

Visual Scale Recognition – harmonic minor scales

Preparation Activities for the harmonic minor scale

- Complete all preparation activities and worksheet: “Visual Scale Recognition – Major and natural minor scales” <http://goo.gl/voGipU>
- Complete pages 40 and 41 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 harmonic minor scale in solfa with handsigns:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2L9iR_l68yM several times.
- Repeat adding the consecutive intervals:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueLD_mB3QEM
- Sing all known harmonic minor scales in letter names.
- Practice writing harmonic minor scales in ALL known keys, for example:
<http://goo.gl/wbY5YR>
- Revise your knowledge about the harmonic minor scale e.g.
 - a. It is another 8 note scale (or 7 different notes + a repeated octave note) – similar to the Major and natural minor scales,
 - b. Each note is a 2nd apart,
 - c. There are Major (tones) and minor 2nds (semitones) **and an AUGMENTED 2nd**,
 - d. The interval pattern of this scale is tone, semitone, tone, tone, semitone, augmented 2nd, semitone (the handsign for *si* is *so* but pointing slightly up at the finger tips – again showing where the NEW semitone is).
 - e. The 1st to 3rd notes of the scale create a minor 3rd but more importantly, the 6th to 7th notes create an **AUGMENTED 2nd**.
- 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	Harmonic minor scale
Number of DIFFERENT notes	7	7	7
Intervals types found	2nds ONLY	2nds ONLY	2nds ONLY
Identifying intervals	The interval between the 1st & 3rd notes is a Maj 3rd	The interval between the 1st & 3rd notes is a min 3rd	The interval between the 6th & 7th notes is an Aug 2nd
Tonic note	Starts on <i>do</i>	Starts on <i>la</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: [new video here too](#)

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



In this scale there are two sharps: F and D.

These two sharps DO NOT create a key signature. (The key signature with only two sharps has F# and C#).

Therefore our key signature is just one sharp = F and the D# is an accidental.

Step 2. This tells us that G is *do* as G is the tonic of the **Major** scale with one sharp in the key signature.



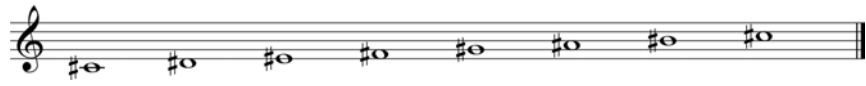

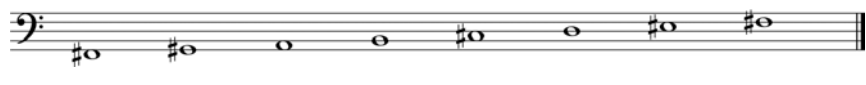

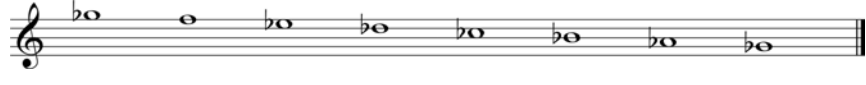

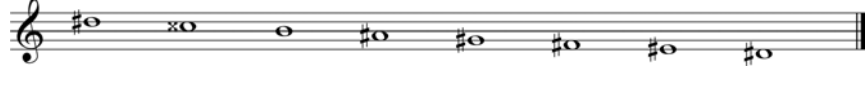




Step 3. Study the tonic (first and last notes) of this scale: E. If G is *do* then E is *la*. When the tonic of a scale is *la* it tells us that this is some type of minor scale.

To be the E **natural** minor scale it must have exactly the same notes as G Major, beginning and ending on *la*. This scale has a D# which does not belong in G Major therefore it is not E natural minor.

To be the E **harmonic** minor scale it must have almost the same notes as G Major, beginning and ending on *la*, AND include a raised 7th note.



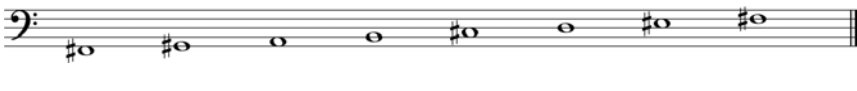
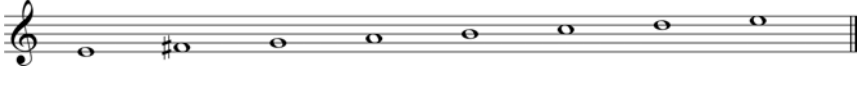
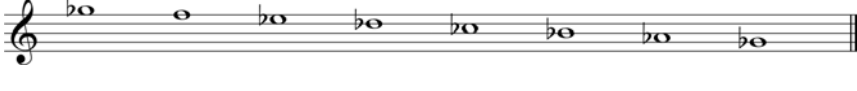

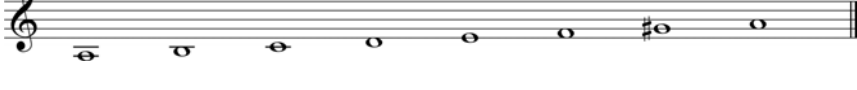
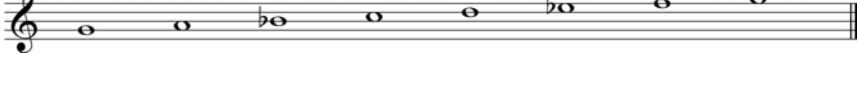
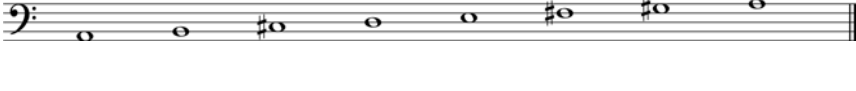
This scale has a raised 7th note: D# therefore it is the **E harmonic minor** scale.

Scales - Identify the following scales (using a letter name and type). (Answers on next page).
 They can be either Major, natural minor or harmonic minor.

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