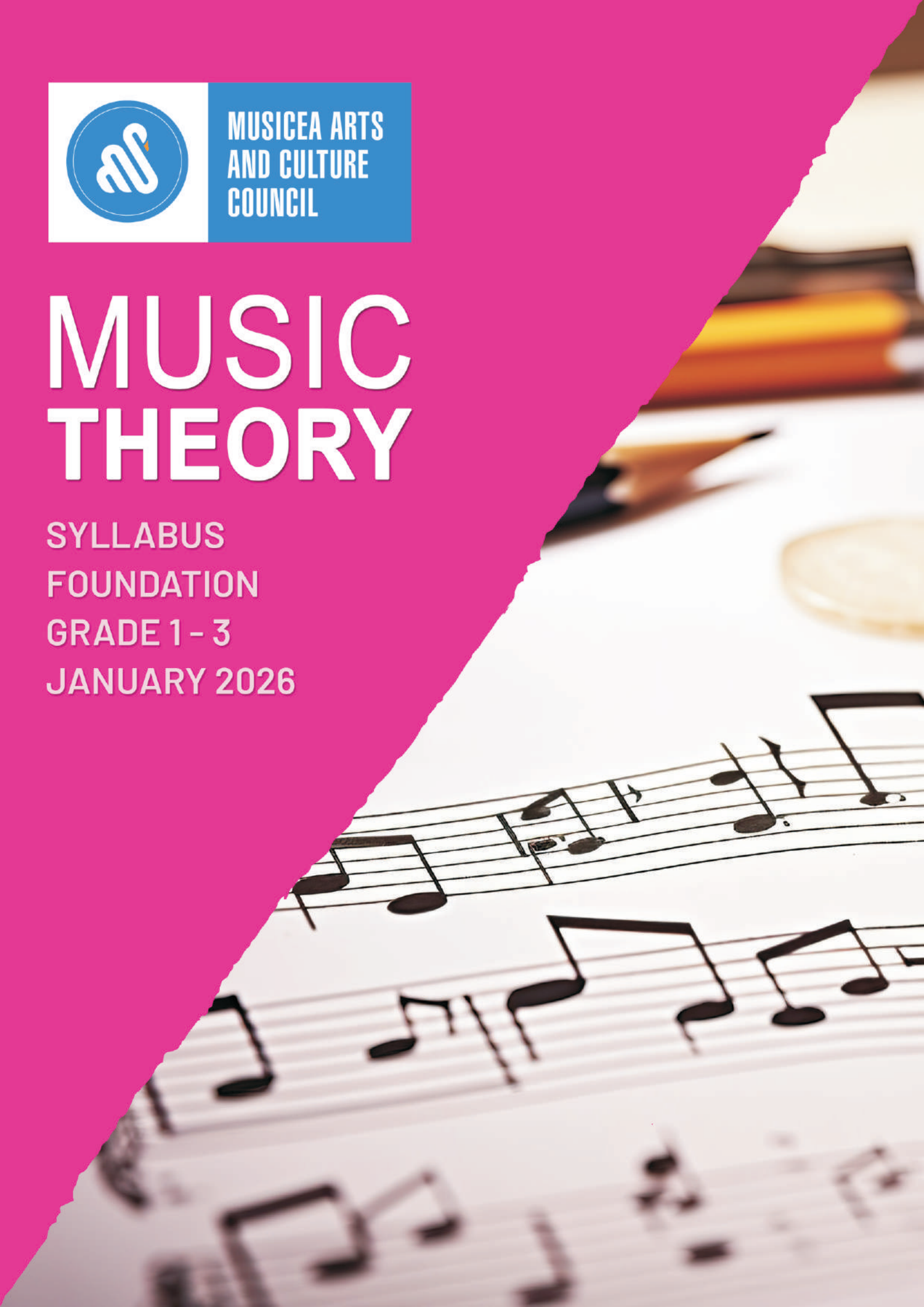




MUSICEA ARTS
AND CULTURE
COUNCIL

MUSIC THEORY

SYLLABUS
FOUNDATION
GRADE 1 - 3
JANUARY 2026



Foreword



Welcome to the Musicea Arts and Culture Council

Musicea Arts and Culture Council is a non-profit international educational institution incorporated as a Section 8 Company of the Indian Companies Act, 2013. The primary objective of incorporation is to prepare syllabi, offer qualifications, assist in careers and jobs, recognise, award and honour achievements and promote young candidates in music, dance, theatre, language, arts and sports. Musicea Arts and Culture Council is a college of national and international educators sharing the dream of creating a world-class international institution based in India to provide opportunities, solutions and recognition to both students and teachers.

Musicea Arts and Culture Council offer different international graded levels of graded syllabi and assessment. Several innovative and path-breaking measures implemented by the college council make it inclusive, holistic, and apt for 21st-century music education. The pioneering initiatives are transforming the lives of thousands of educators and students. Musicea Arts and Culture Council initiatives play an active role in developing a nation by assisting millions of aspiring students and teachers. Several initiatives are in place to protect, serve, and empower the teachers and students. Member teachers and students receive a series of direct benefits, honour and advantages from the Musicea Arts and Culture Council. Two of the many pioneering initiatives are students receive Scholarships and teachers receive Pension Benefit Schemes.

Musicea Arts and Culture Council is also committed to preserving, nurturing, and promoting the rich heritage and traditions of Indian and World Music and the Arts. The syllabi are refreshing and educational. All aspects of the syllabi are in sequential order concerning the academic merit underlying each requirement. The selection of pieces and songs is a meticulous and progressive process. Breaking from the narrow-based idea of a fixed book for examination, Musicea Arts and Culture Council broadens the scope of learning and performing by prescribing a suggestive list of all-time favourite pieces and songs. Education is beyond the scope of one book and format. 21st-century learning demands a fun-filled, open and broad-spectrum far beyond forced education. The Free Choice option allows a candidate to perform pre-approved self-composition or arrangement. Modern subjects encourage a candidate to embellish and improvise. The Musicianship is a pioneering inclusion that makes the examination more interesting. Musicea Arts and Culture Council have been at the forefront in preserving, nurturing and promoting music and the arts.

Musicea Arts and Culture Council Qualification

Musicea Arts and Culture Council qualifications are comprehensive and cater for those interested academically or as a performer. The lists contain works ranging from early times to up-to-date contemporary examples, plus own choice options.

All works are carefully selected and sequentially graded. Teachers preparing students for Musicea Arts and Culture Council qualifications will have a clear and detailed outline to develop their lessons. Musicea Arts and Culture Council qualification make provision for different abilities and provide a goal for candidates. Examination reports reflect a reliable assessment of progress and, by comments and marks, assist individual development. However, there are many ways to improve the skills and, candidates should look beyond the scope of only assessment-related studies.

In each Musicea syllabus, teachers will find the requisites of a training system for their students through the different Levels and Grades. The aim is to encourage personal development in music and dance in each individual. It is the wish of the Musicea to support teachers and their students in developing their skills, acquisition of knowledge and enhanced self-confidence according to age and experience, not to discourage and set impossible or unrealistic standards.

Examination Module

Musicea offers a diverse range of examination modules. A candidate is free to select any of the examination modules according to their choice, objective and strength. A candidate may or may not switch the examination module in the next higher level or grade examination. Followings are the examination module:

- ✍ Online and Physical candidates may choose to appear for either Musicea Regular or Musicea Recital examination.
- ✍ For the Musicea Recital examination, a candidate (both Online and Physical) will perform FIVE pieces or songs.
- ✍ Musicea Regular examination for Online and Physical is slightly different.
 - For Musicea Regular Online examination, a candidate should prepare THREE pieces or songs, Technical Exercise, Study, and Musical Knowledge.
 - For Musicea Regular Physical examination, a candidate should prepare THREE pieces or songs, Technical Exercise, Musicianship or Study, and Musical Knowledge.

Musicea Arts and Culture Council offer several unique, pioneering and groundbreaking services. Musicea Arts and Culture Council offer **scholarships** to examination candidates. The feature of the scholarship is a historical first offered by Musicea Arts and Culture Council.

Musicea Arts and Culture Council, a pioneer for Online Music Exams are offering online services since 2018. Musicea offers both Live Stream Exams and Recorded Exams. Musicea realised the future of digital services and online education back in 2017 and began digital internet-based offerings and online music exams. Musicea is a pioneer for online graded music exams and the monthly online digital concert, Musicea Yuva Festival.

Music Theory

Syllabus, January 2022

Foundation

Duration: One hour

1. Pitch

- a. The Treble or G Clef.
- b. Name of the lines and spaces up to one ledger line up and down.
- c. The Bass or F Clef.
- d. Name of the lines and spaces up to one ledger line up and down.
- e. Adding note stems in the correct direction.

2. Time and Duration

- a. Writing the following values: semibreve, minim, crotchet (notes and rests).
- b. Recognition of the time signatures 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 (common time or C), and the number of beats per bar.
- c. Division of notes into those of lesser value.
- d. Adding bar lines and time signatures to a given rhythm.
- e. Completing bars by adding a note or rest as required.
- f. Whole bar rest in any time signature.

3. Signs

- a. Bar line, double bar lines, repeat sign.
- b. Anacrusis, legato, staccato, tie, metronome marking.

4. Scales

- a. Recognition and writing of C major and A natural minor, ascending and descending, one octave only.
- b. The positioning of tones and semitones in C major.
- c. The writing of scale degree numbers under the notes.

5. Dynamics and other signs

- a. Recognition and writing Italian and English meaning of p, mp, mf, f.
- b. Recognition and writing the English meaning of crescendo and decrescendo.

6. Genre and Style

- a. A brief explanation of Waltz, March, Swing.
- b. A brief explanation of Classical, Jazz, Rock.

7. Musical Terminology

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|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Crescendo, cresc. | : gradually getting louder |
| Diminuendo, dim. | : gradually getting softer |
| Forte, f | : loud |
| Fine | : the end |
| Legato | : smooth and connected |
| Mezzo piano, mp | : moderately soft |
| Mezzo forte, mf | : moderately loud |
| Piano, p | : soft |
| Staccato | : short and detached |
| Rallentando, rall. | : gradually becoming slower |
| Tempo | : speed |

Following are some sample questions for the Preparatory examination paper:

- ✍ To draw treble and bass clef.
- ✍ To name notes using the appropriate letter (A-G) in either the treble or the bass clef.
- ✍ To write the total value of a given bar in crotchet beats (2, 3 or 4).
- ✍ To tick the correct box to mark the time signature.
- ✍ To write the correct time signature for a given bar of 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 time.
- ✍ To write a note that is half or double the value of a given note.
- ✍ To complete a bar by adding appropriate notes or rests.
- ✍ To write the meanings of the different signs for this grade.
- ✍ To write a rest that is equivalent in value to a given note or group of notes.
- ✍ To add the missing bar lines and add the correct time signature.
- ✍ To write the scales of C major and A natural minor, ascending and descending.
- ✍ To write the English meanings of the musical terminology.
- ✍ To briefly describe the genres and styles.

Grade 1

Duration: One hour thirty minutes

1. Pitch

- a. Name of the lines and spaces (treble and bass) up to two ledger lines up and down.
- b. Recognition of accidentals (sharp, flat, natural) and key signature up to one sharp and flat (major and minor).

2. Time and Duration

- a. Knowledge of the previous grade, with the inclusion of quaver, dotted minim and dotted crochet (notes and rests).
- b. Grouping of notes and rests in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time.
- c. Pairing quavers beamed in 2s, 4s, and 6s.
- d. Tied notes.
- e. Add the missing bar lines, time signatures and correct mistakes.

3. Dynamics and Signs

- a. Knowledge of the previous grade, with the addition of pp and ff.
- b. Knowledge of the previous grade, with the addition of accent.

4. Scales

- a. Recognition and writing of C, G, F major and A, E, D harmonic minor, ascending and descending, using key signature or accidental, one octave.
- b. The positioning of tones and semitones.
- c. The writing of scale degree numbers under the notes.

5. Intervals

- a. Recognition and writing (by number) of the diatonic intervals (treble clef), above the tonic note, in the key of C, G, F major and A, E, D harmonic minor.

6. Triads

- a. Recognition and writing of the tonic triad, in root position, in the key of C, G, F major and A, E, D harmonic minor. Treble clef only.
- b. Recognition and writing of the subdominant and dominant triad, root position, of in the key of C, G, and F major. Treble clef only.

7. Tempo Markings

- a. Recognition and writing the English meaning of Adagio, Lento, Andante, Allegro, and a tempo.

8. Solfa

- a. Recognition and writing names of the seven Solfa.

9. Music Analysis

- a. Questions on all topics covered from the previous grade and this grade.

10. Musical Terminology

Accelerando, accel.	: gradually becoming faster
Adagio	: in slow time
Allegro	: fast and lively
Andante	: at an easy walking pace
A tempo	: return to the original speed
Dolce	: sweetly and gently
Fermata	: pause on the specific note
Fortissimo, ff	: very loud
Lento	: slowly
Moderato	: at a moderate speed
Presto	: very fast
Pianissimo, pp	: very soft
Ritardando, rit.	: gradually becoming slower

Some sample questions for the Grade 1 examination paper. Includes knowledge of the previous grades. The following are add-ons:

- ✍ To write the notes name and to identify the written notes, including notes with accidentals.
- ✍ To add the correct time signature to a given bar.
- ✍ To complete a bar by adding appropriate rests or notes.
- ✍ To correctly group rests and notes in 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4 time.
- ✍ To correct mistakes in a passage.
- ✍ To match notes and rests.
- ✍ To add the missing bar lines and add the correct time signature.
- ✍ To describe the top and bottom number of a simple time signature.
- ✍ To write and recognize the key signatures of major and minor scales up to one sharp and flat.
- ✍ To write and recognize the tonic, subdominant and dominant triads in the major keys.
- ✍ To write and recognize the tonic triads in the major keys.
- ✍ To write and recognize the interval over the tonic key.
- ✍ To identify tones and semitones.
- ✍ To write major and minor scales using the correct key signature and/or accidentals.
- ✍ To identify the key of a melody.
- ✍ To answer questions on a given melody.
- ✍ To write the English meanings of the musical terminology.

Grade 2

Duration: Two hours

1. **Pitch**
 - a. Name of the lines and spaces (treble and bass) up to three ledger lines up and down.
 - b. Recognition of accidentals (sharp, flat, natural) and key signature up to two sharp and flat (major and minor).
2. **Time and Duration**
 - a. Knowledge of the previous grade, with the inclusion of dotted quaver, semiquaver (notes and rests) and triplets using quaver and crotchet notes.
 - b. Grouping of notes and rests in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 2/2, and 3/2 time.
 - c. Understanding of the terms simple time, simple duple, simple triple, simple quadruple and triplet.
 - d. Understanding of top number and bottom number of the time signature.
 - e. Add the missing bar lines, time signatures and correct mistakes.
3. **Scales**
 - a. Knowledge of the previous grades and further recognition and writing of D major and B harmonic minor, ascending and descending, using key signature or accidental, two octaves.
 - b. The positioning of tones and semitones.
 - c. The writing of scale degree numbers under the notes.
4. **Intervals**
 - a. Recognition and writing of the diatonic intervals, above the tonic note, in the keys set for the previous grades and this grade. Treble and bass clef. Major, minor and perfect only.
5. **Triads**
 - a. The root position tonic, subdominant, and dominant triads, in the major and minor keys set for the previous grades and this grade. Treble and bass clef.
 - b. The root position triad on all the seven notes of a major scale set for the previous grades and this grade. Treble and bass clef.
 - c. Writing chord progression using tonic, subdominant and dominant triads using the keys of the previous grades and this grade. Major and minor key.
6. **Enharmonic Notes**
 - a. Understanding of enharmonic notes.
7. **Relative Minor Key**
 - a. Recognition of the relative minor key of the major keys of the previous grades and this grade.
8. **Multiple Choice Questions**
9. **Correcting Mistakes**
10. **Music Analysis**
 - a. Questions on all topics covered from the previous grade and this grade.

11. **Musical Terminology**

Adagietto	: Faster than adagio
Allegretto	: moderately fast
Andantino	: slightly faster than andante
Cantabile	: in a singing style
Coda	: the ending section of a piece
Da capo	: from the beginning
Grave	: slow
Largo	: slow and majestic
Larghetto	: Not as slow as largo
Marcato	: marked
Molto	: very
Poco	: little
Prestissimo	: extremely fast
Rubato	: Free flowing, do not follow a strict tempo
Tenuto	: hold on or sustain

Some sample questions for the Grade 2 examination paper. Includes knowledge of the previous grades. The following are add-ons:

- ✍ To write the notes name and to identify the written notes, including notes with accidentals.
- ✍ To write the correct time signature to a given bar.
- ✍ To complete a bar by adding appropriate notes and rests.
- ✍ To correctly group rests and notes.
- ✍ To add the missing bar lines and add the correct time signature.
- ✍ To correct mistakes in a given passage.
- ✍ To write the meaning of simple time, simple duple, simple triple, simple quadruple and triplet.
- ✍ To write and recognize the key signatures of major and minor scales up to two sharps and flats.
- ✍ To write and recognize the perfect, major and minor intervals over the tonic key.
- ✍ To write and recognize the tonic, subdominant and dominant triads in the major and minor keys.
- ✍ To write major and minor scales using the correct key signature and/or accidentals.
- ✍ To identify the key of a melody.
- ✍ To answer questions on a given melody.
- ✍ To write the English meanings of the musical terminology.

Grade 3

Duration: Two hours

1. **Pitch**
 - a. Knowledge of the previous grades, and including all ledger lines.
2. **Time and duration**
 - a. Knowledge of the previous grades, with the addition of breve, dotted semibreve, dotted semiquaver, demi semiquaver (notes and rests).
 - b. Duplets and triplets using any note or rest value.
 - c. Knowledge of duple, triple, quadruple simple and compound time. Time signatures will include all from the previous grades and 4/2, 3/8, 6/8, 9/8.
 - d. Grouping of quaver and semiquaver notes and rests in simple and compound time.
 - e. Syncopation.
3. **Scales**
 - a. Knowledge of the previous grades and further recognition and writing of scales up to three sharps and flats, ascending and descending, using key signature or accidental, two octaves. Major, natural, harmonic and melodic minor.
 - b. Technical degree names of a scale. Example: tonic, supertonic, etc.
 - c. Knowledge of the relative minor key.
 - d. Writing one octave chromatic scale starting on any note.
 - e. Identifying the key of a piece, major or minor, up to three sharps and flats.
4. **Intervals**
 - a. To write and recognize perfect, major and minor intervals, under or over any note within an octave.
5. **Arpeggio and Broken Chords**
 - a. Recognition and writing one octave arpeggio and broken chord of any major and minor scale up to three sharps and flats.
6. **Triads**
 - a. Root position, 1st inversion and 2nd inversion triad of all the notes in a major or minor scale up to three sharps or flats.
7. **Multiple Choice Questions**
8. **Correcting mistakes**
9. **Music Analysis**
10. **Musical Terminology**

Al, alla, con, da Capo al Fine, down-bow, leggiero, marcato, marziale, meno, mosso, moto, non, piu, semi-staccato, tranquillo, troppo, up-bow, vivo.

Some sample questions for the Grade 3 examination paper. Includes knowledge of the previous grades. The following are add-ons:

- ✎ To write the notes name and to identify the written notes, including notes with accidentals.
- ✎ To write the correct time signature to a given bar.
- ✎ To complete a bar by adding appropriate notes and rests.
- ✎ To correctly group rests and notes.
- ✎ To add the missing bar lines and add the correct time signature.
- ✎ To correct mistakes in a given passage.
- ✎ To write duple, triple, quadruple simple, compound time, syncopation duplets and triplets..
- ✎ To write and recognize the key signatures of major and minor scales up to three sharps and flats.
- ✎ To write the perfect, major and minor intervals over and under any note within an octave.
- ✎ To write and recognize the three primary triads in three inversions in the major and minor keys.
- ✎ To write major and minor scales (all three types) using the correct key signature and/or accidentals.
- ✎ To transpose a passage from a major key to relative minor key and vice versa.
- ✎ To write an octave of the chromatic scale starting from any key.
- ✎ To write arpeggios and broken chords.
- ✎ To identify the key of a melody.
- ✎ To add a bass line to a melody and vice versa.
- ✎ To answer questions on a given melody.
- ✎ To write the English meanings of the musical terminology.