

GUIDE FOR THE EXAM OF UNIT 2

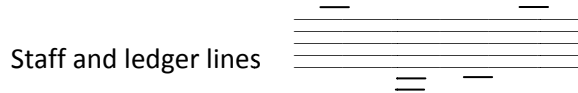
Here you have a guide to prepare for the next exam

1) Pitch, notes, staff, clef

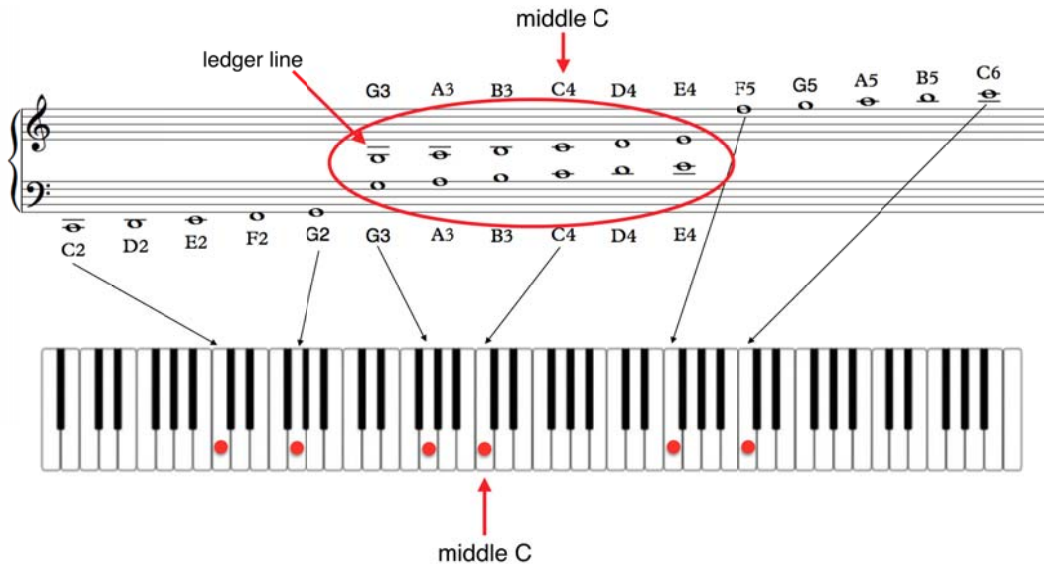
Pitch: is how high or low a sound is. According to its pitch the sounds have a name:

Letters	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
Syllables or sol-fa	DO	RE	MI	FA	SO	LA	TI

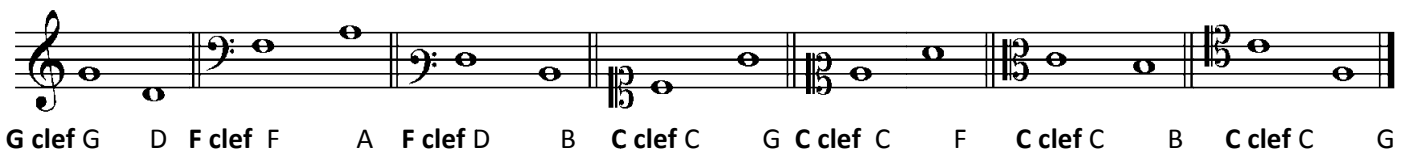
Staff (or stave): is the group of 5 horizontal lines and 4 spaces between them where we write the notes. Lower pitches are down and higher pitches are up. We use **ledger lines** for the notes that don't fit in the staff.



The **clef** is the symbol we write at the beginning of the staff to indicate the pitch of the notes. **G clef or treble clef** is generally used to write notes higher than C4, **F clef or bass clef** is used generally to write notes lower than C4.

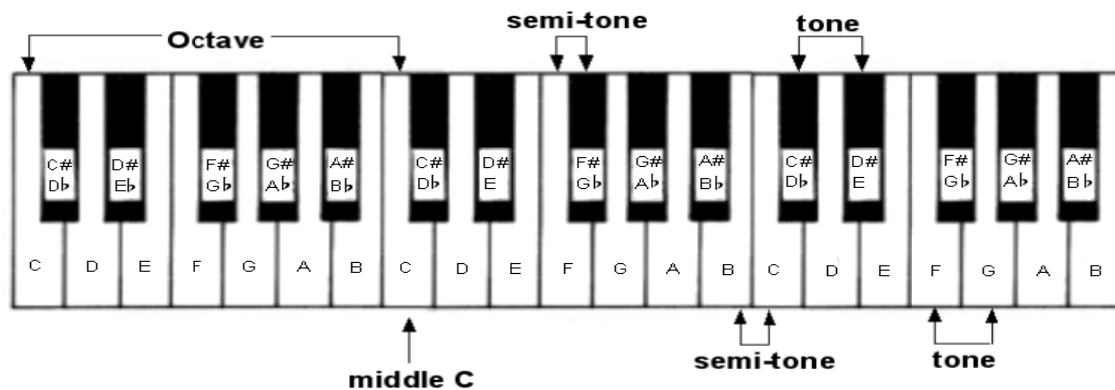


Apart from G clef and F clef, there are **other clefs**:



2) Tones and semitones, accidentals and enharmonic notes:

The notes are separated by **tones** and **semitones**. **Semitone** is the smallest difference between two notes. B to C or F to F# is a semitone. Twice a semitone is a **tone**. F to G or C# to D# is a tone.

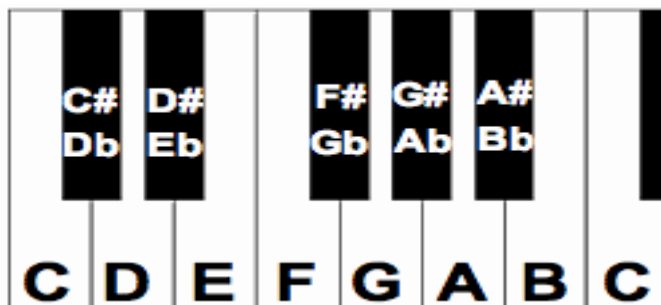


The **accidentals** change the pitch of a note by a **semitone**. They are



- **sharp** makes a note a semitone **higher**. **Double sharp** makes a note a **tone** higher.
- **flat** makes a note a semitone **lower**. **Double flat** makes a note a **tone** lower.
- **natural** : **cancels** the effect of previous accidentals

The accidentals are written **before** the note and **on the same line or space**.



Two notes that have the same sound are called **enharmonic notes**, for example Db and C#.

3) Intervals

Interval is the difference in pitch between two notes. Intervals can be **harmonic** or **melodic**. A melodic interval occurs when two notes are played **one after the other**. Melodic intervals can be **ascending** or **descending**. A **harmonic interval** occurs when two notes are played **at the same time**. When the two notes have the same pitch there is no interval, there is **unison**.



We name intervals according to their **size** with an ordinal number, counting the two notes of the interval and all the notes between them.

Melodic Intervals have two notes that are played separately, one at a time.



Harmonic Intervals have two notes that are played separately, one at a time.

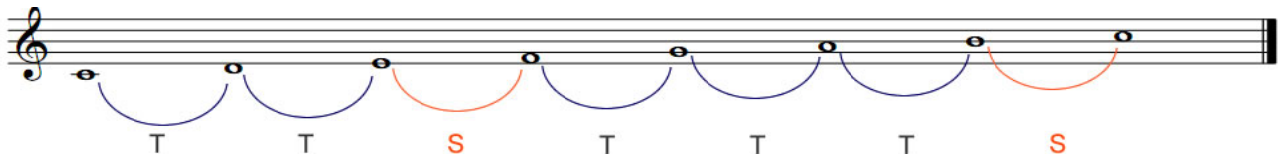


4) Scales

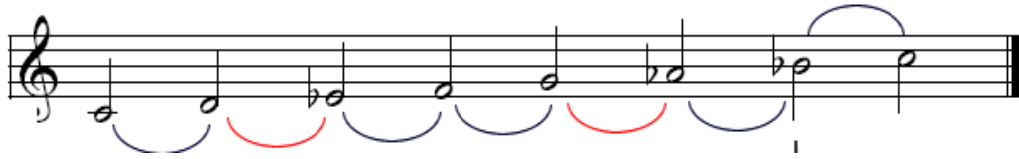
Scale is a **sequence of notes** in an **ascending or descending order**, from any note to its **octave**. The positions of the notes are the **degrees** of the scale, written in **Roman numerals**. The **first grade (I)** is the **tonic**, the **fifth (V)** the **dominant** and the **fourth (IV)** the **subdominant**. The tonic gives name to the scale. The scales sound different depending on the **position of the tones and semitones between their grades**.

There are different types of scale:

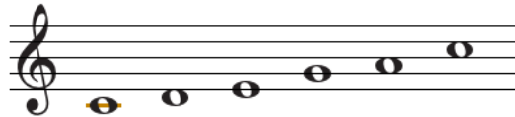
- **Diatonic scale**: **7 different sounds**, the 8th note is the octave. There are two subtypes:
 - a) **Major diatonic scale**: with the **semitones between III - IV and VII - I**. It sounds happy, optimistic.



b) **Minor diatonic scale:** with the **semitones between II - III and V - VI**. It sounds sad, pessimistic



- **Pentatonic scale: 5 different sounds.** It is like the major diatonic scale **without the IV and VII grades** (the ones that make semitones).



- **Chromatic scale:** it is a scale made with **all the sounds within an octave**. When it is ascending we use **sharps**, when it is descending we use the **flats** to indicate the sounds.



5) Melody

A **melody** is a **series of notes** with a **musical meaning**. Melodies are based on **scales**. In a melody we can observe its **line** (ascending, descending, horizontal, mixed) and the **type of intervals** it has (narrow -2nd, 3rd- or wide 6th, 7th ...)

6) Harmony (pp. 88-90 from your book)

The harmony is the use of **simultaneous pitches**. A **chord** is a **set of three or more** simultaneous pitches or **notes**. The most common chord is the **triad** (set of three notes). The three notes of a triad are:

- the **root** (the lower note)
- the **third** (above the root)
- the **fifth** (above the root)

The most important chords are built on the main degrees of a scale: I (Tonic), IV (Subdominant) and V (Dominant). For example, on the C scale. They are called **tonic chord**, **subdominant chord** and **dominant chord**. With these three chords you can accompany a lot of songs.



If the chords have 4 notes, the fourth one can be the **octave** or the **seventh** from the root.



When we play the notes of a chord one by one, we make an **arpeggio**.

arpeggio and seventh chord