

Visual Scale Recognition – Major & natural minor scales

Preparation Activities for the Major Scale

- Complete pages 4, 5, 7, 8, 17, 18 and 19 from the Level 3 “Musicianship & Aural Training for the Secondary School” books OR the relevant pages from the Level 2 “Musicianship & Aural Training for the Secondary School” (see <http://dsmusic.com.au/products/> for more information or to purchase these books and CDs).
- Sing the Major scale in solfa with handsigns:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2gq3qBTPEQ> several times.
- Repeat adding the consecutive intervals: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1_ObSnu9oE
- Sing all known Major scales in letter names, for example: <http://goo.gl/sHKAcx> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BSV9g7utUI>
There are MANY more videos like these on the [DeborahSmithMusic YouTube](#) channel.
- Practice writing Major scales in ALL known keys, for example: <http://goo.gl/7McGAt>
- Finally, revise your knowledge about the Major scale
 - in particular what will help you recognise it from many different scales e.g.
 - a. It is an 8 note scale (or 7 different notes + a repeated octave note),
 - b. Each note is a 2nd apart,
 - c. There are only Major and minor 2nds,
 - d. The 1st to 3rd notes of the scale create a Major 3rd.

Preparation Activities for the natural minor scale

- Complete pages 29, 30, 31 and 32 from the Level 3 “Musicianship & Aural Training for the Secondary School” books OR the relevant pages from the Level 2 “Musicianship & Aural Training for the Secondary School”.
- Sing the natural minor scale in solfa with handsigns:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0MZQWM8P3U> several times.
- Repeat adding the consecutive intervals: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZqw-9GLRhU>
- Sing all known natural minor scales in letter names, for example: <http://goo.gl/GoaUEE>.
There are MANY more videos like these on the [DeborahSmithMusic YouTube](#) channel.
- Practice writing natural minor scales in ALL known keys, for example: <http://goo.gl/fdCSjK>
- Revise your knowledge about the natural minor scale e.g.
 - a. It is another 8 note scale (or 7 different notes + a repeated octave note) – similar to the Major scale,
 - b. Each note is a 2nd apart,
 - c. There are only Major (tones) and minor 2nds (semitones),
 - d. The interval pattern of this scale is tone, semitone, tone, tone, semitone, tone, tone (this can of course be found VERY quickly by studying the handsigns – *fa* points DOWN to the semitone and *ti* points UP).
 - e. The 1st to 3rd notes of the scale create a minor 3rd.
- Finally, prepare a process or similar (I have suggested a chart) which you will use to tell the difference between a Major scale and a natural minor scale. DO NOT just use this one as it may not include the things YOU recognise within scales. For example:

	Major Scale	Natural minor scale
Number of DIFFERENT notes	7	7
Intervals types found	2nds ONLY	2nds ONLY
Identifying intervals	The interval between the 1 st and 3 rd notes is a Major 3rd	The interval between the 1 st and 3 rd notes is a minor 3rd
Beginning note (See the practice question on the next page).	Starts on <i>do</i>	Starts on <i>la</i>

Practice Question:

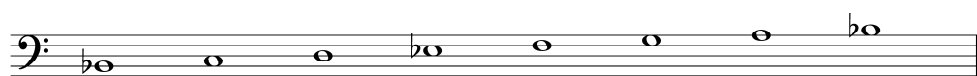
Scales - Identify the following scale using a letter name (e.g. F) and type (e.g. Major).

This practice question is designed to give you an example of a process for undertaking this question. You should create your own process (and **write** it down) based on things **you** notice about the scales that will help you tell them apart.

You can also watch this practice question being completed on this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AifgBmYSMzM>

Step 1. Determine the key signature by looking at the accidentals in this scale:



In this scale there are two **different** flats: B and E (notice that the B \flat is repeated at the top as you would expect).


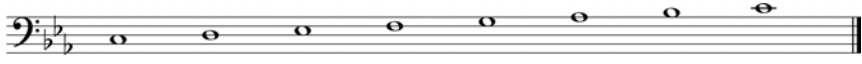

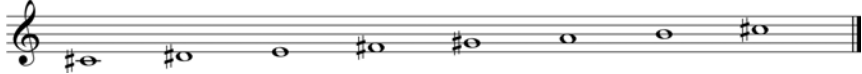
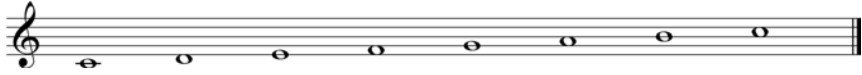








Step 2. This tells us that B \flat is *do* as B \flat is the tonic of the **Major** scale with two flats in the key signature.

(See page 4, 29 and 30 in the Level 3 “Musicianship & Aural Training for the Secondary School” books and watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lplngTdXzyl> for more information if needed on this point).

Step 3. Study the tonic (first and last notes) of this scale: B \flat . As discovered in the point above, this is the tonic note of the B \flat Major scale. Therefore this scale is the **B \flat Major** scale.

If the tonic of this scale was *la* or G then this would be the G natural minor scale – it has the same key signature as B \flat , but the tonic is *la* not *do*.

Scales - Identify the following scales (using a letter name and type). (Answers on next page).

1.		_____ A Major
2.		_____
3.		_____
4.		_____
5.		_____
6.		_____
7.		_____
8.		_____
9.		_____
10.		_____
11.		_____
12.		_____
13.		_____

Answers

Scales - Identify the following scales (using a letter name and type).

1. A Major
2. C natural minor
3. B natural minor
4. C# natural minor
5. C Major
6. E, Major
7. A natural minor
8. E natural minor
9. C# Major
10. D, Major
11. B, natural minor
12. G Major
13. G natural minor