



The Ultimate Guitar Quiz!

This quiz asks the kinds of questions that could come up in the musical knowledge bit of your classical guitar exam. This is the part where the examiner asks you some questions about the pieces you've just played. This isn't included in the ABRSM exams (these questions are based on the Trinity Guildhall syllabus), but this quiz is still going to be very useful for your understanding of your pieces either way.

The quiz is broken up into sections by grade, but there is some overlap - so you may find you can have a go at some of the trickier questions! Make sure you do the rounds that are for the grades lower than yours - the examiner can ask you anything from the previous grades too.

If you're stuck on any of these questions - I've tried to give some explanations in the answers to help you. For older pupils, Eric Taylor's *The AB Guide to Music Theory Part One* (the pink one) is a very worthwhile purchase and will help with all of the things that come up in this quiz.

Though there are some questions in this quiz that require you to, you will never be asked to write anything down or draw anything in your guitar exam.

This quiz should not be seen as an exhaustive list of things that could come up in this part of your exam. A guide to this can be found in the classical guitar syllabus on Trinity Guildhall's website.

Grade Initial



- 1) What are names of all of the notes in this piece of music? Write your answers below each one.
- 2) What is the symbol above the last note called? What does it tell us to do?
- 3) What's the name of the squiggly thing at the start?
- 4) How many beats does the first note of this piece last for?
- 5) At the start there are two fours on top of each other. What's the name of this?
- 6) What's the name of the five lines which we put the notes on?

Bonus Questions:

- 7) What symbol/word would we expect to see on the music to tell us to do the following:
 - a) Play at a 'medium-loud' dynamic
 - b) Get louder



Grade One



- 1) At the start of the piece we have a three and a four. What does this mean?
(Hint: Think about what both of the numbers mean, not just the top one!)
- 2) What are names of all of the notes in this piece of music? Write your answers below each one.
- 3) All of the notes in the first bar last for the same amount of time. How long does each one last for? What are they called?
- 4) What does 'Fine' mean?
- 5) What key is this piece in?
- 6) Go back to the Grade Initial piece. What do we call the line joining up the two notes in the middle of the piece? What does it tell us to do?
- 7) Draw a minim rest in the last bar.

Bonus Question:



- 8) What do we call this part of the guitar?
- 9) What would we expect to find in the key signature of F major?



Grade Two



- 1) What key is this piece in?
(Hint: To find out the name of any major key signature which has sharps in it, we go up a semitone from the sharp furthest to the right!)
- 2) At the top there's a crotchet with an equals sign, and then a number. What is this symbol called? What does it tell us to do?
- 3) What does 'Allegro' mean?
- 4) What's the interval between the second and third notes?
(Hint: If you're not sure about your intervals, there's a whole page to help you with them after the 'Grade Three' questions... lucky you!)
- 5) What's the interval between the last two notes in the second bar?
(Hint: think about what key you're in!)
- 6) The penultimate note is an A. How long does this note last for? And what do we call this note value?
(Hint: When we put a dot next to a note we multiply it by 1.5)
- 7) What's the symbol at the end of the first bar called? What does it tell us to do?
- 8) How would the composer show that they wanted the first three notes to be played staccato? Draw it on.



Grade Three



- 1) What key is this piece in?
- 2) What would the relative minor of this key be?
(Hint: To find the relative minor, move down three semitones from the tonic/root of the major key.)
- 3) Look at the end of the third bar. What is the value of the penultimate note in this bar (the dotted one)? And what do we call this note value?
(Hint: Remember - when we put a dot next to a note, we multiply it by 1.5)
- 4) What's the value of the very first note, and what do we call this note value?
- 5) What do the six and the eight at the start of the piece tell us?
(Hint: Think about what both of the numbers mean, not just the top one!)
- 6) What do the symbols underneath the two As in bar three indicate?
- 7) What does Lento mean?

Bonus Question

- 8) What is F major's relative minor?



Intervals in Your Grade Two/Three Musical Knowledge

An interval is the distance between two notes. In the musical knowledge part of your guitar exam from grade two onwards, the examiner might point to two notes and ask you what the interval between them is.



All you need to do is think about the scale, and think about the distance between the lower note and the higher one. Is it one step? Then it's a second. Two steps? Then it's a third. If the two notes have the same name then the interval is called an octave (it's not called 'an 8th'!)

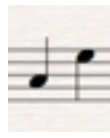
A note that is just one fret away from the next one, is just a 'semitone' away. So the interval between C and C# (or it's enharmonic which is Db) is just a semitone.

Have a go at working out what these intervals are. When the first note is the higher one, you still work up from the lower note.

1)



4)



2)



5)



3)




6)






Answers

Grade Initial

- 1) A, B, C, E, G, F, F, D, E, F, G, A
- 2) It's called a pause mark, and - yes, you guessed it, it tells us to pause!
- 3) A treble clef
- 4) Two
- 5) A time signature
- 6) A stave
- 7) a) mf (or mezzoforte)
b)  (or cresc./crescendo)

Grade One

- 1) Three crotchet beats per bar.
(Help! The top number tells us how many beats per bar, but the bottom number tells us what kind of beats they are. A four means crotchet beats.)
- 2) C, Bb (B flat), A, G, F, G, E, B, C, A, B, C
- 3) They last for half a beat, and they're called quavers
- 4) Finish
- 5) C major
- 6) A tie - it tells to add the note values of these two notes together. We let the first note ring out for the value of both of them.
- 7) 

(Help! It needs to be sitting on the line, if it's hanging down from the line then it's a semibreve rest, not a minim rest.)

- 8) The bridge
- 9) One flat, a Bb.

Grade Two

- 1) G major
- 2) A metronome mark. It's telling us to play a speed of 115 crotchet beats per minute.
- 3) Play at a fast tempo
- 4) A (minor) third
- 5) A (major) third
(Help! At grade two and three you only need to give a number so '3rd' for both of these answers is fine.)
- 6) Three beats. It's a dotted minim.
- 7) A crotchet rest, be silent for one beat.
- 8) Dots drawn on below the notes.



Grade Three

- 1) A major
- 2) F#minor
- 3) It lasts for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a beat. It's a dotted quaver.
- 4) A $\frac{1}{4}$ of a beat. A semiquaver.
- 5) Six quaver beats per bar.

Help! The eight tells us the kind of beats we're dealing with are quaver beats. The six tells us there are six of them in each bar.

6) These are called accents, we have to play them a little bit louder than the other notes (perhaps use some rest stroke!)

7) To be played at a slow tempo

8) Dminor. Move down three semitones from F to get the answer.

Intervals

- 1) A fourth
- 2) A fourth
- 3) A 2nd
- 4) A fifth
- 5) A semitone
- 6) A fourth

Well Done!