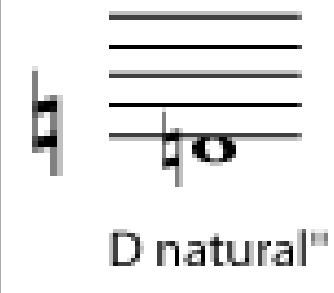
	Name	Length (beats)
	Semibreve	4
	Dotted Minim	3
	Minim	2
	Dotted Crotchet	1 + 1/2
	Crotchet	1
	Dotted Quaver	3/4
	Quaver	1/2
	Semiquaver	1/4



Sharp
"D sharp"



Flat
b "D flat"



"D natural"

Key Signatures



C Major = 0 sharps or flats
A Minor = 0 sharps or flats
 But G#s in music.

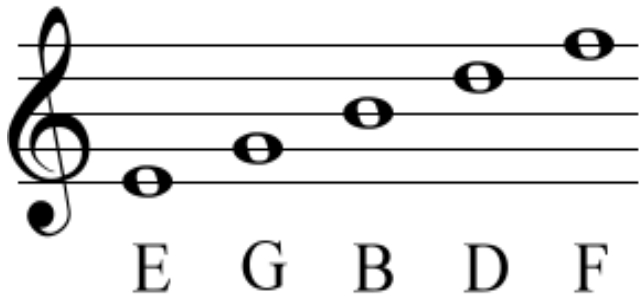
F Major = 1 flat Bb



G Major = 1 Sharp F#

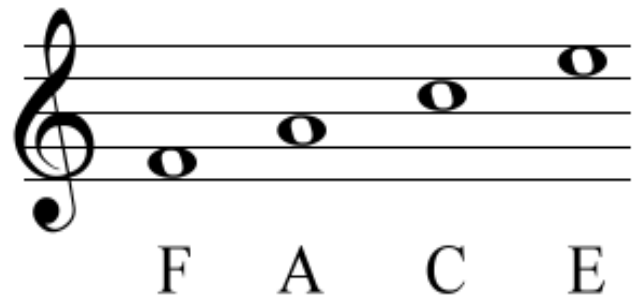
Lines

Every Good Boy
Deserves Football

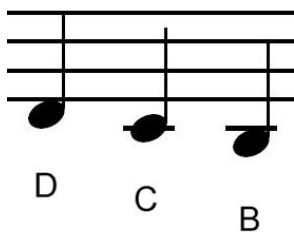


Spaces

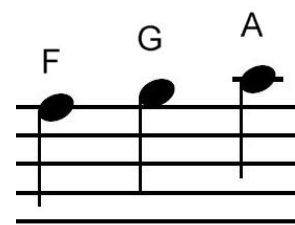
FACE 😊



Notes below the stave

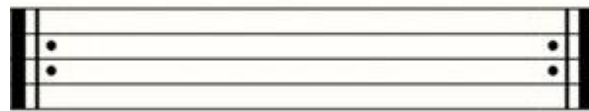


Notes above the stave



Repeat Signs

Start →



← End

1st & 2nd time bars




Time Signatures – go right at the beginning of the first line – beside the treble clef.

2 = 2 crotchet beats per bar
4 Simple time

3 = 3 crotchet beats per bar
4 Simple time

4 = 4 crotchet beats per bar
4 Simple time

6 = 2 dotted crotchet beats
8 per bar- Compound Time

Melody Harmony	Rhythm Tempo	Instruments and how they are used	Dynamics
Repetition Sequence Imitation Modulation Chords/ Discords Broken Chords Suspensions <u>Scales:</u> Major/Minor, Chromatic, Pentatonic Question & Answer Glissando Homophonic/ Polyphonic Ornaments: trill, grace notes Legato /Staccato Unison/Harmony Pedal Melismatic/ Syllabic	Syncopation Repetition Ostinato Anacrusis Beats in a bar / Time Signature: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, Simple Time 6/8 – Compound Time Speed: Allegro – Fast Adagio – Slow Andante – walking pace Moderato – moderate Speed Changes: Accelerando – faster Rallentando – slower Rubato – with freedom Dotted Rhythms Scotch Snap	<u>Brass</u> – Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba <u>Woodwind</u> – Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone, Recorder <u>Strings</u> – Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp <u>Percussion</u> – Xylophone, Glockenspiel, Timpani, Triangle, Snare Drum, Drumkit, Bass Drum, Tambourine, Castanets <u>Keyboard</u> – Piano, Synthesizer, Harpsichord, Organ, Celeste <u>Voices</u> – Soprano, Mezzo Soprano, Alto, Counter Tenor, Tenor, Baritone, Bass <u>Guitars</u> – Electric, Acoustic, Bass, Banjo Solo, Melody, Countermelody Accompaniment, Chords, Broken Chords Glissando, Arpeggios Arco – bowed, Grace notes, ornaments Muted, Pizzicato - plucked Col Legno – wood of bow, Double Stopping <u>Female:</u> Soprano, Mezzo Soprano, Alto <u>Male:</u> Tenor, Baritone, Bass Countertenor – high like a woman. Solo; Accompaniment; Melody; Countermelody	<i>pp</i> – <i>pianissimo</i> – very quiet <i>p</i> – <i>piano</i> – quiet. <i>mp</i> – <i>mezzo piano</i> – moderately quiet. <i>mf</i> – <i>mezzo forte</i> – moderately loud. <i>f</i> – <i>forte</i> – loud. <i>ff</i> – <i>fortissimo</i> – very loud Changes of dynamic crescendo – getting louder diminuendo – getting quieter. 

Categories

TONALITY

MAJOR MINOR ATONAL

STRUCTURE

BINARY FORM TERNARY FORM RONDO FORM
THEME & VARIATION STROPHIC

TEXTURE

HOMOPHONIC POLYPHONIC/CONTRAPUNTAL

PERIODS OF MUSIC

BAROQUE CLASSICAL ROMANTIC MODERN

National 5 – Understanding Music Paper LAYOUT

Question 1a-f - 6 Marks: Multiple Choice with a few “write the word” questions.

Question 2: Box question (musical map) - 4 Marks

4 numbered boxes. Voice says the number over the music & you must answer the question in the related box when the number is said.

1 The sustained note in the bass is known as a/an <hr/>	2 The appropriate Italian tempo marking is <hr/>	3 The instrument playing the melody is a/an <hr/>	4 Name the type of Scottish dance this music is based on <hr/>
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Question 3: Literacy Question – 6 Marks

Eg. Name the **key** of this piece, insert the **time signature**, insert **missing notes**, insert repeat sign, identify octave leaps, write dynamics, write tempo marks.

- (a) Name the key of this excerpt. _____ 1
- (b) Insert the time signature in the correct place. 1
- (c) Give the number of a bar where there is an octave leap. _____ 1
- (d) Write an Italian term at the correct place to indicate the tempo. 1
- (e) Write **tr** above a note where a trill is played. 1
- (f) Complete bar 2 by inserting the missing notes. 1

Question 4: Multiple Choice – 8 Marks

Question 5: - 4 Marks

Tick one box from each section.

		Tick
Solo instrument	Flute	
	Bagpipes	
	Clarsach	
Accompanying instrument	Pan pipes	
	Trombone	
	Acoustic guitar	
Scottish dance	Strathspey	
	Waltz	
	Reel	
Tempo	Allegro	
	Adagio	
	Rallentando	

} Tick one box from this selection

} Tick one box from this selection

} Tick one box from this selection

} Tick one box from this selection

Question 6: Fill in the missing words – 3 Marks

There are _____ beats in each bar.

A small group of instruments from the _____ family join in the accompaniment.

The excerpt is in _____ form.

Here is the music for the first time.

Here is the music for the second time.

Question 7: - 4 Marks - Reason Question: Multiple choice plus

write reason for answer.

Question 8: - 5 Marks Write about the prominent features you hear in the music.

Fill out this box then transfer it to the lines on the next page.

rhythm/tempo	
melody/harmony	
Instruments/voices and how they are used	
dynamics	