

Viva Voce Guide for Piano and Keyboard Initial Exams

Technical Work

- Tell me the note you start the C 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?

Magic Exercises

- Name the first note on the left hand
- Can you show me where C is?
- Tell me about the time signature
- Ask about the values of notes e.g. How long did you hold the last beat?

Pieces in General

- Student to have knowledge of clefs
- Types of notes e.g. what type of notes are the starting notes in bar 1
- What count do you start on?
- 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
- Explain what a tie means – play the first note and hold for the value of both notes.
- Explain Repeat signs
- Explain 8va if in the piece – to play the piece 8 notes higher
- What is the song about? For e.g. sea shanty, square dance, folk song, celebration song, a song about a turkey (bird)
- What country does the song come from?

Quick Facts

Streets of Laredo – Famous American Cowboy Ballad

Through the Woods – Welsh Folk song

Turkey in the Straw – American traditional song used in square dancing

Arkansas Traveller – it is an American folk song, often used as a square dance

Bobby Shaftoe – It is a sea shanty, dating back to 16th century.

Once upon a time – song about a story

Clementine – American country folk ballad

Happy Birthday – traditional celebration song

Little Buttercup – a song about a yellow flower

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.