

Viva Voce Guide for Piano Preliminary Exams

Technical Work

- Tell me the note you start the F major scale on?
- What does ascending mean?
- What does descending mean?
- Does C major have any sharps or flats?
- Does G major have any sharps or flats?
- What is the key signature of F major?
- Explain what similar motion means?
- How many notes in an octave?
- How many notes in a scale?

Magic Exercises

- What is the time signature?
- What is 2/4 called?
- Explain the types of notes being played. Value of the notes
- What is staccato? What does the dot underneath or on top of a note indicate?
- What type of scale is no 41

Pieces in General

- Student to have knowledge of clefs
- What is the character of the piece?
- Types of notes e.g. what type of notes are the starting notes in bar 1
- What count do you start on?
- There is lots of accidentals can you name them?
- What is a waltz?
- Explain tempo markings for e.g Allegro vivace
- Point out any 1st and 2nd endings - explain
- Identify anacrusis or up-beat – e.g why has the last bar only have 2 beats?
- Types of rests – values and names
- Identify a pause sign
- Key of the piece e.g what key does the Bb indicate? Do you know a scale of the same key?
- What is the pitch name e.g. of first note in bar 2
- Knowledge of double bar lines, brace, parts of the staff e.g what are the lines that divide the music up into bars called?
- Knowledge of accidentals e.g. what is this sign # mean? What sharp do you have to play in this piece?
- Explain the time signature e.g cut time
- Explain tie sign – play the first note and hold for the value of both notes
- Explain slur sign – to play smoothly legato

- Explain harmony, staccato, pedal signs – information found in piano course three.
- Point out the composer's name on the music
- Explain dynamic signs and rit
- Identify ledger notes
- Explain Repeat signs
- Explain 8va if in the piece – to play the piece 8 notes higher
- What does moderate swing mean?
- What is the song about?
- What country does the song come from?
- Three or more notes played together is a tonic chord – found in Big Boy Boys

Some Quick Facts

Flight of the Albatross – the Albatross is the worlds largest living bird.

Lullaby – a cradle song – sung to help the baby sleep. Brahm's Lullaby

Big Boy Blues – American folk music based on a twelve bar chord progression.

Let's Rock – a rock song in Cut time. Has 2 minim beats per bar

God of Nations – NZ national anthem

Remember to word questions differently each lesson. Often the student know will know the answer, but they need to get accustomed to being asked the question in different ways.

Number the bars – so you can ask questions in this manner, for example in bar 13 name the treble note on the second beat.

This document is a general guide only

Please create your own questions or facts where none is given.