

Discovering Music Theory

THE ABRSM GRADE 5 WORKBOOK

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
Practice Exam Paper 85



Quintuplets and sextuplets

- At Grade 2, we discovered that a triplet is a group of three notes played in the same amount of time as two non-triplet notes of the same time value.
- Quintuplets** and **sextuplets** are groups of five and six notes that are played in the same amount of time as a group of four notes of the same time value.
- Just like duplets and triplets, quintuplets and sextuplets can be any time value, and they can also contain a combination of time values.

 is equal in time value to  or 

 is equal in time value to  or 

Did you know?

The word 'tuplet' is often used as a general word to describe notes like duplets, quintuplets and sextuplets.

Exercise 8

 Number the beats and then complete the time signature for each of these rhythms.

a 


Beats: 1 2 3 4

b 

Beats:

c 

Beats:

d 

Beats:

e 

Beats:

f 

Beats:

Challenge!

Write a two-bar rhythm in $\frac{4}{4}$ that contains either quintuplets or sextuplets in the space below.

Exercise 9

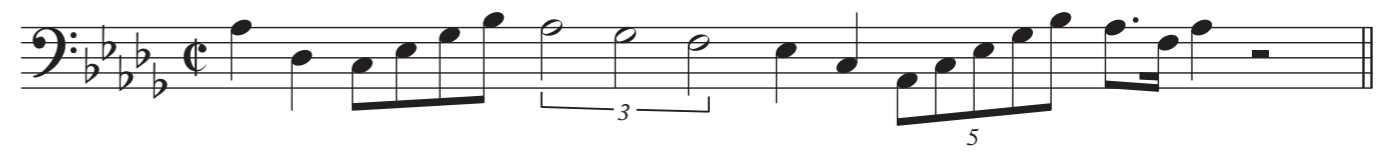
 Add the missing bar-lines to each of these melodies.

a 

b 

c 

d 

e 

The next two exercises draw together the time signatures learnt so far.

Exercise 10

 Complete these sentences by adding a number to each.

a In $\frac{5}{4}$ there are crotchet beats in a bar.

b In $\frac{7}{8}$ there are quaver beats in a bar.

c In $\frac{12}{16}$ there are dotted-quaver beats in a bar.

d In $\frac{6}{8}$ there are dotted-crotchet beats in a bar.

e In $\frac{3}{2}$ there are minim beats in a bar.

PITCH

(PART 2)

In this chapter you will learn about
 Transposing by a major 2nd, minor 3rd and perfect 5th
 Finding the new key signature
 Transposing melodies with accidentals
 Transposing instruments

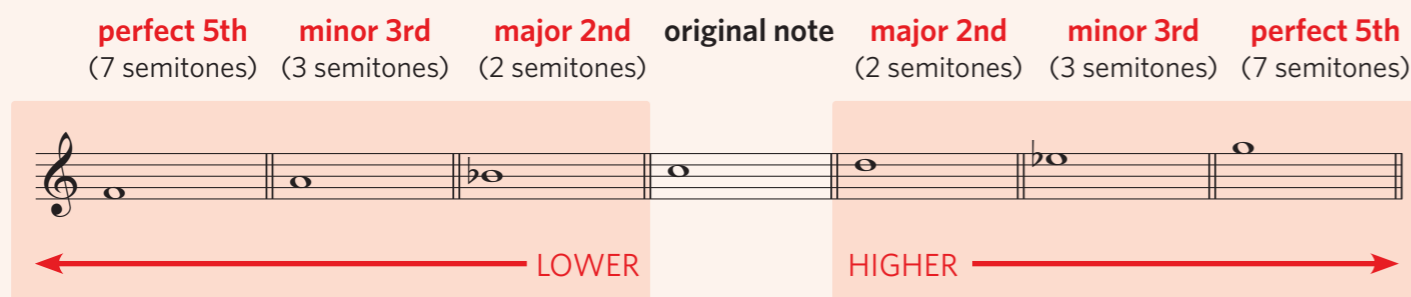
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i Transposing by a major 2nd, minor 3rd and perfect 5th

At Grade 3 we learnt how to transpose music up or down an octave. Let's explore how to transpose notes so that they sound:

- a **major 2nd** higher or lower
- a **minor 3rd** higher or lower
- a **perfect 5th** higher or lower

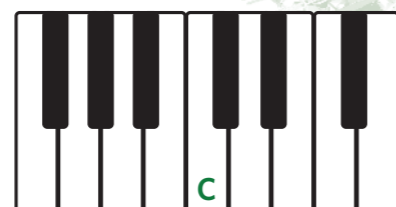
This diagram shows how to transpose the note C up or down by the intervals shown.



Smart tip

You can work out intervals by counting up or down in semitones from the starting note.

- major 2nd = 2 semitones (1 tone)
- minor 3rd = 3 semitones
- perfect 5th = 7 semitones



Exercise 1

Transpose these notes by the named intervals.

major 2nd lower major 2nd higher minor 3rd lower perfect 5th higher perfect 5th lower

major 2nd higher minor 3rd lower minor 3rd higher perfect 5th higher perfect 5th lower



Finding the new key signature

- If we transpose the note C up a major 2nd, it becomes the note D.
- In the same way, if we transpose notes in the **key of C major** up a major 2nd, they become notes in the **key of D major**.
- The key signature of D major – the new key – is used so that we do not have to write lots of accidentals.

Did you know?

The major or minor tonality stays the same when a melody is transposed.

transposed **up** a **major 2nd** becomes

Similarly:

transposed **up** a **minor 3rd** becomes

transposed **up** a **perfect 5th** becomes

Exercise 2

Circle **TRUE** or **FALSE** for each statement.

- a** The key of C major transposed **up** a major 2nd becomes the key of D major. **TRUE** **FALSE**
- b** The key of C minor transposed **down** a minor 3rd becomes the key of A minor. **TRUE** **FALSE**
- c** The key of C major transposed **up** a perfect 5th becomes the key of F major. **TRUE** **FALSE**
- d** The key of C major transposed **down** a major 2nd becomes the key of B major. **TRUE** **FALSE**
- e** The key of C major transposed **up** a minor 3rd becomes the key of E♭ major. **TRUE** **FALSE**
- f** The key of C minor transposed **down** a perfect 5th becomes the key of G minor. **TRUE** **FALSE**

TERMS, SIGNS & INSTRUMENTS (PART 1)

In this chapter you will learn about
New instruments at Grade 5
Transposing instruments
Voice types and their ranges

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i New instruments at Grade 5

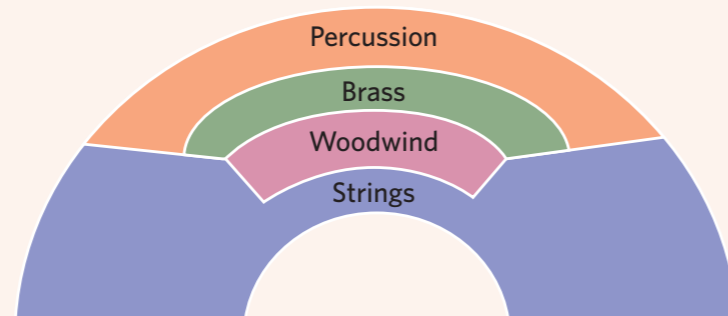
At Grade 4 we met instruments in the four families of the orchestra: strings, woodwind, brass and percussion.

Strings: Instruments with strings that are played with a bow or plucked

Woodwind: Instruments that are blown using a reed or a hole in a mouthpiece

Brass: Instruments that are blown by vibrating the lips in a mouthpiece

Percussion: Instruments that are struck



Here are all the instruments you need to know at Grade 5, including some new ones (in red):

Strings	Woodwind	Brass	Percussion	
Violin	Piccolo	Trumpet	Timpani	Side drum
Viola	Flute	Horn	Tubular bells	Bass drum
Cello	Oboe	Trombone	Xylophone	Cymbals
Double bass	Cor anglais	Tuba	Marimba	Tambourine
Harp	Clarinet		Glockenspiel	Castanets
	Bassoon		Vibraphone	Tam-tam
			Celesta	Triangle

Theory in sound

Listen to recordings of pieces that contain some of these new instruments, then describe the quality of the sound they produce (sharp, soft, high, smooth, sharp, etc.) Here are some suggestions:

- Mozart, Flute and Harp Concerto in C major, K. 299/297c: 2nd movement (harp)
- Saint-Saëns, *Carnival of the Animals*: 'Fossils' (xylophone), 'Aquarium' (glockenspiel)
- Dvořák, Symphony No. 9 ('From the New World'), Op. 95: 2nd movement (cor anglais)
- Tchaikovsky, *The Nutcracker*, Op. 71, 'Chinese Dance' (piccolo)

i More about the new instruments

Strings

Harp

Plays from music arranged on two staves, like piano music. The strings on the harp are plucked and pedals or levers are used to change the pitch of the strings



Woodwind

Piccolo

A small type of flute. It uses the **treble clef** and sounds an **octave higher** than its written notes

Cor anglais

Also known as the **English horn**, it is closely related to the oboe. It uses the **treble clef** and is a **transposing instrument** – we will look at this in more detail later in this chapter

Percussion

Along with the timpani, the following instruments play notes of **definite pitch**. This means that they can play specific pitches (e.g. C, D, etc.).

Tubular bells

Vertical metal bars struck with one or two small hammers

Xylophone

Horizontal wooden bars arranged like a piano keyboard and usually struck with hard beaters

Marimba

Like the xylophone but larger with a more mellow sound – usually struck with softer beaters

Glockenspiel

Horizontal metal bars arranged like a piano and struck by beaters

Vibraphone

Similar to a glockenspiel, it produces a softer sound when the metal bars are struck. It contains a motor to add vibration to the sound

Celesta

Looks like a piano but contains metal bars rather than strings. It produces a bell-like sound

Along with the side drum, bass drum and cymbals, the following instruments play notes of **indefinite pitch**. This means they make sounds that are not at a specific pitch.

Tambourine

Hit or shaken by the hand, with small cymbal-like discs around its outer edge. Sometimes has a 'skin' or membrane

Castanets

Two small discs of wood hit together with the fingers. Originates from Spain

Tam-tam

A large gong hit with a beater

Triangle

Triangular metal instrument hit with a metal beater