

RIAM Music Theory Examination Paper
Grade 8
May 2026

Candidates should answer all questions. All answers must be written on this paper.

Candidate's name: _____ Total marks 100

Answer either question 1 or 2. Do not answer both questions.

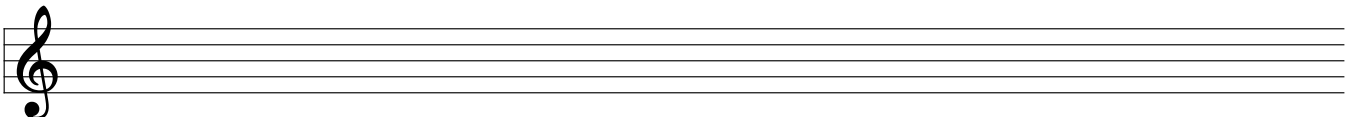
1 Using this opening, compose a 16-bar melody. Include a modulation to any closely related key.
Phrase the completed melody. Add tempo and expression marks. (Copy to the staves below.)

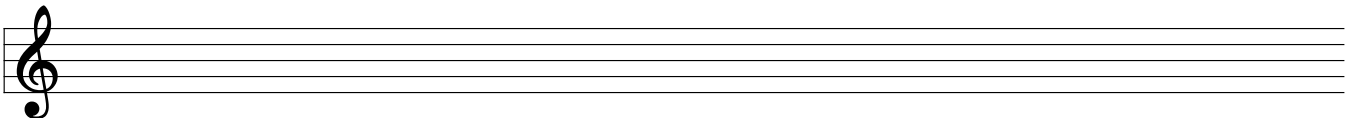


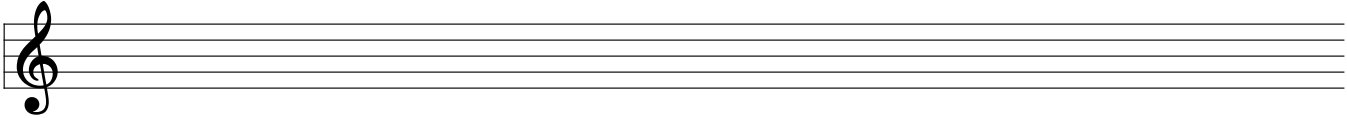
Or

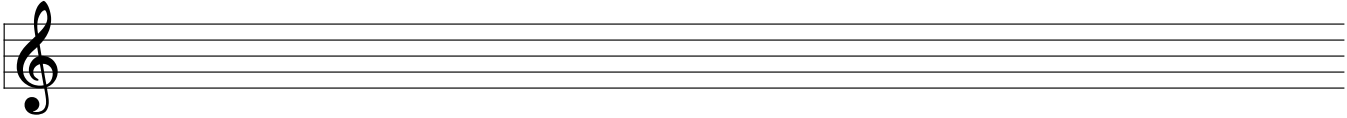
2 Compose a tune for this verse. Write each syllable under the note(s) to which it is to be sung.

'Slowly, silently, now the moon
Walks the night in her silver shoon;
This way and that, she peers and sees
Silver fruit upon silver trees.'
- Walter de la Mare





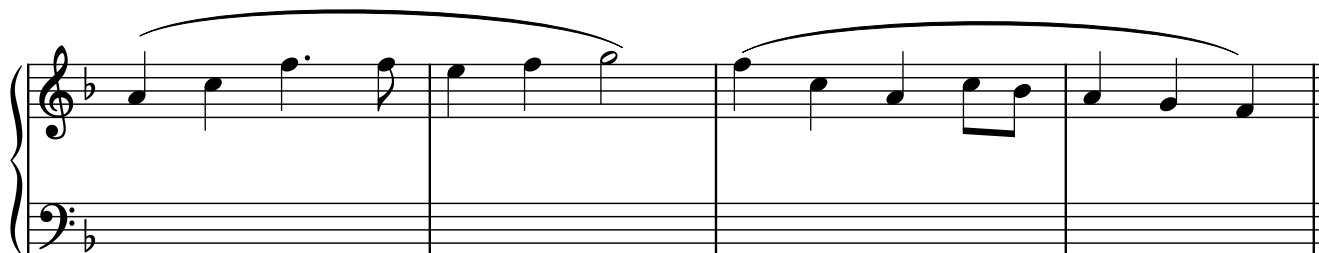




- 3 Choose suitable chords to accompany the following melody. Indicate the chords by roman numerals. Write in the complete bass line adding some passing and auxiliary notes where suitable. (No inner parts needed).



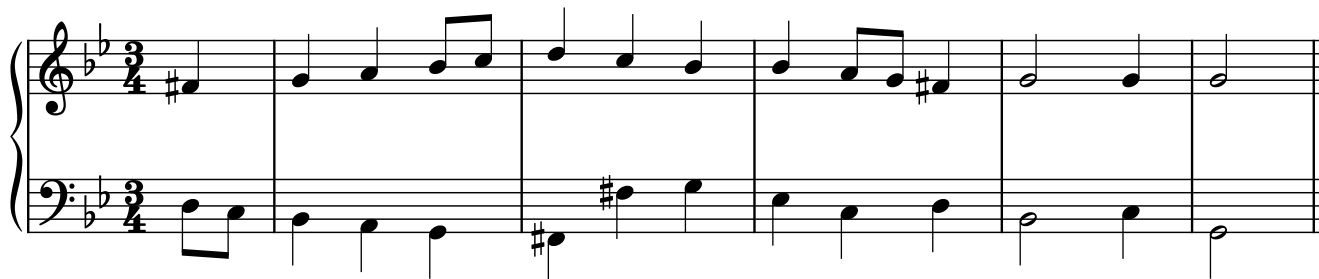
Numerals _____



Numerals _____

15

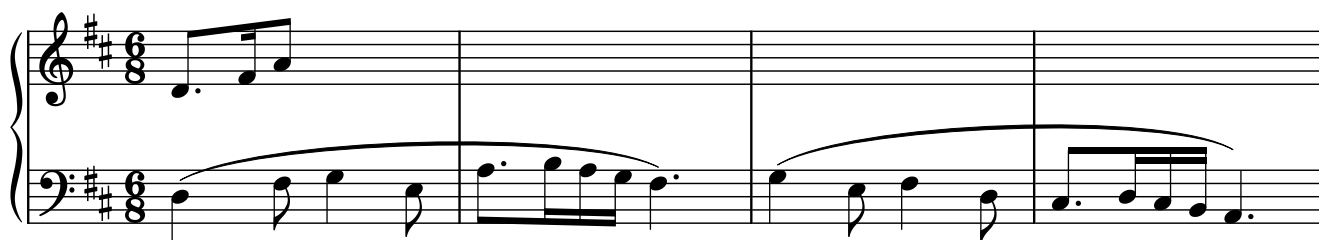
- 4 Analyse the chording implied by the given soprano and bass lines by using roman numerals. Complete the harmonisation by adding parts for alto and tenor voices.



Numerals _____

15

- 5 Complete the treble over the given bass to create a simple two-part texture.



6 Study this harmonisation of an American folk melody and answer the questions in relation to it.

The musical score is in 4/4 time and the key of D major (one sharp). It consists of two systems of four bars each. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The first system contains two chords marked with an asterisk (*). The second system contains two chords marked with an asterisk (*). Brackets are placed over the melody in bars 4, 5, and 6-7 of the second system.

a Name the tonic key. _____

b Name the key to which the music modulates in the bracketed areas in these bars:

bar 4 _____ bar 5 _____ bars 6 - 7 _____

c Fully analyse the chords marked *. Use roman numerals and include b, c, or d to indicate any inversions used. All are in the tonic key.

bar 1 (beat 2) _____ bar 1 (beat 4) _____ bar 7 (beat 2) _____ bar 7 (beat 3) _____

d On the music circle one example of the following:

An unaccented passing note (mark it **A**)

A suspension (mark it **B**)

An auxiliary note (mark it **C**)

An accented passing note (mark it **D**)

Romeo and Juliet Overture

Allegro **Molto meno mosso**

Instrumentation and Dynamics:

- Piccolo:** *ff* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)
- 2 Flauti:** *ff* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)
- 2 Oboi:** *ff* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)
- 2 Clarinetti in A:** *ff* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)
- 2 Fagotti:** *ff* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)
- Corni in F I. II.:** *ff* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)
- Corni in F III. IV.:** *ff* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)
- 3 Tromboni:** *mf* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)
- Timpani:** *f* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)
- Violin I:** *f* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)
- Viola:** *f* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)
- Violoncelli:** *f* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)
- Contrabassi:** *f* (first measure), *Molto meno mosso* (last measure)

7 The score extract on page 4 is from the Overture *Romeo and Juliet* by Tchaikovsky. Study the music and answer the questions below.

a Name the two instruments in the woodwind section that use a double reed.

_____ & _____

b Name the two transposing instruments in the woodwind section.

_____ & _____

c The piccolo part of the extract is unfinished. To complete it, follow the given directions:

At the beginning of this extract the piccolo plays in unison with the flutes. Write in the missing piccolo part as it would appear to the piccolo player.

d In bars 1 – 5 which instrument plays in unison with the clarinets? _____

In bar 5 which instrument plays in unison with the 2nd oboe? _____

In bars 1 – 5 which instrument plays in unison with the cellos? _____

e Explain:

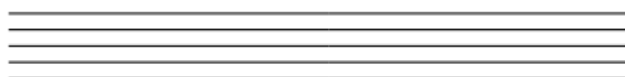
Molto meno mosso _____

a 2 _____



(in the string parts) _____

f Using the tenor stave re-write bars 1 – 2 of the bassoon part at the same pitch.



g What is the letter name of the first note sounded by Horns at concert pitch? _____

8 Answer questions **a**, **b** and **c**.

a Name a work by each of these well-known Romantic composers.

Brahms _____

Tchaikovsky _____

Mahler _____

Chopin _____

b Explain **one** of these musical features and name a type of work in which it can be found.

Recitative **or** Cadenza

Type of work: _____

c Write a short paragraph about **one** of the following in the Romantic period:

Keyboard music **or** Song
