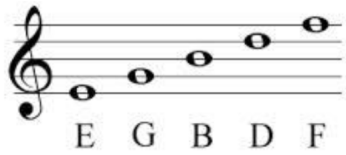
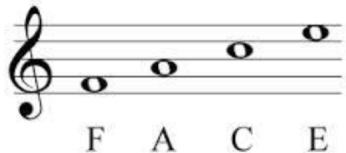


# RSL Grade 5 Theory

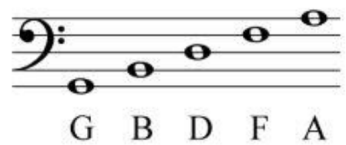
## Pitch Names



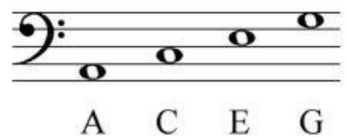
Every **G**ood **B**oy **D**eserves **F**ootball



Spells **F**ACE



Great **B**ig **D**ogs **F**righ**A**untie



All **C**ows **E**at **G**rass

## Accidentals - Sharp, Flat & Natural

Accidentals sit next to notes, but be sure to always check the key signatures too. (Tip: if the key has accidentals, check all octaves not just the one the key signature shows)



Flat notes drop by a semitone/half step



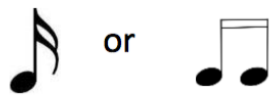
Sharp notes raise by a semitone/half step



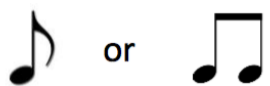
Natural notes are in their original, "natural" position

# RSL Grade 5 Theory

## Note Values



Semiquaver/Sixteenth 1/4 beat



Quaver/Eighth 1/2 beat



Crotchet/Quarter 1 beat



Minim/Half 2 beats



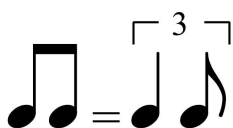
Semibreve/Whole 4 beats

## Dotted Rhythms



A dot means you add half the note value again

## Swung Rhythm Marking



Each pair of quavers (eighth) are played as a crotchet (quarter) and a quaver tied as a triplet

# RSL Grade 5

## Theory

### Rests



Semiquaver/Sixteenth 1/4 beat



Quaver/Eighth 1/2 beat



Crotchet/Quarter 1 beat



Minim/Half 2 beats



Semibreve/Whole 4 beats

### Time Signatures



#### Top Number

How many beats per bar

#### Bottom Number

What type of beats you're counting in:

- 2 minim/half
- 4 crotchet/quarter
- 8 quaver/eighth

# RSL Grade 5

## Theory

### Key Signatures



The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff contains eight measures, each with a key signature symbol (sharps) and a corresponding key name: C major, G major, D major, A major, E major, B major, F# major, and C# major. The bottom staff contains eight measures, each with a key signature symbol (flats) and a corresponding key name: F major, Bb major, Eb major, Ab major, Db major, Gb major, and Cb major. Below each staff, the names of the relative minor keys are listed: A minor, E minor, B minor, F# minor, C# minor, G# minor, D# minor, and A# minor for the top staff; and D minor, G minor, C minor, F minor, Bb minor, Eb minor, and Ab minor for the bottom staff.

C major	G major	D major	A major	E major	B major	F# major	C# major
A minor	E minor	B minor	F# minor	C# minor	G# minor	D# minor	A# minor
C major	F major	Bb major	Eb major	Ab major	Db major	Gb major	Cb major
A minor	D minor	G minor	C minor	F minor	Bb minor	Eb minor	Ab minor

Sharp Key Signatures:

1 semi-tone higher than the last sharp **IS** the key signature

Flat Key Signatures:

The 2nd to last (penultimate) flat **IS** the key signature

### Relative Minor

The relative minor is 3 semitones lower than the major.

Whether a piece is major or minor can be tricky to decipher from sheet music, here's a few ways that can help:

- Are the first and final chords the tonic (root) of the major or minor key?
- Is there regular use of the tonic (root) and dominant (fifth) of the major or minor key throughout the piece?
- Minor keys tend to use a minor 7th/flattened 7th

### Tempo Marking

The tempo marking tells you the speed of the song by how many beats there are per minute.

$$\text{♩} = 120$$

This means there is 120 beats (crotchet/whole notes) per minute

# RSL Grade 5

## Theory

### Dynamic Markings

<b>pianissimo</b>	<b><i>pp</i></b>	very soft
<b>piano</b>	<b><i>p</i></b>	soft
<b>mezzo piano</b>	<b><i>mp</i></b>	slightly soft
<b>mezzo forte</b>	<b><i>mf</i></b>	slightly loud
<b>forte</b>	<b><i>f</i></b>	loud
<b>fortissimo</b>	<b><i>ff</i></b>	very loud
<b>fortepiano</b>	<b><i>fp</i></b>	loud then soft
<b>sforzando</b>	<b><i>sfz</i></b>	sudden accent
<b>Crescendo</b>		gradually getting louder
<b>Diminuendo</b>		gradually getting quieter

### Repeat Marks



First repeat mark tells you where the repeat starts



Second repeat mark tells you when to go back to the start of the repeated section and where the repeat ends

# RSL Grade 5 Theory

## Legato & Staccato



Staccato



Short/Detached



Legato/Slur

Smooth/Connected

## Additional Markings

<b>D.C</b>	da capo	"from the head"/repeat from the start
<b>D.S</b>	da segno	repeat from segno symbol 
<b>al Coda</b>	"from the sign"	jump to coda symbol 
<b>al Fine</b>	"to the end"	repeat the music through to the 'fine' marking
<b>ad-lib</b>	ad-libitum	Latin for "as you desire" Improvise that section of music