






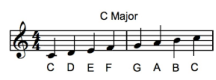

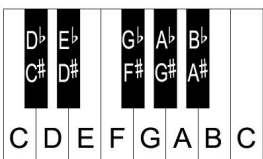
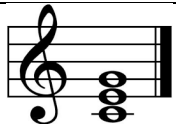






Music terminology Revision

Q.	TERM	Definition	Expressed through ..
1	Dynamics	volume	<i>ff f mf mp p pp < > cresc dim</i>
2	Tempo	speed of music	Largo, Andante, Moderato, Allegro, Presto, accelerando (accel), ritardando (rit) ♩ = 100 is 100 beats per minute
3	Pitch	How high or low the note	The piece opens with high Es in the strings; or a low brass chord.
4	Texture	The way sounds combine; the amount of parts playing.	Melody & accompaniment Chords
5	Timbre	The type of sound (made by the instrument)	Brass timbre; mainly string timbres. A flute (has a specific timbre)
6	Instrumentation	The instruments heard The ensemble this makes	Being specific about timbre List the instruments. What do each do (their roles). State the ensemble (orchestra, rock band)
7	Rhythm	A pattern of note lengths	Rhythms can be simple, complex, repeated, ostinato, a fixed pattern, syncopated.
8	Silence	A rest or gap in the music	
9	Melody	The tune (main line)	Who plays the melody? Is it mainly conjunct (smooth - notes next to each other) or disjunct (leaps).

Dynamics

Very Loud	<i>ff</i>	<i>fortissimo</i>
Loud	<i>f</i>	<i>forte</i>
Medium Loud	<i>mf</i>	<i>mezzo forte</i>
Medium quiet	<i>mp</i>	<i>mezzo piano</i>
Soft	<i>p</i>	<i>piano</i>
Very Soft	<i>pp</i>	<i>pianissimo</i>
Getting Louder		Crescendo
Getting softer		Diminuendo

More terminology (that we studied in the Film Project)

Musical Device	Definition / Explanation / Eg.
Pedal	A note sustained (held) or repeated that stays at the same pitch. So, playing a very long D note while other instruments change chords gives a 'D pedal'.
Ostinato 	A pattern of notes that repeats over and over. Often heard in film music to increase tension.
Cluster Chord 	Any combination of notes played at the same time. Used for shock or surprise.
Scale 	Moving up or down 8 notes One after the other Eg. C D E F G A B C 
Chromatic Scale	Same as scale but now moving in half steps.  
Major / Minor Tonality & Chord	 Major tonality sounds positive. Minor more moody
Motif 	A short catchy musical idea which keeps returning. Helps to hold the music together with a recognisable idea.
Hit Point 	Point where something in the audio (sound) lines up perfectly with something visible (video). So, a guy gets punched in the film and the percussion play a cymbal crash. Can be more subtle. A girl has a sudden idea and a glockenspiel plays a bright major chord.
Mickey Mousing 	The music follows the action on the screen The character runs upstairs, the music plays An ascending scale.
Leitmotif 	A motif (small theme or idea) that represents a particular character or object. So, 'jaws' has his own 2 note leitmotif! 
Staccato & Legato	Playing the notes crisp & short (staccato) or smooth and full length (legato) 

BLUES



Topic:	BLUES
Blues	A style of music invented in America at the end of the C19th. First sung by slaves it was brought to America from Africa.
Riff	A short, catchy melodic idea that is used a number of times (repeated).
12 bar blues Chord pattern	The pattern of 3 chords lasting for 12 bars that forms the backing. Eg AAAA , DDAA , EDAA
Improvisation	Making a melody up as you go.
Lyrics	The song words
Accompaniment	The backing parts to the song. Often quite simple for blues (strummed chords)
Blues scale	A set of notes used in blues. Usually including flattened notes (like flat 3 rd , 5 th & 7 th). So, In the chord of A (AC#E) a C natural would be the flat 3 rd .
Walking Bass	Where the bass wanders up and down in pitch playing on every beat of the bar. The notes are either scalar or part of the chord.
Jazz	A style that grew out of the Blues style. Features repeated chord patterns (like blues) and improvisation (making up melodic material)
AAB	Simple Blues verse structure (for lyrics) (line 1, line 1 again, then line 2)
Blues note	A note that has been altered to sound moody (usually flattened – pushed down half a step)
Work Song	Songs that slaves used to sing in the fields and workplaces. They sung to keep their spirits up, to express unhappiness or to keep them going physically. Often has a steady beat that fits with the work.
Field Holler	One singer sings simple vocal ideas about their feelings. Sometimes others in the field might have sung an answering phrase back.
Rock & Roll	An early rock style that developed out of the Blues and uses the same basic chords Blues.

12 Bar Blues Chord Sequence in A

A	A	A	A
D	D	A	A
E	D	A	A

Chords:

A **TRIAD** is a 3 note chord – and one of the simplest chords.

A **CHORD** is a number of notes played together at the same time.

Standard chords are built out of the 1st, 3rd, and 5th notes.


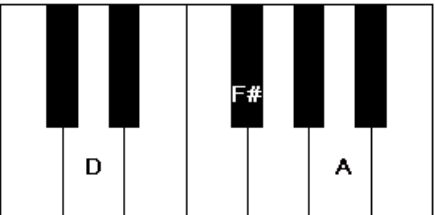
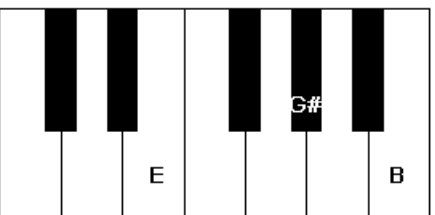
So a chord of C = C E G (1 3 5)

A **semitone** is the distance between a note and the next closest – so C to C# = 1 semitone

A **tone** is simply 2 semitones

A **Major Chord** has 4 semitones between the 1st note and the 3rd. Then 3 semitones from 3rd to 5th. A **Minor Chord** is constructed the other way round (3 semitones then 4 semitones)

These are all major chords (the blues chords in A) – so all have 4 semitones between the 1st (bottom note) and the 3rd (the middle note). Count from A to C# = 4 semitones.

Chord of A	A C# E	
Chord of D	D F# A	
Chord of E	E G# B	

D ^b	E ^b	G ^b	A ^b	B ^b	D ^b	E ^b	G ^b	A ^b	B ^b	D ^b	E ^b	G ^b						
C [#]	D [#]	F [#]	G [#]	A [#]	C [#]	D [#]	F [#]	G [#]	A [#]	C [#]	D [#]	F [#]						
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G

Complete these triad chords. All are just 1 3 5 above the bottom note.

G						
E						
C	D	A	F	E	G	B

Next mark in which are major and which minor.

Use the piano diagram on the last page and count between the notes.

Eg. C to E in the first C chord is 4 semitones – so the first chord must be major.

INVERSIONS:

A chord is in **root position** when its main note is at the bottom.

So, CEG is a chord of C in root position

But EGC is the same chord (C maj) but in 1st inversion as the real middle note (E) is now at the bottom.

Say which chords these are and which inversion they are in.

C	C	B	B	C	G	E
G	A	G	G	A	D	C
E	F	D	E	E	B	G
= C chord	=	=	=	=	=	=
1 st inversion						