

BTEC Music Transition Booklet

2026-27



Full Name: _____

Key Areas of Focus	
Introduction to BTEC Course	BTEC National qualification provides learners with transferable knowledge and skills through applied learning. The qualification prepares learners for a range of higher education courses and job roles related to a particular sector. The qualification covers a variety of practical music making skills such as solo and ensemble performance in a live setting, as well as the opportunities to study music theory and harmony , music business and sound engineering and recording . Learners will study 3 mandatory units, plus 1 optional unit for the completed qualification.
GCSE Link	GCSE music / BTEC L1/2 Tech Music / Grade 4 Instrumental exams (ABRSM or RSL or Trinity) and GCSE English.
Skills	Performance techniques, communication skills, teamwork, personal vocal/instrumental technique, literacy, comprehension, analytic skills, observation, interpretation, problem solving, planning, reflecting and evaluating.
Wider Reading and Listening.	<u>Recommended books to buy:</u> • 'The AB Guide to Music Theory – Part 1' by Eric Taylor (bright pink cover). • 'ABRSM Music Theory in Practice' grades 1- 4 (again by Eric Taylor) • Jimmy Hendrix- Hey Joe (Guitar / live) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUPifXX0foU • Rachelle Farrell-I Can explain (Voice & Piano / live) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjEsQWoBU_o • Jessie J - Defying Gravity (Wicked - voice with a live orchestra) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISPP5N7-2DE • Questlove & F Knuckles- Improvisation (Drum duo / live) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVYqG0t0EV4 • Beverley Knight- I have nothing (Solo voice / live) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=az07FD52Bcl&list=RDaz07FD52Bcl&start_radio=1&t=7 • Herbie Hancock - Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue (Piano solo) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQsNzqv-P9M

Qualification at a glance

The **BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance** is equivalent to an A-level, studied over **two years** (360 hours)

There are **three mandatory units**

- 1 Practical music theory and harmony (25%)
- 2 Professional practise in the music industry (25%)
- 3 Ensemble music performance (33%)

One optional unit (17%) – students can choose one of the following:

Composing music

Music performance session styles

Solo performance

Improvising music

What skills will I develop?

BTEC Nationals provide the opportunity to develop **employability skills** such as

...cognitive and problem-solving skills

...interpersonal skills

...intrapersonal skills

The qualification also provides skills **transferable to higher education** such as

...the ability to learn independently

...the ability to research actively and methodically

...the ability to give presentations

The extended certificate in **Music Performance** allows learners to develop

...effective writing, analytical and presentation skills

...critical and reflective practise routines

...solo and ensemble creative musicianship

...live performance skills



Y11 to Y12 TRANSITION MUSIC WORK

In the first week of your course you will be expected perform:

1. A piece of music that is between 2 and 3 minutes in duration. Your piece must be well rehearsed and you must provide the sheet music and any necessary accompaniment or backing tracks.
2. To hand in the completed Music Theory work in this booklet.

Recommended books to buy:

- 'The AB Guide to Music Theory – Part 1' by Eric Taylor (bright pink cover).
- 'ABRSM Music Theory in Practice' grades 1- 4 by Eric Taylor

Analyse the performances in the wider listening and reading section on the first page. Identify the: playing techniques, skills used to enhance stage presence, facial expression, musical expression (e.g. dynamics) and communication with the audience. Write your answers on a separate sheet.

Go to as many live performances as you can. There are lots of free music concerts & festivals in London throughout the summer such as 'Under the Stars' in Eastham Park (the Borough of Newham) or Alfresco Arts Music in Canary Wharf (in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets).
<https://canarywharf.com/whats-on/alfresco-arts-music/>

Task 1: Notation

Music is written through symbols called **notes**. These notes are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet, A-G.

Music notes are written on the lines or in the spaces of five lines, called the _ _ _ _ _.

Name the clef symbols:  _____  _____  _____

Name the notes and pay attention to the clef they are written in.



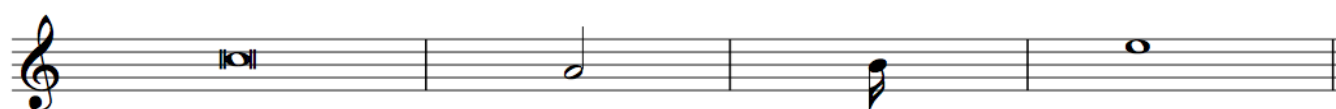


Task 2: Note Values

There are many different types of notes. This is to represent how many beats each note is worth. They all look different and have a name.

What are the correct names of the following note values?





How long is each note? Complete the following sentences with the right answer. The first and the last sentences have been completed as examples.



lasts as long as 2



lasts as long as__



lasts as long as __



lasts as long as__



lasts as long as __

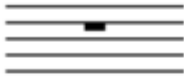
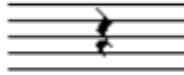
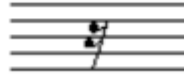


lasts as long as 8



Task 3: Rests

As well as playing notes, there are times in the music when there are silences and pauses. These are called rests. Rests have the same names as the notes that they match up with:

		Semibreve Rest	=	4 beats
		Minim Rest	=	2 beats
		Crotchet Rest	=	1 beat
		Quaver Rest	=	1/2 beat
		Semi-quaver Rest	=	1/4 beat

Using the staff below, practice drawing all the rest symbols accurately. Draw each symbol at least two times.



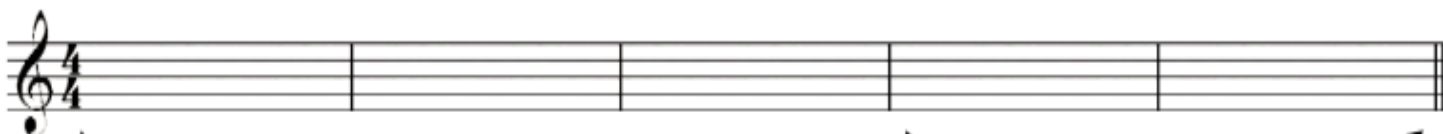
Task 4: Music Symbols

The symbol at the beginning is called a treble clef.

Music notes are divided by lines on the stave, called **bar lines**.

At the very end of a piece of music there is always a **double bar line**.

The set of numbers at the beginning of a piece of music is called the **time signature**. Sharp and Flat symbols near a clef are called a **key signature**.



Complete the following bars by inserting the correct rest (or rests) at the places marked with an asterisk.



Task 5: Time Signatures

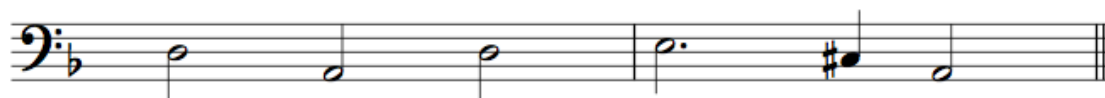
It is very important to be able to count music. In all music you will find a time signature, which tells you everything you need to know when counting music.

Time signatures are always placed at the beginning of a piece of music.

The top number tells you how many beats there are in each bar. For example, 4/4 means that there are 4 beats in each bar. The bottom number tells the type of beats they are.

Look at the time signatures below. For each one write down what the **top** and **bottom** numbers tell you about the beats in each bar.

Insert the correct time signature for each of the following examples.



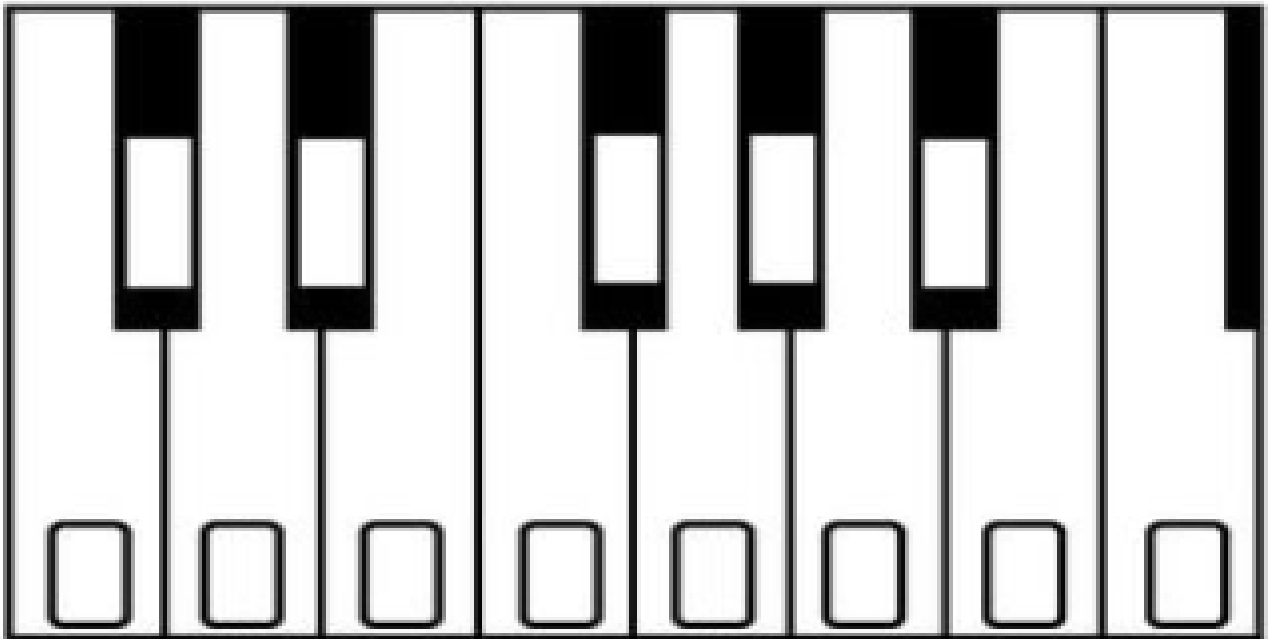
Task 6: Piano Keys

The keys on a piano have names that match up with the names of music notes on a staff. Every black note on a piano has two different names. The two symbols below represent this.

Is the symbol for a **sharp**. **b** Is the symbol for a **flat**.

For example: *E b* means E flat, and *C $\sharp$* means C sharp.

Label the keyboard diagram and include both names of the black keys.

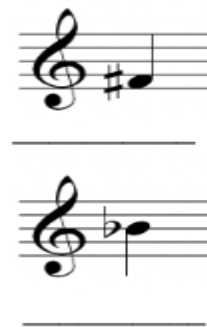


Task 7: Accidentals (Sharps & Flats)

We've already had a brief look at **sharps** and **flats**. On a piano every single black key is either a sharp or a flat, as it has two names.

The reason for the black keys having two names is because if you flatten a note, it is being made to sound lower. If you sharpen a note, it is being made to sound higher.

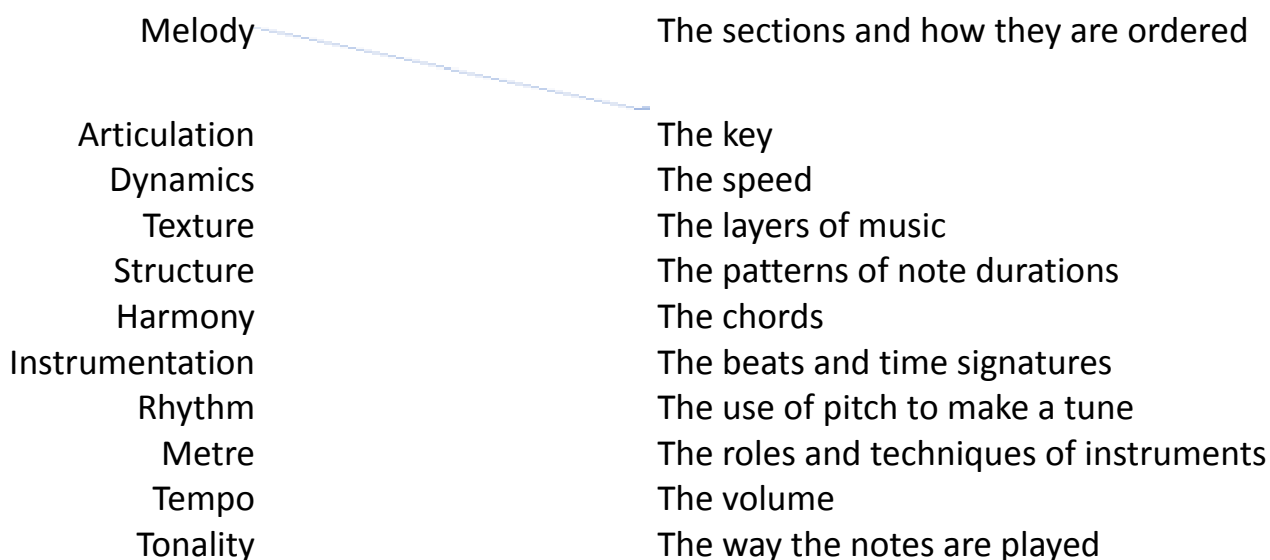
Look at the following notes and their symbols. Identify the name of the notes, (e.g. *A $\sharp$* *B b*) and say whether they have been made to sound lower, or higher.



Task 8: Elements of Music

The elements of music are essential to make music and to describe music.

Connect the musical elements to their correct definitions (the first one has been done for you).



For each musical element give an example of a feature/device and its definition.

Element	Feature/Device	Definition
Melody	<i>Trill</i>	<i>An ornament - rapid alternation between notes</i>
Articulation		
Dynamics		
Texture		
Structure		
Harmony		
Instrumentation		
Rhythm		
Metre		
Tempo		
Tonality		

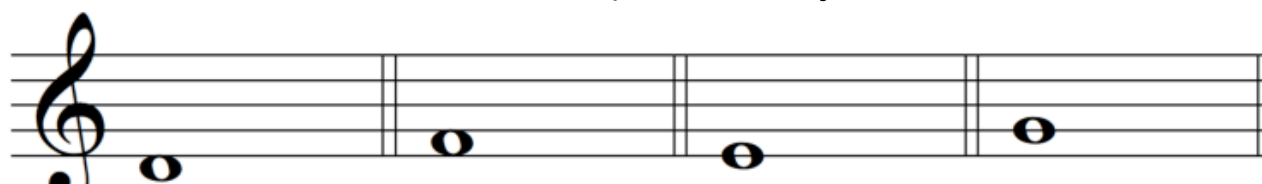
Task 9: Chords and Triads

Complete the sentences:

A chord is

A triad is.....

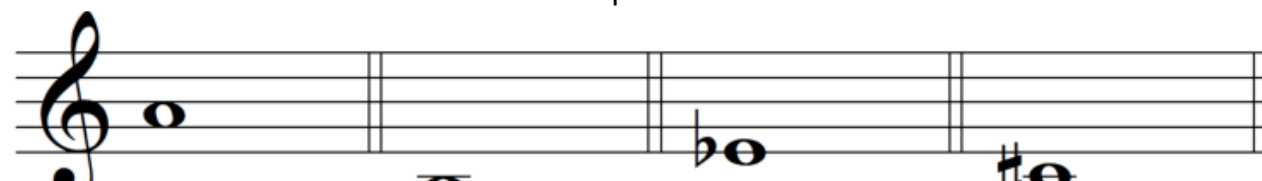
Add the correct notes and accidentals to complete these **major** chords.



A musical staff in treble clef divided into four measures. The first measure contains a single note on the second line (D). The second measure contains a single note on the first space (F). The third measure contains a single note on the first line (E). The fourth measure contains a single note on the second space (G).

D major F major E major G major

Add the correct notes and accidentals to complete these **minor** chords.



A musical staff in treble clef divided into four measures. The first measure contains a single note on the second line (D). The second measure contains a single note on the first space (F). The third measure contains a single note on the first line (E) with a flat accidental. The fourth measure contains a single note on the second space (G) with a sharp accidental.

A minor B minor Eb minor C# minor

Identify the triads by placing an X on the correct keys on the diagram.



F major



D major



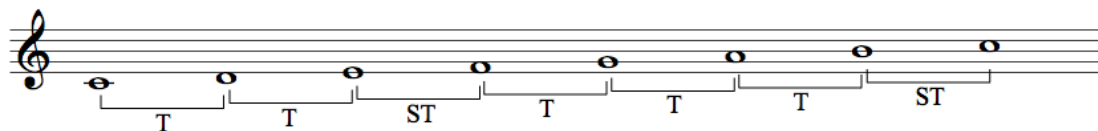
A major



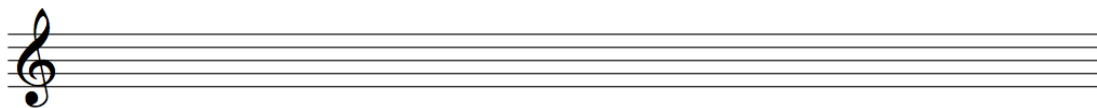
E_b major

Task 10: Major Scales

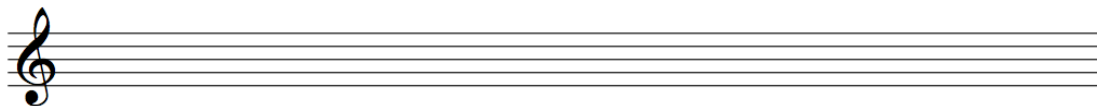
The C major scale is given below, along with the intervals between each note (T = tone, ST = semitone).



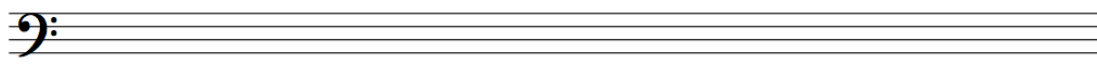
Write out the following ascending scales using accidentals to show the sharps and flats (rather than key signatures). You do not need to label the intervals between the notes.



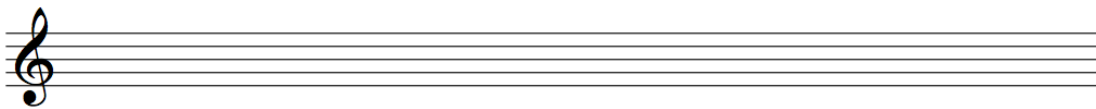
F major



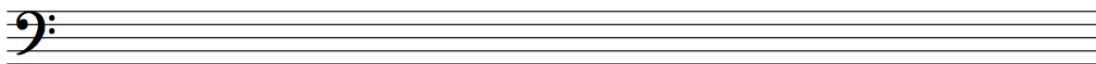
A major



D major



G major



Bb major