

# Level 3 Section 1 - Scales

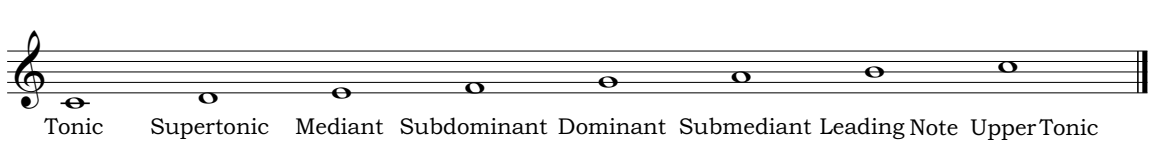
## The Major Scale

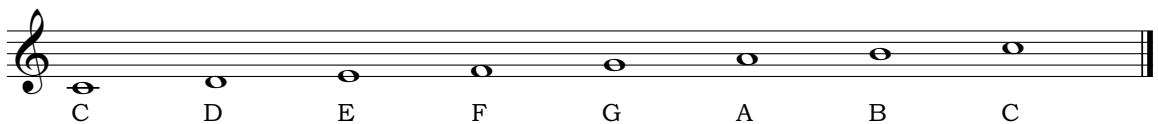
 Click on this video icon and follow any instructions given in the video.

The **Major scale** is one of the most common scales in use today. It has been used as a basis for composition since approximately 1600 AD. Scales were originally called modes. Only two modes remain in common usage. The Ionian mode (now known as the **Major scale**) and the Aeolian mode (now known as the **natural minor scale**).

 Click on this worksheet icon for activities practicing naming notes in a scale.



**C Major in Scale Degrees:** 

**C Major in Tonal or Functional Names:** 

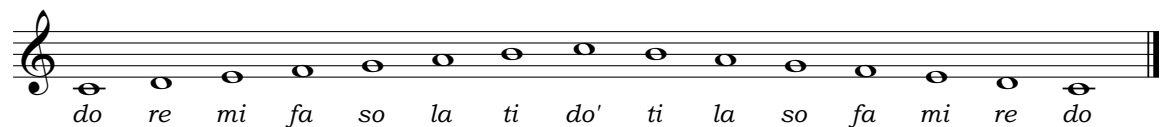
**C Major in Letter Names:** 

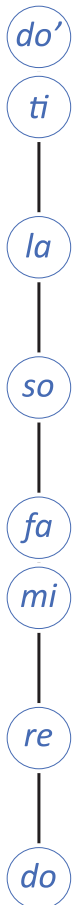
## Tonic or Movable do Solfa

 Click on this video icon and follow any instructions given in the video.


 Click on the information sheet icon:  in the left margin, for more tonic solfa information.


We can use a **functional note naming system** such as **tonic solfa** (designed specifically for singing), where the tonic note of a Major scale is always *do*.



**C Major in Solfa:** 




## Handsigns


*mi*  Each solfa note name has a matching handsign. Solfa handsigns are used to physically show the pitch of the notes in the air. *do* should be placed in front of your stomach and the others are each placed a little higher to show the melodic shape.

*re* 

*do*   Click on this information sheet icon, for a printable handsign chart.

## The Treble and Bass Clefs

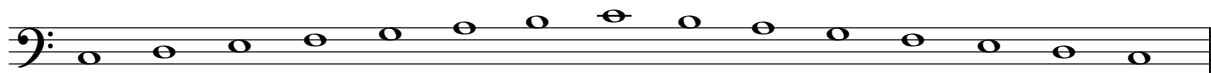
 All the musical examples given so far have used the **treble** or G clef. This is a sign placed at the start of a piece of music, showing that the music is written for treble (high) voices or instruments. It is called the G clef as it curls around the line where the note G would be.

 This next C Major scale is written out in the **bass** or F clef. This is the sign showing that the music is written for bass (low) voices or instruments. It is called the F clef as the two dots are placed on either side of the line where the note F would be.

## C Major in the Bass Clef



Click on this video icon and follow any instructions given in the video.



*do re mi fa so la ti do' ti la so fa mi re do*  
 C D E F G A B C B A G F E D C

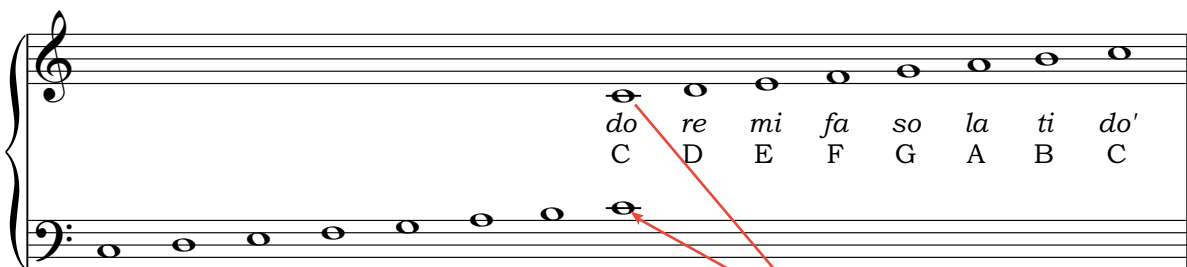
## The Grand Staff

**I** Click on this information sheet icon, for more information about the notes on the grand staff.

**W** Click on this worksheet icon for more activities practicing naming notes in a scale.

### The Grand

**Staff** usually consists of a treble staff and a bass staff connected by a brace at the beginning.



*do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti, do*  
 C D E F G A B C

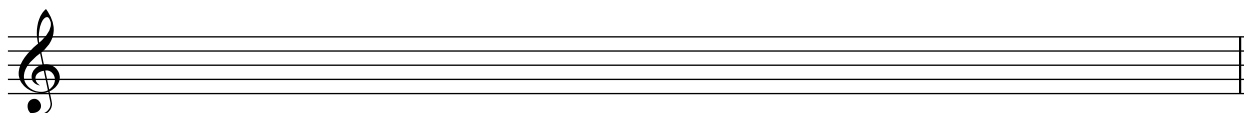
These two notes look like they are a long way apart when in reality they are the same note.

We use an **apostrophe** (do') to indicate that a solfa note is in an upper octave. Similarly a **comma** (do,) beside a note's name indicates it is in a lower octave. Notice that solfa names are written in **lowercase** (usually in italics) and letter names are written in **UPPERCASE**.

## Level 3 Section 1 - Scales - Worksheet

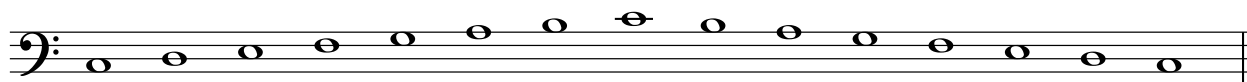
**S1 Scales 1** Using semibreves in the treble clef, write one octave (i.e. from middle C up to the next C), ascending and descending, of C Major.

(Musicianship & Aural Training for the Secondary School, Level 3 Books, Page 3, Q. 1).



**S1 Scales 2** Write the letter names beneath the given C Major scale.

(Musicianship & Aural Training for the Secondary School, Level 3 Books, Page 3, Q. 1).



## Music Analysis - The Elements of Music Part 2

Read the following information, from pages 3 to 5 of Decoding Sound, then, for all the *Expressive Elements* of music below, create your own definitions using your own words.

### Expressive Element

*An element that can be manipulated by a performer to create chosen expressive outcomes*

#### The elements of music continued.

**Duration:** *The length of time that something (a sound, in music) lasts for.*

**Beat:** *The basic, regular unit of time, the steady, underlying "heartbeat" of the music.*

**Rhythm:** *The pattern of sounds, organised according to duration, heard over the underlying beat/pulse structure.*

**Metre:** *The organisation of rhythm into bars, usually comprising stressed and unstressed beats/pulses.*

**Tempo:** *The speed (usually of the beat/pulse) at which music is played. An expressive element.*

**Pitch:** *Describes the high-ness or low-ness of a note, which is determined by the speed of the sound vibration.*

**Melody:** *The tune or the way pitch is organised horizontally.*

**Harmony:** *The way pitch is organised vertically or the merging of simultaneously sounding musical notes.*

**Tonality:** *The organised grouping of a set of related notes (a scale) that a musical work is based on. Often called **key**.*

**Dynamics:** *The volume of the music, commonly indicated by markings on the notated composition. An expressive element.*

**Articulation:** *The techniques used by a performer that affect the quality of the sound being created. In particular, the attack (start) and decay (release) of a sound. An expressive element.*

**Structure:** *The form of a musical work.*

**Tone Colour:** *The sound quality of an instrument(s). Also referred to as timbre. An expressive element.*

**Texture:** *The way the parts or roles and music lines have been combined:*

- *Balance of music lines: The instrumental/vocal layers in the music, their roles, and how they relate to each other. An expressive element.*
- *Blend of instrumental voices: The way individual and/or groups of instruments/voices merge or stand out. An expressive element.*

**Phrasing:** *The way a performer divides the music into short, distinct sections (think phrase or sentence in English) during a performance. An expressive element.*

**Instrumentation:** *The instruments/voices used to perform a work.*

**Ornamentation / Embellishment:** *The way a performer alters the main notes of the music being performed, usually by adding notes or altering the rhythm. An expressive element.*

**Improvisation:** *A spontaneous musical passage, section or composition created by a performer. An expressive element.*