




Music Theory Syllabus 2016



IPACB Music Theory Syllabus

	Notation	Time signature	Note values	Keys and scales	Melody writing	Intervals	transposition	Orchestral instruments
Elementary Level Basic Elements of music	Treble and bass clefs with notes within the grand staff and ledger lines above and below it.	Simple meter: 2/2 (C) 2/4 2/8 3/2 3/4 3/8 4/2 4/4 (c) 4/8	whole note/ Semibreve; half note/ minim; quarter/ crotchet; Eighth note/ quaver and their rests.	The writing and recognition of Major and Minor (harmonic and melodic) scales and their key signatures up to FOUR sharp and FOUR flat.	Complete the last bar of a two-bar melody pattern, with the first bar melody given in full.	Whole tone, diatonic semitone and chromatic semitones.	Transposing melody at an octave higher or lower.	Be able to identify the instruments from the string, woodwind, brass and percussion families,
	 Accidentals – sharp, flat and natural. Enharmonic equivalents.	Triplet rhythm	The concept of grouping.	Degree of scales using technical names (e.g. Tonic, supertonic etc.)		The intervals of Major, minor and Perfect intervals.	Transposing and non-transposing instruments	
Intermediate Level Advanced Elements of music	Notations in alto and tenor clefs.	Compound meter: 6/8, 9/8, 12/8, 6/4, 9/4, 12/4, 6/16, 9/16, 12/16	Sixteenth note/Demi-Semi-quaver and its rest.	The writing and recognition of Major and Minor (harmonic, melodic and natural) scales and their key signatures up to SEVEN sharps and SEVEN flats.	Write a four-bar melody with given chord progression.	All intervals in previous level, with the inclusion of Augmented, diminished and compound intervals	Transpose a given four-bar melody at a major 2 nd , minor 3 rd or perfect 5 th higher or lower.	The parts of the instruments e.g. reeds, bow of string instruments, valves and slides of the brass.
	Accidentals – double sharp, double flat. Notation of four types of Triads: major, minor, Augmented and diminished in root position, 1 st and 2 nd inversion. Triads of Major and Minor, Chord I, IV, V Four types of cadences: Perfect, Plagal, Imperfect and Interrupted.	Irregular meter: 5/4, 5/8, 7/4, 7/8 Duplet rhythm	Double dotted note and its function.		To provide chord progression to a four bar melody, up to two sharps or flats.		Performance directions of all orchestral instruments.	

	Harmony	Song writing	Listening for elements of compositions	History
Advanced Level Application of music Elements in harmony and song writing. Overview of the History of Music (from seventeenth century to twentieth century)	<p>Harmonic language includes suspension 4-3, 7-6, 9-8, Neapolitan sixth, Augmented sixth, diminished 7th and dominant chord with the extension of 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th.</p> <p>Harmonise an eight-bar melody by indicating the chord symbols, in the style of chord letter names, chord symbol or providing notation as harmony notes to the melody.</p> <p>Non-harmonic notes – passing note, auxiliary, appoggiatura, changing notes, anticipation, pedal point.</p>	<p>To provide eight to twelve bars of melody with piano accompaniment from a given poem. The opening phrase is given, in the keys up to three sharps or flats. The music should consist of at least one modulation.</p>	<p>Listen to the following works from an audio performance played four times. Candidates are to comment about the musical features of texture, harmony, tonality, rhythm, dynamic, instrumentation and form</p> <p>Set work: Bach's Prelude and Fugue No. 1 (volume I) BWV 846</p> <p>Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, K 525, 1st movement</p> <p>The Erlking by Franz Schubert</p>	<p>The study of the characteristic of the four periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern.</p> <p>Genres cultivated within the four eras.</p> <p>Composers and their works</p>

Foreign terms are indicated in the Appendix.

Appendix

Elementary level	Knowledge of the following foreign terms, abbreviations and their English meanings:	
	Adagio	slowly
	Lento	slowly
	Allegro	fast and lively
	Andante	at an easy walking pace
	Moderato	at a moderate speed
	Rallentando (Rall.)	gradually slower
	Ritenuto (Rit.)	held back/immediately slower
	Crescendo (Cresc.)	gradually becoming louder
	Decrescendo (Decresc.)	gradually becoming softer
	Diminuendo (Dim.)	gradually becoming softer
	Forte (f)	loud
	Mezzo Forte (mf)	moderately loud
	Piano (p)	soft
	Mezzo Piano (mp)	moderately soft
	Dolce	sweetly and gently
	A Tempo	return to former speed
	Allegretto	moderately fast
	Andantino	faster than andante
	Animato	animated and lively
	Largo	very slow and broad
	Legato	smoothly
	Staccato	detached
	Meno Mosso	less movement
	Presto	very fast
	Vivace	lively, spirited
	Vivo	lively, spirited
	Fortissimo (ff)	very loud
	Pianissimo (pp)	very soft
	Cantabile	in a singing tone
	Marcato	marked
	Poco	little
	Scherzando	in a light playful manner
	Sempre	always
	Senza	without
	Dal Segno (D.S.)	from the sign

Intermediate level

English meanings of the listed foreign terms and abbreviations where applicable:

Accelerando (Accel.)	gradually faster
Agitato	with a sense of agitation
Prestissimo	as fast as possible
Allargando	becoming broader
Larghetto	slow and broad
Morendo	dying away
Forte Piano	loud, then immediately soft
Staccatissimo	very short and detached
Grazioso	gracefully
Leggiero	lightly
Tranquillo	calm and tranquil
Calando	reducing volume and speed
Espressivo	with expression
Con moto	with a sense of motion
Da capo	from the beginning
Allegro non troppo	fast, but not too fast
Attacca	go on at once
Largamente	broadly
L'istesso tempo	at the same speed
Volante	flying
Cantando	in a singing style
Smorzando	fading away
Sforzando	suddenly loud
Grave	solemn and steady
Meno mosso	less speed
Piu mosso	more speed
Tempo comodo	at an easy, comfortable speed
Tempo giusto	at a precise speed
Siciliano	a simple pastoral atmosphere
Da capo al fine	repeat from the top to <i>fine</i> sign
Anacrusis	an upbeat or pick-up note/s
Maestoso	in confident, majestic style
Modere	carefully observed timing
Da capo al segno	repeat from the top to specified sign
L'istesso tempo	at the same speed
Rubato	expressive, flexible timing
Perdendosi	gradually fading away
Semplice	without ornamentation, simply
Pesante	with heavy emphasis

Poco a poco	little by little
Con brio	with spirit
Con fuoco	with fire
Cadenza	an ornamental passage
Sopra	one hand over the other at the keyboard
Sotto voce	in an undertone, subdued

Advanced Level Give a brief definition of the following words and include at least one example:

Opera
 Oratorio
 Concerto Grosso
 Fugue
 Prelude
 Suite
 Allemande
 Courante
 Courrente
 Sarabande
 Gavotte
 Passepied
 Minuet and trio
 Loure
 Bourrée
 Gigue
 Binary form
 Ternary form
 Rondo form
 Sonata-Rondo form
 Sonata-Allegro form
 German Lieder
 Concerto-Overture
 Programme Music
 Rhapsody
 Barcarolle
 Nocturne
 Elegie
 Étude
 Fantasia
 Mazurka
 Cakewalk