

# Practice Questions

*Have the music open in front of you when you answer these questions.*

1. What is the **title** of the piece?  
Explain what the title means, or why you think the composer chose that name.
2. What is the name of the composer?  
Is the composer still alive?
3. Complete this sentence:  
The **time signature** of this piece indicates \_\_\_\_\_ in each bar.
4. Does this piece begin with a shorter bar than usual?  
If so, what is the name for the short bar at the start of the piece?
5. What is the **key** of the piece?  
Do you know how to play that scale on the piano?
6. You need to be able to identify the **letter name** of each note in the piece.  
Name the starting note(s) of the piece.  
What is the highest note of the piece?  
What is the lowest note of the piece?  
Practise naming the other notes as well. Don't forget to say sharp or flat if you need it.
7. Identify all of the **time names** (e.g. minim, dotted crotchet, etc.) that you can find.  
How many beats does each type of note receive?
8. Name all of the rests that you can find in the piece.  
How many beats does each type of rest receive?
9. What is the tempo (speed) of this piece?  
What is the suggested metronome setting (in beats per minute)?
10. Explain any other **musical words** or abbreviations that you can find in the piece.  
If it is an abbreviation (e.g. "*cresc.*" or "*rall.*"), what is the full word?
11. Point out any of these signs that apply to your piece: stave, treble clef, bass clef, leger line, sharp, flat, natural, bar line, double bar line.
12. Identify all of the dynamic markings in the piece (e.g. *f*, *mp*, ).  
Say the Italian name of each one, and explain what it means in English.
13. Explain any other **musical signs** (e.g. >, ·, ∩) that you can see in the piece.

*Now that you have learnt the meaning of the performance instructions in your pieces, think about how you can use this knowledge to continue to improve your playing.*

# Basic Signs and Terms

## Pitch

A *treble clef*  indicates notes of high pitch. A *bass clef*  indicates notes of low pitch.

 is a *stave* or *staff*. Notes are written on the lines or in the spaces of the stave.

In piano music, two staves are used, connected by a *brace* {

The small lines for notes above or below the stave are *leger lines*.

		
sharp	natural	flat
raises the pitch of a note by one semitone	Cancels a sharp or flat	lowers the pitch of a note by one semitone

## Duration

				
semibreve whole note	minim half note	crotchet quarter note	quaver eighth note	semiquaver sixteenth note

The *time signature* shows how many beats are in each bar. A *bar line* shows the end of a bar.

If the time signature shows crotchet beats, a semibreve would receive four beats, a minim would receive two beats, a crotchet would receive one beat and a quaver would receive half a beat.

A semibreve rest is also called a *whole bar rest*.

A dot after a note or a rest adds half of its value. So  $\text{dotted crotchet} = \text{crotchet} + \text{quaver}$

Curved lines linking notes of the same pitch are *ties*, which join two notes into one longer note.

## Dynamics

<i>pp</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mp</i>	<i>mf</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>ff</i>
<i>pianissimo</i> very soft	<i>piano</i> soft	<i>mezzo piano</i> moderately soft	<i>mezzo forte</i> moderately loud	<i>forte</i> loud	<i>fortissimo</i> very loud
 <i>crescendo</i> gradually becoming louder			 <i>diminuendo</i> gradually becoming softer		

## Articulation

Curved lines joining notes of different pitch are *slurs*. Slurred notes should be played *legato* (smoothly and well connected).

*Staccato*, indicated by a dot above or below a note, means short and detached.

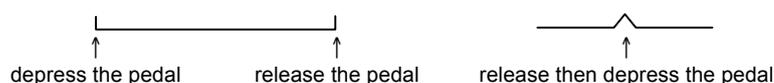
## Other signs

An accent (>) means emphasise the note.

:|| means repeat from the beginning; ||: || means repeat the section between the signs.

Some pieces have alternative endings for repeating sections (first and second time bars). If the repeat is not played, the first time ending should be omitted.

Sustaining pedal signs:



A *double bar line* indicates the end of a section (||) or the end of the piece (|||).