



Theory GRADE 1 Syllabus

1 Note values of semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver and semiquaver, and their equivalent rests (candidates may use the terms 'whole note', 'half note', etc.). Tied notes. Single-dotted notes and rests.

2 Simple time signatures of two four, three four and four four.

4 Bar-lines and the grouping of the notes listed above within these times. Composition of a two-bar rhythm in answer to a given rhythm starting on the first beat of a bar.

3 The staff. Treble (G) and bass (F) clefs. Names of notes on the staff, including middle C in both clefs. Sharp, flat and natural signs, and their cancellation.

4 Construction of the major scale, including the position of the tones and semitones. Scales and key signatures of the major keys of C, G, D and F in both clefs, with their tonic triads (root position), degrees (number only), and intervals above the tonic (by number only).

5 Theory Revision Classes

Theory revision classes are held by Abraham Devar's Academy for Music and Song. These online classes are thorough and ensures that everything in the syllabus is learnt. When you register for online classes you will be given access to our online resource including video discussions of each topic. Included in the discussions are typical examination papers.

Suitable for the ABRSM, Trinity Guild Hall, Unisa, and Rock School Theory of Music Examinations. Visit <http://www.abrahamdevar.com/mydownloads> to download theory grades 2 to 5.

Italian terms and Signs used in music notation

Grade 1 Terms and Signs for the Theory of Music Examinations.

Suitable for the ABRSM, Trinity Guild Hall, Unisa and Rock School examinations. The list below are the required terms that will be included in the Grade 1 examination paper. The signs below will be included and learners will be required to describe each music symbol /sign.

Abraham Devar's Academy for Music & Song



Theory of Music Online - Grade 1 Terms and Signs

Italian term	Abbreviation	English meaning
<i>accelerando</i>	<i>accel.</i>	gradually getting quicker - refers to tempo or speed
<i>adagio</i>		slow
<i>allegretto</i>		fairly quick
<i>andante</i>		at a medium or walking speed or pace
<i>cantabile</i>		singingly or in a singing style
<i>crescendo</i>	<i>cres.</i>	gradually getting louder
<i>da capo</i>	<i>D.C</i>	repeat from the beginning of the piece
<i>dal segno</i>	<i>D.S.</i>	repeat from the sign
<i>decrescendo</i>	<i>decres.</i>	gradually getting quieter or softer
<i>diminuendo</i>	<i>dim.</i>	gradually getting quieter or softer
<i>fine</i>		the end
<i>forte</i>	<i>f</i>	loud
<i>fortissimo</i>	<i>ff</i>	very loud
<i>legato</i>		smoothly or connectedly
<i>lento</i>		slow
<i>mezzo</i>		half
<i>mezzo forte</i>	<i>mf</i>	moderately loud / half loud
<i>mezzo piano</i>	<i>mp</i>	moderately soft / half quiet
<i>moderato</i>		moderately
<i>piano</i>	<i>p</i>	soft or quiet
<i>pianissimo</i>	<i>pp</i>	very quiet
<i>poco</i>		a little
<i>rallentando</i>	<i>rall.</i>	gradually getting slower
<i>ritardando</i>	<i>rit.</i>	gradually getting slower
<i>ritenuto</i>	<i>rit.</i>	held back
<i>staccato</i>	<i>stacc.</i>	detached
<i>tempo</i>		tempo refers to speed e.g a tempo means in time.
<i>8va</i>		octave



The Tie joins two notes with the same pitch. Look at the example below.

The Tie joins two notes with the same note name or pitch

The Tie

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Detailed description: A musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. A tie connects the C5 and D5 notes. A yellow banner with the text 'ABRAHAM DEVAR.COM' is in the top right corner.

How the Slur is written in music notation. The slur connects the sounds or pitches of two different notes and requests that the performer plays them smoothly or connectedly.

The Slur connects notes with different note names.

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Detailed description: A musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5. A slur connects the G4 and A4 notes. Another slur connects the B4 and C5 notes. A yellow banner with the text 'ABRAHAM DEVAR.COM' is in the top right corner.

Fermata - pause - hold the note. The last note at the end of the piece has the pause sign over it. The pause sign may appear over or under a note head.

Fermata which means hold the note / pause on the note

Pause

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Detailed description: A musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. A fermata is placed over the final G5 note. A yellow banner with the text 'ABRAHAM DEVAR.COM' is in the top right corner.



How to use the repeat signs in music notation. The second repeat sign in the example tells the performer to repeat the piece of music from the first repeat sign. This will often be followed 'first ending' and 'second ending' of a part.

Repeat Signs in Music Notation



First Repeat Sign

Second Repeat Sign

The use of Staccato Symbols in Music Notation. The staccato dots may be placed above or below the note head.

Staccato dots over the note head



Staccato dots under the note head

Metronome markings or Metronome Indications. The example below prescribes a tempo of: sixty crochet beats per minute.

$$\text{♩} = 60$$
$$\text{m.m. } \text{♩} = 60$$



The terms, Crescendo, Decrescendo, Diminuendo and their usage in Music Notation.

Crescendo and Decrescendo

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The accent sign: the accented note will be more pronounced or louder than the other notes. The example demonstrates the placement of the accent symbol above and below the note head.

THE ACCENT

The accent sign placed above the note head

The accent sign placed below the note head

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The 8va or 8vb or just 8 (octave symbol) used in music notation.

The performer will play the music one octave higher as per the 8va symbol for the duration of two bars of music as in the example below.

Play the music an octave higher

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In the example below the performer will play the two bar piece an octave lower as indicated by the 8vb or just 8 and often Va, symbols.

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8vb

The music will be played an octave lower

Abbreviations used in music notation:

- f* - forte - loud
- mf* - mezzo forte - loud
- ff* - fortissimo - very loud
- p* - piano - quiet / soft
- mp* - mezzo piano - moderately soft
- pp* - pianissimo - very quiet or soft



Theory of Music Online - Grade 1 Terms and Signs

The abbreviations above will appear in the examination paper for Grade 1. Know the complete Italian name and the English meaning of the abbreviation.

Theory revision classes are held by Abraham Devar's Academy for Music and Song. These online classes are thorough and ensure that everything in the syllabus is learnt.

- Learners who register for online classes receive access to our online resource including video discussions of each topic. Included in the discussions are typical examination papers.
- Theory of Music Study Guides and Workbooks.
- Grade 2 to 5 terms and signs available from our website.
- Write your theory examination in a city and country of your choice..

Remember to visit us at:

Website: <http://www.abrahamdevar.com>

Online classes: <http://www.abrahamdevar.com/add/>

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Regards

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