KS4 Music

Music terms and signs

Glossary - Eduqas GCSE Music

Dynamics

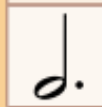
pp	*p*	*mp*	*mf*	*f*	*ff*
PIANISSIMO	PIANO	MEZZO PIANO	MEZZO FORTE	FORTE	FORTISSIMO
very soft (v.quiet)	soft (quiet)	moderately soft	moderately loud	loud	very loud
crescendo (cresc.)			diminuendo (dim.)		
gradually getting louder			gradually getting quieter		

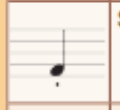
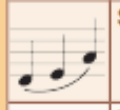
Tempo

LARGO	LENTO/ ADAGIO	ANDANTE/ MODERATO	ALLGRETTO	ALLEGRO/ VIVACE	PRESTO
v.slow	slow	walking pace/ moderate	quite fast	quick/lively	very quick

- **Accelerando:** gradually getting faster
- **Rallentando/ritardando:** gradually getting slower
- **A tempo:** return to the original speed
- **Ritenuto:** in slower time
- **Rubato:** rhythms are played in a more free/flexible way ('robbed time').

Time values

NOTE	NAME	LENGTH (duration)	REST
	Semibreve	4 beats	
	Minim	2 beats	
	Crotchet	1 beats	
	Quaver	½ beats	
	Semiquaver	¼ beats	
A dot after the note increases its length by half:			
	Dotted minim		
	Dotted crotchet		
Groups of quavers/semiquavers are usually beamed together:			

Terms and signs

#	**Sharp**	Raises a note by a semitone.
	Flat	Lowers a note by a semitone.
	Natural	Cancels a previous sharp or flat for a note.
	Staccato	Detached.
	Slur	Play smoothly.
	Tie	Hold the notes for the full value of the tied notes.
	Accent	Emphasize the note (play forcefully).
	Pause	Hold the note longer.
sfz	**Sforzando**	Sudden stress/ accent.

Music terms and signs

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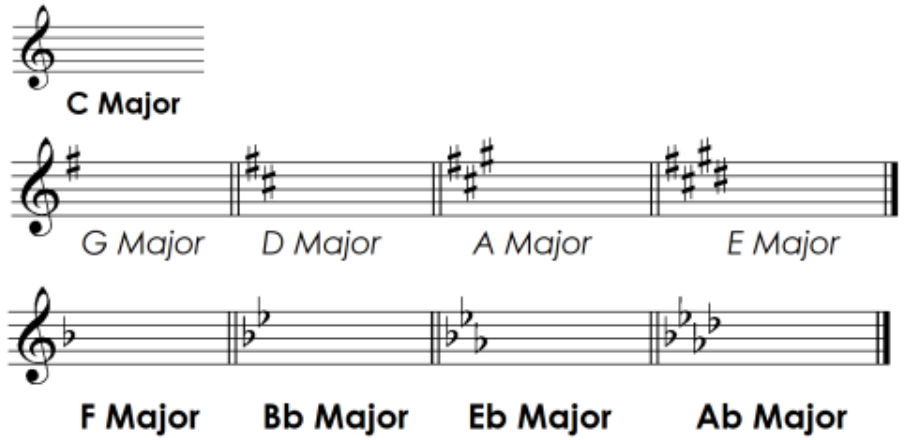
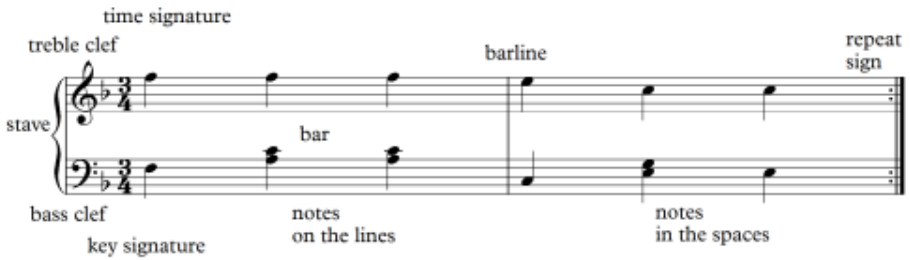
Key signatures

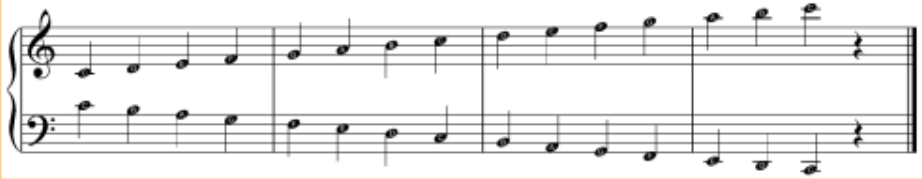


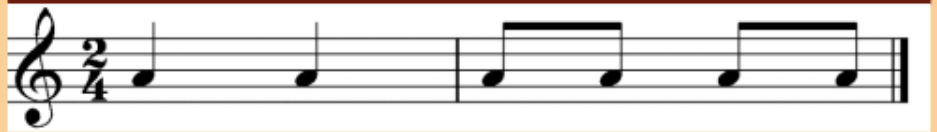
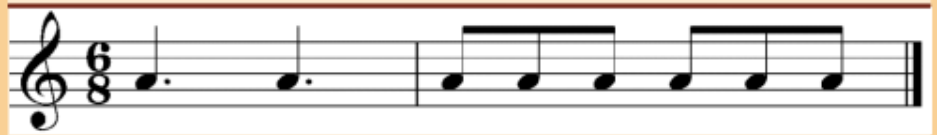
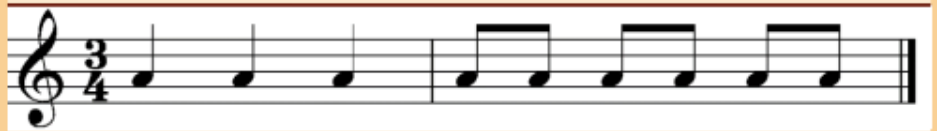
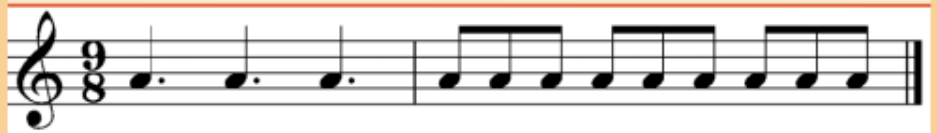
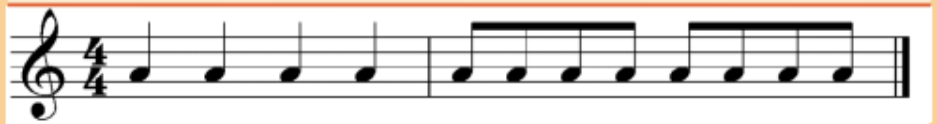
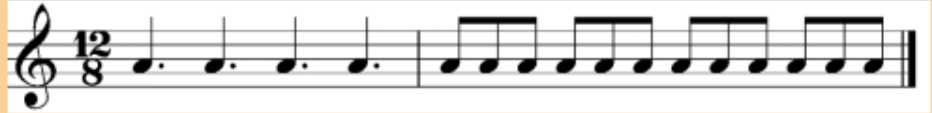
F C G D A E B

Order of sharps # →

← Order of flats *b*



Treble clef notes

Bass clef notes

Time signatures

Two crotchet beats per bar: simple duple

Two dotted crotchet beats per bar: compound duple

Three crotchet beats per bar: simple triple

Three dotted crotchet beats per bar: compound triple

Four crotchet beats per bar: simple quadruple

Four dotted crotchet beats per bar: compound quadruple

A triplet is when three notes are played in the time of two.