

# The Use of Scales and Modes and Key Signatures in the VCE Music Performance Aural and Written Exam

Information from the [Aural and Written Sample examination material](#) and [Notation Guide for Outcome 3: Musicianship](#) documents available from the VCAA website: <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au>

## Intervals

Students will **write and identify**, aurally and in writing, the size and quality of diatonic and chromatic intervals that occur in **scales and modes set for study**, both ascending and descending, and in treble and bass clefs.

**Key signatures will not be used in questions regarding intervals.**

## Scales and modes

Students will **write and identify**, aurally and in writing, scales and modes identified for study, both ascending and descending, and in treble and bass clefs.

- Major
- natural minor
- harmonic minor
- melodic minor
- major pentatonic
- minor pentatonic
- blues scale
- dorian mode
- mixolydian mode

will be examinable in the following keys. (See pages 9 to 11 of the Notation Guide for more information).

The image displays 16 musical staves arranged in a 4x4 grid. Each staff is divided into two parts: the top part shows the key signature (sharps or flats) and the bottom part shows the corresponding major and minor keys. The staves are as follows:

- Row 1: C Major / A minor; G Major / E minor; D Major / B minor; A Major / F# minor
- Row 2: E Major / C# minor; B Major / G# minor; F# Major / D# minor; C# Major / A# minor
- Row 3: F Major / D minor; Bb Major / G minor; Eb Major / C minor; Ab Major / F minor
- Row 4: Db Major / Bb minor; Gb Major / Eb minor; Cb Major / Ab minor

**Key signatures will not be used in questions regarding scales.**

## Melody

### Recognition Question Type

Students will **recognise, and identify** from a series of written alternatives, a four-bar melodic excerpt from an eight-bar melody with an accompanying bass line presented aurally. The melodic excerpt will be written in treble clef and based on a

- Major
- melodic minor
- major pentatonic
- minor pentatonic
- dorian mode
- mixolydian mode

Note that no maximum number of sharps and flats is specified for this question type so the author's assumption is that it may have any number of sharps and flats in the key.

### Transcription Question Type

Students will **transcribe** up to four bars of a diatonic melody using conventional music notation. The melody will be presented aurally with a bass line and chordal and/or rhythmic accompaniment. It will be based on a

- Major
- melodic minor

scale in a key of no more than **three sharps** or **three flats**,

There will be no modulation in excerpts presented.

**Key signatures will not be used in questions regarding melody.**

## Chords and chord progressions

### Recognition Question Type

Students will **recognise, and identify** from a series of written alternatives, four chords from a diatonic, eight chord progression presented aurally.

The chord progression will be in a

- Major
- harmonic minor

scale, that uses up to **three sharps** or **flats**.

### Transcription Question Type

Students will be required to **identify**, in writing, a diatonic chord progression of up to six chords presented aurally.

The chord progression will be in a

- Major
- harmonic minor

scale, that uses up to **three sharps** or **flats**.

**Key signatures will not be used in questions regarding chords and chord progressions.**