



Knowledge Organiser Key Stage 3

Subject: Music Year: 8

Topic Title: Elements and Notation



Lessons 1&2

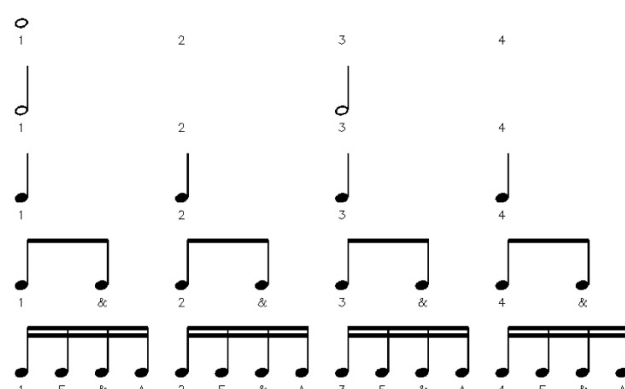
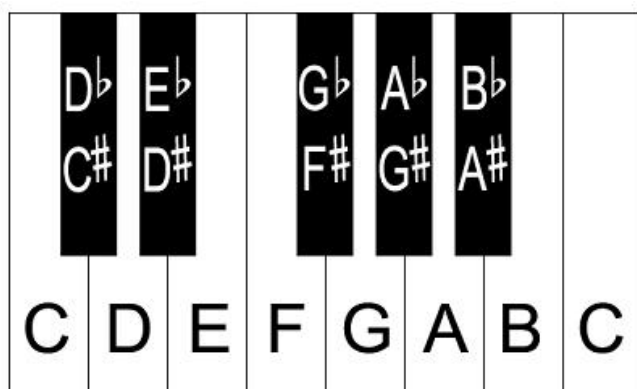
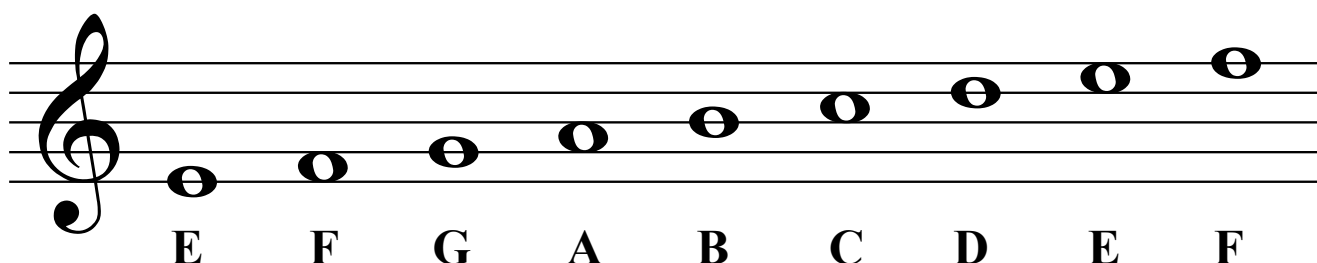
Key Facts from this lesson

- Notation is the method we use to write music. We use rhythm symbols (as we learned last term) and place them on a line or space of the *treble clef*, which tells us which pitch to play.
- We are using the C major scale this term, which uses only white keys on the keyboard.

Key words and definitions from this lesson:

- ★ **Notation** – The most common method used to write music
- ★ **Treble clef** – The symbol at the start of a score that tells us which set of pitches to use
- ★ **Score** – A piece of music written down
- ★ **Melody** – The tune in a piece of music
- ★ **Staff** – The set of five vertical lines used in treble clef notation

Diagrams to support learning:



♩ – Semibreve – Four beats

♪ – Minim – Two beats

♫ – Crotchet – One beat

♫ – Quaver – Half a beat

♫ – Semiquaver – A quarter or a beat



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Lesson 3

Key Facts from this lesson

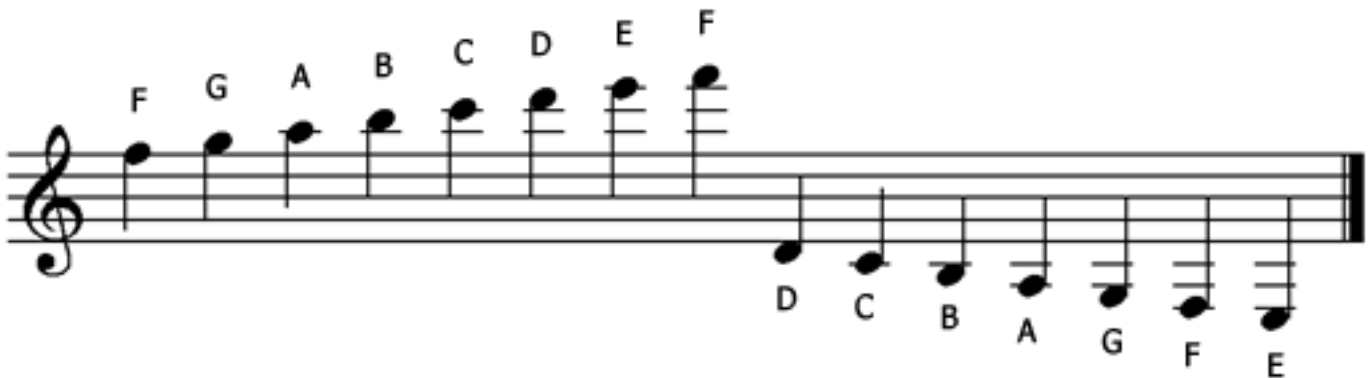
- Sometimes we need to use notes outside of the ones given to use on the notes and lines of the treble clef. We can use *ledger lines* to add additional notes above or below the staff.
- Every bar of music should add up to four beats, so if a note is to be played in one bar and continue into another, we can use a tie symbol to combine the duration of two notes. We can also use ties to keep our scores tidy and make the pulse (the underlying beat of the music) really clear.

Key words and definitions from this lesson:

- ★ **Ledger line** – Additional lines drawn above or below the staff that tell us which pitches to play.
- ★ **Tie** – A symbol that tells us to play two notes as one. For instance, a crotchet (1 beat) tied to a minim (2 beats) would tell us to play a note with a duration of 3 beats.

Diagrams to support learning:

Ledger lines:



Tied notes:



This is a crotchet (one beat) tied to a semibreve (four beats), leaving a resulting note of five beats.



Lesson 4

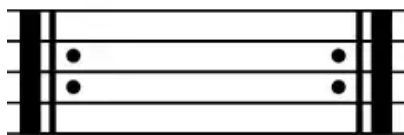
Key Facts from this lesson

- If when we performed music we never stopped playing, the music would be exhausting to listen to! We use rests to add pauses to melodies; they serve the same purpose as punctuation (like full stops and commas) in a sentence.
- If we need to play a part twice, we don't need to write it twice on the score, instead we just use a symbol that tells us to repeat a section.
- Pieces of music don't always have to start on beat one. Sometimes, we use a short phrase before beat one that leads us to the starting point, this is called an anacrusis.

Key words and definitions from this lesson:

- ★ **Rest** – A symbol that tells us not to play for a given duration
- ★ **Repeat** – A symbol that tells us the section of the music marked by the repeat barlines (shown below) is to be repeated
- ★ **Anacrusis/pick up** – A short musical phrase that comes before beat one in a piece

Diagrams to support learning:



Start repeat

End repeat



Anacrusis (2 "pickup" beats before beat 1)

– – Semibreve rest – do not play for four beats

– Minim rest – do not play for two beats

– Crotchet rest – do not play for one beat

– Quaver rest – do not play for half a beat

– Semiquaver rest – do not play for a quarter or a beat



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Lesson 5

Key Facts from this lesson

- On a score, chords are often written above the melody. The accompaniment style (the rhythm of the chords) is left to the player to decide.
- The most simple chords are triads; these are three-note chords that can be major (sounds bright) or minor (sounds dark). If we add any more notes to the triad, it is an extended chord.
- Chords can be played in root position, first inversion or second inversion; this refers to the order of notes. An example is shown below.

Key words and definitions from this lesson:

- ★ **Harmony** – The effect of multiple pitches being played at one time.
- ★ **Chord** – A combination of three or more pitches.
- ★ **Extension** – An additional note added to a triadic chord.
- ★ **Inversion** – A chord with an alteration made to the order of the notes.

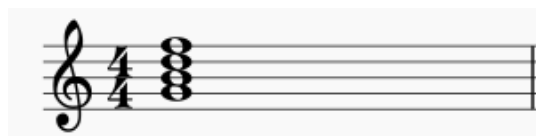
Diagrams to support learning:



C (Root position)
C, E, G

C (First inversion)
E, G, C

C (Second inversion)
G, C, E



Extended chord (G7)
G, B, D, F

Notes in each chord:

C – C, E, G

C7 – C, E, G, Bb

F – F, A, C

Fm – F, Ab, C

G – G, B, D

G7 – G, B, D, F