

Duration: 0.5-1 minute

Suggested techniques include:

- ▶ use of different rhythmic values
- ▶ clear melodic line
- ▶ use of keys stipulated for technical work at this grade (currently: C major, A minor)

You may want to: ...use hands separately and together

Example 1

Moderato

f *p*

Example 2

Moderato

mf

Example 3

Moderato

f *p*

Duration: approx. 1 minute

- Suggested techniques include:
- ▶ dynamic contrast
 - ▶ simple syncopation or other rhythmic feature
 - ▶ use of keys stipulated for technical work at this grade (currently: F, G major and D, E minor)

You may want to: ...use hands separately and together

Example 1

Allegro

f *mp* *f* *mp*

Example 2

Andante

p sempre legato *mf*

Example 3

Slow blues ♩ = 84
quavers may be played straight or swung

f *mp*

Duration: 1-1.5 minutes

Suggested techniques include:

- ▶ use of different articulations
- ▶ simple melodic ornamentation or inflection
- ▶ use of keys stipulated for technical work at this grade (currently: Bb, D major and G, B minor)

You may want to: ...include legato and staccato passages

Example 1

Moderato

mf *mp* *f*

Example 2

Slowly

p *cresc.* *mf* *3* *dim.* *p*

Example 3

Misterioso ♩ = 112

f *mf* *p*

Duration:

1.5-2 minutes

Suggested techniques include:

- ▶ form should show clear sections (eg 'ABA')
- ▶ melodic range of one octave or more
- ▶ use of keys stipulated for technical work at this grade (currently: E \flat , A major and C, F \sharp minor)

You may want to:

...build volume to a loud climax

Example 1

Tranquillo

mp legato e leggiero

con Ped.

pp

mf

Example 2

Andante

p cresc.

mf

p cresc.

mf

p

Piano: Grade 3
Own composition starting points (cont.)

Example 3

Espressivo ♩ = 138

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a whole rest, followed by a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B-flat4, C5, D5, E-flat5, F5, G5. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, starting with a whole note G3, followed by a sequence of eighth notes: A3, B-flat3, C4, D4, E-flat4, F4, G4. Dynamic markings include *p cresc.* in the first measure of the upper staff, *mf dim.* in the third measure of the upper staff, and *con Ped.* below the first measure of the lower staff.

The second system of musical notation continues from the first system. The upper staff features a melodic line with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking above the third measure and a *tr* (trill) marking above the fourth measure. The lower staff includes dynamic markings: *p* in the second measure, *f* in the fourth measure, and *p* in the fifth measure. The system concludes with a double bar line.

Duration:

2-3 minutes

Suggested techniques include:

- ▶ tempo changes
- ▶ use of a variety of different articulations
- ▶ use of keys stipulated for technical work at this grade (currently: A \flat , E major and F, C \sharp minor)

You may want to:

...use the melody in each hand

Example 1

Dramatic & cinematic ♩ = 138

Musical score for Example 1, 'Dramatic & cinematic', in 4/4 time with a tempo of 138. The score consists of two systems of piano and treble clef staves. The first system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The second system starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes with various articulations like accents and slurs.

Example 2

Flowing ♩ = 70

Musical score for Example 2, 'Flowing', in 6/8 time with a tempo of 70. The score consists of two systems of piano and treble clef staves. The first system starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and includes the instruction *con Ped.* The second system starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes with various articulations like slurs and accents.

Piano: Grade 4
Own composition starting points (cont.)

Example 3

Espressivo ♩ = 120

mp

rit.

meno mosso

Ped.

Duration: 3-4 minutes

Suggested techniques include:

- ▶ chromaticism
- ▶ use of semiquaver passages
- ▶ use of keys stipulated for technical work at this grade (currently: D \flat , B major and B \flat , G \sharp minor)

You may want to: ...use wide leaps in the melody

Example 1

Lively ♩ = 180

mf

p *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

molto rit. *ff*

Piano: Grade 5

Own composition starting points (cont.)

Example 2

Rubato ♩ = 92

First system of musical notation for Example 2. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The music begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with a slur over the first two measures, followed by a series of eighth-note patterns. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pulse. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *p*.

Second system of musical notation for Example 2. The right hand continues the melodic line with slurs and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand maintains the accompaniment. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *mf*.

Third system of musical notation for Example 2. The right hand features a melodic line with a crescendo leading to a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a decrescendo to mezzo-piano (*mp*). The left hand continues the accompaniment. Dynamics include *cresc.*, *f*, and *mp*.

Example 3

Ritmico ♩ = 108

First system of musical notation for Example 3. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The music begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with accents and slurs, including a triplet. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pulse. Dynamics include *f* and *mp*.

Second system of musical notation for Example 3. The right hand continues the melodic line with slurs and includes a triplet. The left hand maintains the accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp*.

Duration:

4-5 minutes

Suggested techniques include:

- ▶ more advanced use of form (eg theme and variations)
- ▶ extensive range
- ▶ more advanced melodic ornamentation or inflection
- ▶ use of any key

You may want to:

- ...include pedal effects
- ...investigate different types of form

As stated previously, starters for this grade and above can be drawn from any of the starters from previous grades. Spend time improvising and adapting music for the piece. Expand ideas and techniques until a piece is crafted with similar technical demands to the other pieces in this grade. Look through other pieces in this grade and analyse their form, range and technical demands. Use this to help create a checklist of things to include in the composition.

Below is a starter adapted from Example 2 from Grade 3 – this is one of many starters that could be adapted into a piece using 'theme and variations' as a compositional tool. Improve changing time signature, tempo, melody, harmony, rhythm, embellishments etc.

Example (adapted from Example 2 – Grade 3)

Andante ♩ = 86

6

12

molto rit.

Piano: Grade 6
Own composition starting points (cont.)

17 *allargando* Ritmico ♩ = 128

p

8^{bb}

Detailed description: This system contains measures 17, 18, and 19. Measure 17 is marked 'allargando' and 'p'. It features a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef, both starting with a half note and followed by quarter notes. A slur covers the first two notes of each line. Measure 18 is the start of a 'Ritmico' section with a tempo of 128. The treble clef has a series of eighth notes with stems pointing up, each followed by a quarter rest. The bass clef has a long, low note (G^{bb}) with a slur underneath it. Measure 19 continues the 'Ritmico' section with the same patterns in both staves.

20 *p*

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 20, 21, 22, and 23. Measure 20 is marked 'p'. The treble clef has a series of eighth notes with stems pointing up, each followed by a quarter rest. The bass clef has a series of quarter notes. Measure 21 continues the 'Ritmico' section with the same patterns in both staves. Measure 22 continues the 'Ritmico' section with the same patterns in both staves. Measure 23 continues the 'Ritmico' section with the same patterns in both staves. The system ends with a double bar line.

Duration: approx. 5 minutes

Suggested techniques include:

- ▶ modulation
- ▶ use of irregular time signatures
- ▶ use of any key

You may want to: ...octaves in both hands

As stated previously, starters for this grade and above can be drawn from any of the starters from previous grades. Spend time improvising and adapting music for the piece. Expand ideas and techniques until a piece is crafted with similar technical demands to the other pieces in this grade. Look through other pieces in this grade and analyse their form, range and technical demands. Use this to help create a checklist of things to include in the composition.

Below is a starter adapted from Example 1 from Grade 4 – this is one of many starters that could be adapted into a piece including an irregular time signature. Improvise changing time signatures, melody, harmony, rhythm etc. Perhaps adapt the piece to include octaves in both hands or transpose the piece into a key that you are struggling with in your technical work for this grade. Use this as a way to become more familiar with difficult tasks.

Example (adapted from Example 1 – Grade 4)

Dramatic & cinematic ♩ = 138

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 138. The first system (measures 1-4) is in 4/4 time, marked 'p' and 'con Ped.', with dynamics 'p' and 'mp'. The second system (measures 5-8) is in 4/4 time, marked 'mf' and 'f'. The third system (measures 9-12) is in 4/4 time, marked 'f', and features triplets in the right hand and 'LH marcato' in the left hand.

Piano: Grade 7
Own composition starting points (cont.)

13

ff 3 dim.

5/4

Detailed description: This musical block contains measures 13 through 16. The music is written for piano in a 5/4 time signature. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The right hand features a melodic line with triplets of eighth notes and quarter notes, marked with accents and dynamics of fortissimo (ff) and decrescendo (dim.). The left hand provides a steady accompaniment of quarter notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a 5/4 time signature.

17

Misterioso

p ff p ff p ff

5/4 4/4 2/4 4/4 3/4

Detailed description: This musical block contains measures 17 through 21. The tempo is marked 'Misterioso'. The music is written for piano in a key signature of two flats. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth notes, marked with accents and dynamics of piano (p) and fortissimo (ff). The left hand plays a bass line with quarter notes. The time signature changes from 5/4 to 4/4, then to 2/4, back to 4/4, and finally to 3/4. The piece ends with a double bar line and a 3/4 time signature.

Duration:

5-6 minutes

Suggested techniques include:

- ▶ wide range of expressive techniques
- ▶ creative use of form
- ▶ use of extended techniques, wide range, chromaticism and rhythmic variation
- ▶ use of any key

You may want to:

- ...feature contrapuntal voices
- ...investigate different types of form
- ...investigate and experiment with extended techniques

As stated previously, starters for this grade and above can be drawn from any of the starters from previous grades. Spend time improvising and adapting music for the piece. Expand ideas and techniques until a piece is crafted with similar technical demands to the other pieces in this grade. Look through other pieces in this grade and analyse their form, range and technical demands. Use this to help create a checklist of things to include in the composition.

Below is a starter adapted from Example 1 from Grade 1 – this is one of many starters that could be adapted into a piece using a wide melodic and harmonic range with more difficult passages for both hands. Improve changing time signature, tempo, melody, harmony, rhythm, embellishments etc. Perhaps create a longer sketch of the piece in a more accessible difficulty level before going back and expanding on techniques and ranges. This way you will have a greater sense of the underlying piece as whole before making it technically more difficult.

Example (adapted from Example 1 – Grade 1)

Molto espressivo ♩ = 100

The musical score is presented in two systems, each containing five measures. The first system begins with a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. The right-hand part features a melodic line with slurs and triplets, while the left-hand part provides a bass line with triplets and slurs. Dynamics range from *sfp* to *ff*. The second system starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The right-hand part continues the melodic line, and the left-hand part plays a bass line with triplets and slurs. Dynamics include *mf*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, triplets, and dynamic markings.

Piano: Grade 8

Own composition starting points (cont.)

11

ff

3

3

15

mf

3

ff

3

sfz

8^{vb}