

Level 1: RED KEYS



Section 1: Rhythm

The time signature will be $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{4}{4}$ or C. (Remember that C means 'Common Time' and is the same as $\frac{4}{4}$). You will need to look through the whole line first and then count one bar in before you clap the rhythm. Try clapping one or two of these at home each day, and after about a week you can give yourself a rating!

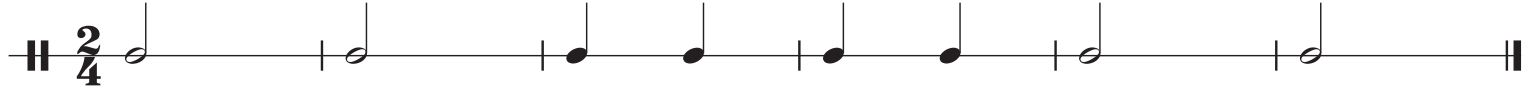
1.



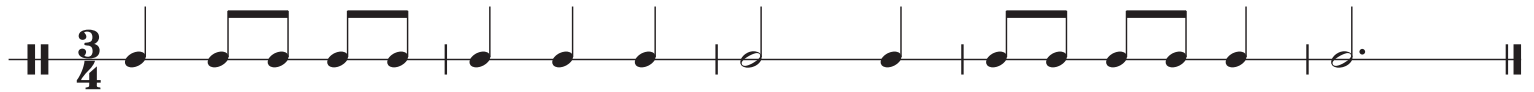
2.



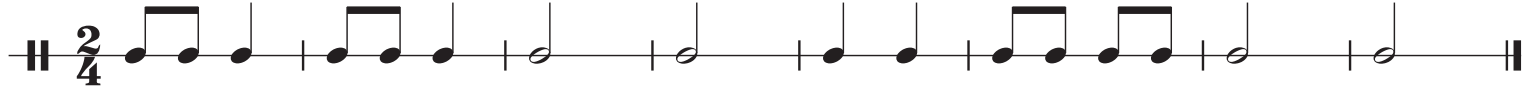
3.



4.



5.



6.



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a red key sticker!!!



Level 2: DARK BLUE KEYS



Section 1: Rhythm

The time signatures are exactly the same as in Level 1 - but this time there are some RESTS and some TIES. It's very important to observe rests and ties when sight reading! Look through the whole line and count a bar in your head before you begin. Try a couple of these each day:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 

How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a dark blue key sticker!!!



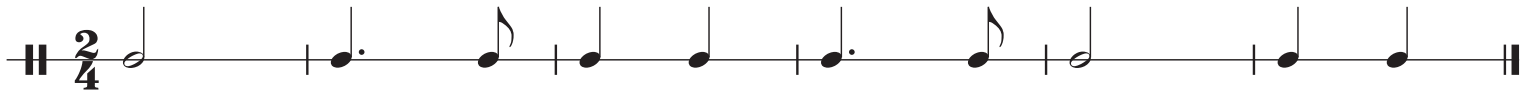
Level 3: GREEN KEYS



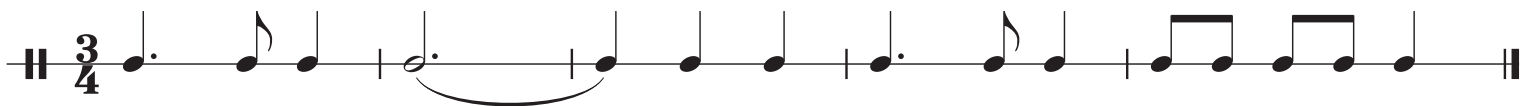
Section 1: Rhythm

There is a new rhythm here - a dotted crotchet followed by a single quaver. The time signatures are the same as previous levels and you will still need to look through the whole line and then count one bar in your head before you begin. Try a couple of these each day:

1.



2.



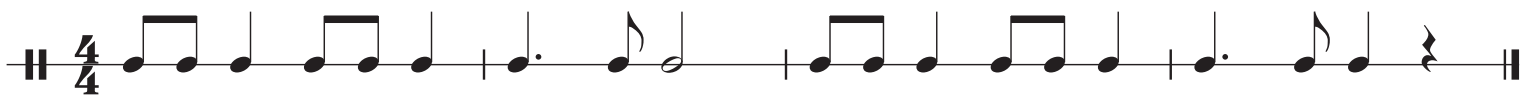
3.



4.



5.



6.



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a green key sticker!!!



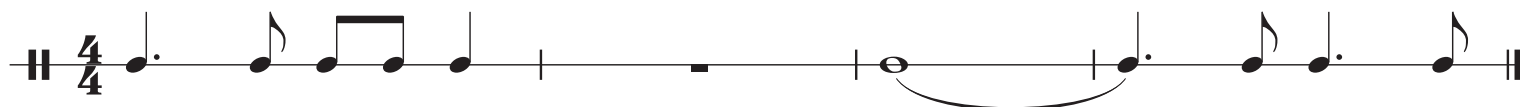
Level 4: YELLOW KEYS



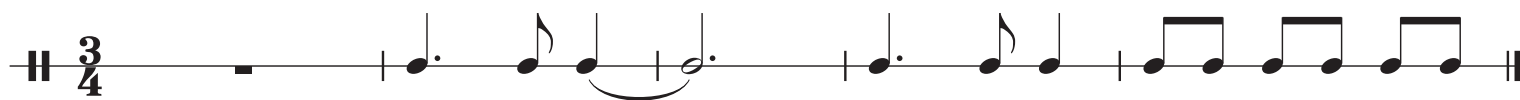
Section 1: Rhythm

These rhythms feature the 'whole bar rest' along with a brand new time signature: $\frac{6}{8}$. It's easiest to count the pulses in $\frac{6}{8}$ by saying 'ONE two three FOUR five six' before you clap.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a yellow key sticker!!!



Level 5: PINK KEYS



Section 1: Rhythm

These rhythms combine everything we've done in previous levels, including our new time signature $\frac{6}{8}$. Choose a different rhythm to clap each day. Remember to watch out for ties and observe the rests!

1.



2.



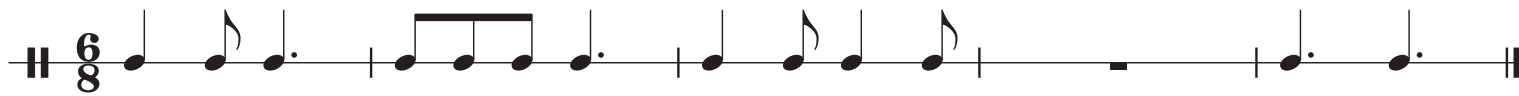
3.



4.



5.



6.



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a pink key sticker!!!



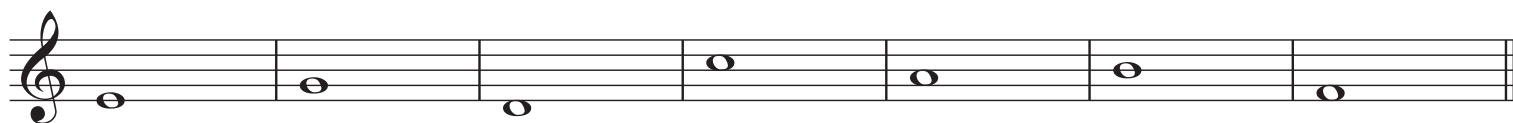
Section 2: Random Note Reading

You'll be tested on a range of one octave: from middle C to the next C in the treble clef.

The notes are written as semibreves, but you can just play them one after another in your own time. The idea is to get really good at playing random notes that are not in a pattern. You can also ask a parent or friend to point to any note in any music book for you to play; it's a great way to practise.

Here are some examples as they will look in the test. Try a different line each day, so that you don't memorise them... remember, it's supposed to be sight reading! Your teacher might also like to choose a line for you to play in your piano lesson.

1.



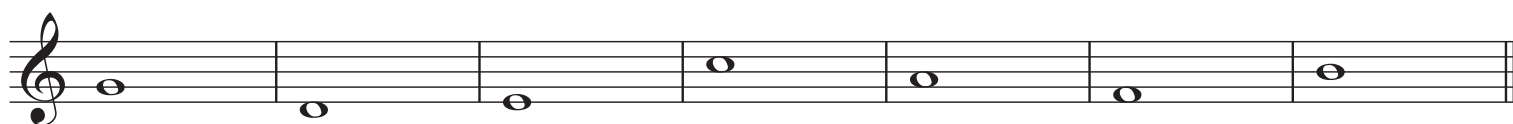
2.



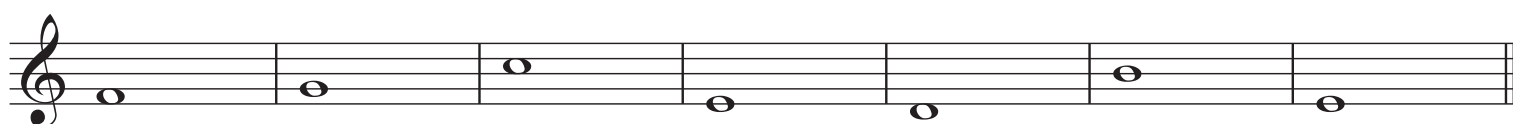
3.



4.



5.



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a red key sticker!!!



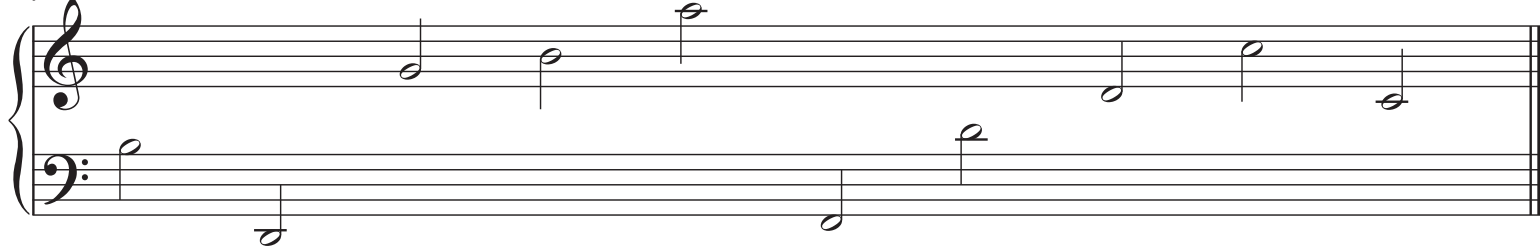
Section 2: Random Note Reading

The range of notes in Level 6 extends to one leger line above or below treble or bass. Remember you're supposed to play them a little faster than previous levels, which is why the notes are minims! Choose a different line (or even half a line) to play each day.

1.



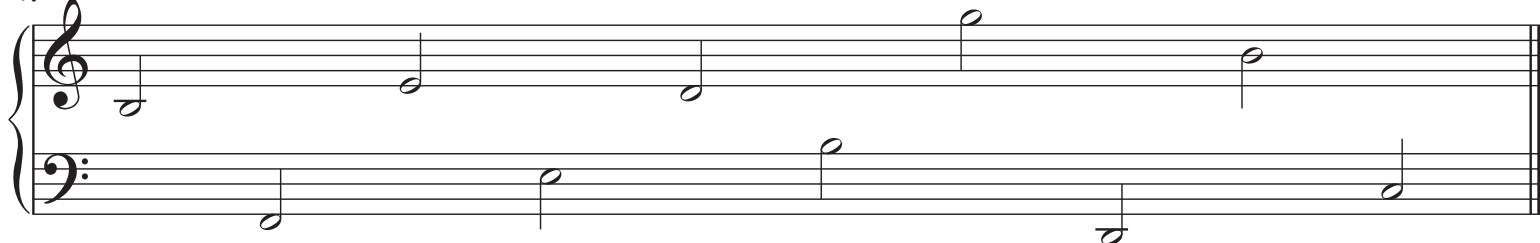
2.



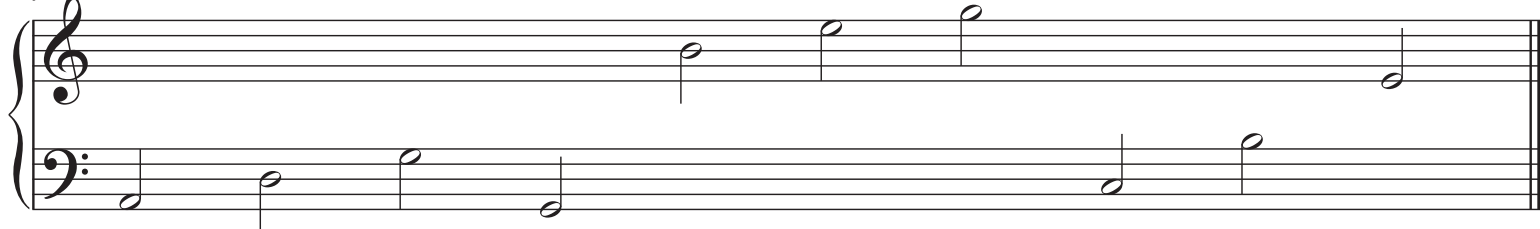
3.



4.



5.



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a light blue key sticker!!!



Section 2: Random Note Reading

Finally in Level 10 you have to read sharps, flats and NATURALS!

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.


How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞



Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a rainbow key sticker!!!



Section 3: Melody Patterns

Recognising patterns in music makes piano sight reading really easy. In this level we'll learn about **step**, **skip**, and **repeated note** patterns.

If the notes move by **step** e.g. 'line-space-line'  all the notes will be 'next door neighbours'. Just **step** from one finger to the next.

If the notes move by **skip** e.g. 'line - line - line'  or 'space - space - space'  the notes will NOT be 'next door neighbours'.

There will be a spare note in between, so you should **skip** a finger when you play.

If the notes stay on the same line or space, just play the **same note** on the keyboard!

When reading these patterns, look carefully at the **FIRST NOTE** and the **PATTERN** of each bar. Don't worry too much about the rhythm; the important thing is to recognise step/skip/repeated note patterns. Choose a different line to play each day.

The fingering is given in the first two lines to help you out. Don't worry, you'll get used to it!

1.



2.



3.



4.



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

More melody patterns on the next page!

Section 3: Melody Patterns

In Level 4 the patterns will be a combination of steps, skips and repeated notes within each bar. You'll also notice there's a new rhythm in some bars: four crotchets in a row. Try to flow along as best you can! The important thing is to recognise the pattern. Don't worry too much about the fingering, you'll get used to it.

To make it easier, there are separate treble and bass examples (right hand for treble, left hand for bass). Try a different line (or even half a line) each day so that you don't memorise any of them... remember, it's sight reading!

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a yellow key sticker!!!



Section 3: Melody Patterns

These patterns are similar to Level 4, but now they're on a grand staff. Before you play each line, look through to see the starting notes in each hand for each pattern, and decide on the best fingering. Remember: try to flow along as best you can!

Choose a different line to play each day so that you don't memorise any of them.

1.

2.

3.

4.


How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞


Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a pink key sticker!!!



Section 4: Chords

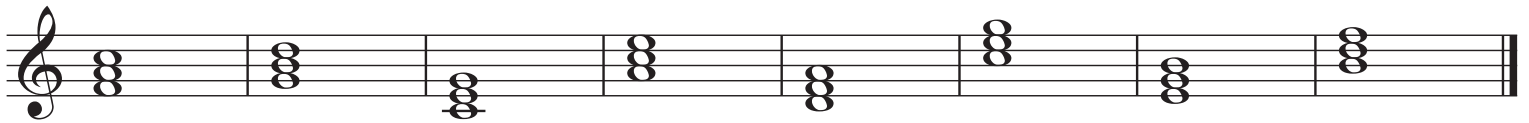
Now we're going to learn how to sight-read chords in **root position** (that is, chords that look like a set of traffic lights!) quickly and easily. For root position chords, always use this fingering:

Right hand (1-3-5) 

Left hand (5-3-1) 

The trick is: if you always use this fingering, you only need to read the **BOTTOM** note!

Try these chords with your right hand. Remember: read the bottom note only and put your **thumb** on it!

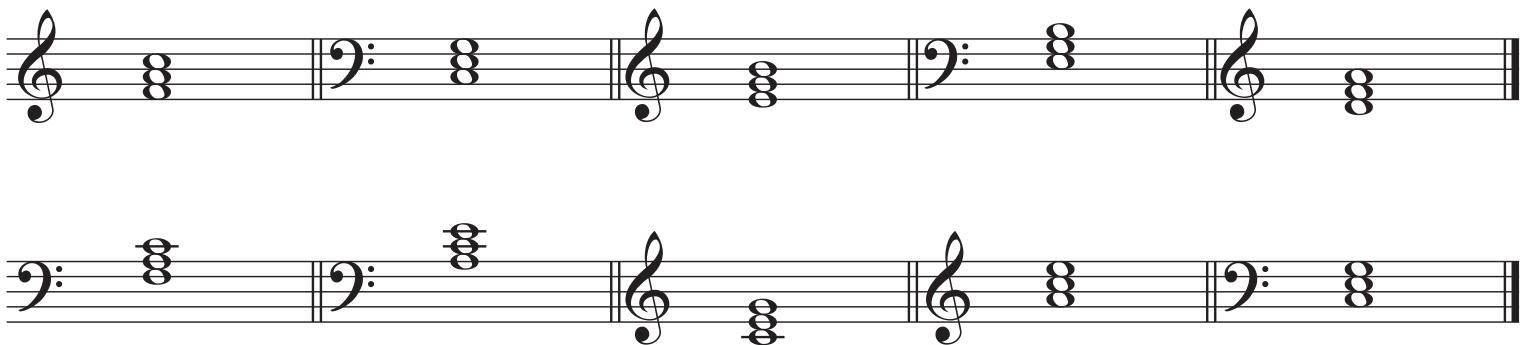


Now try these chords with your left hand. Remember: read the bottom note only and put your **pinky** (5th finger) on it!



Well done. Now you can try switching hands. Use right hand for treble clef chords and left hand for bass clef chords.

Remember: you only need to work out the **BOTTOM NOTE** of the chord!



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this page a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a red key sticker!!!



Section 4: Chords

So far we've learned to recognise chord 'I' shapes and chord 'V⁷' shapes. Now here's a new chord shape (called chord 'IV') in C major:

and now with chords I and V⁷

This new chord shape is 'taller' than the root position chord. G major and F major will feel very similar to C major. Practise these chords with your left hand:

(2nd finger on B flat)

Good work! Here are some longer examples to try with left hand only. The examples are in C, G or F major. Check the key signature before you start.

1.

2.

3.

4.

How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a green key sticker!!!



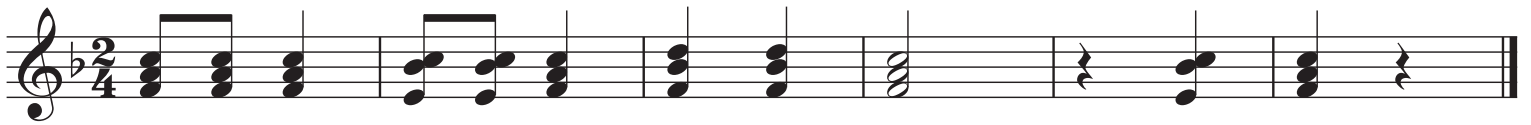
Section 4: Chords

Now it's time to combine two skills: your chord playing AND your rhythm reading! Here are some 'chord pieces' in 3 different keys: C, G and F major. Use your left hand for bass clef and right hand for treble clef. Think through the rhythm and check the key signature before you start.

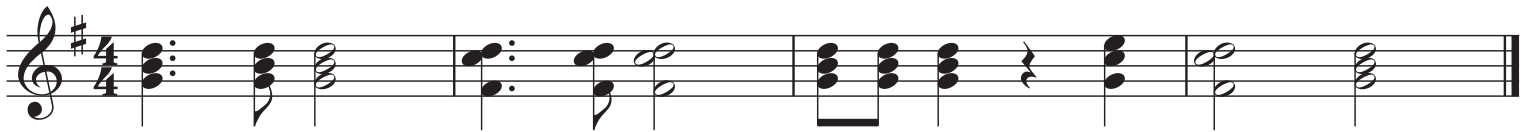
1.



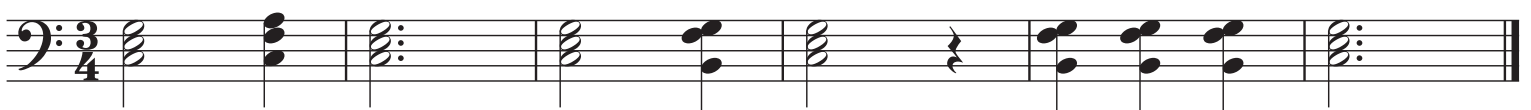
2.



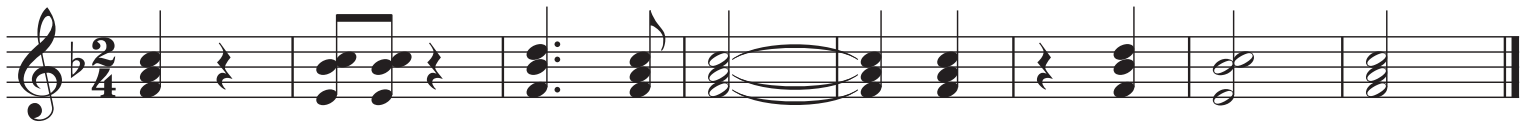
3.



4.



5.



6.



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a pink key sticker!!!



Section 4: Chords

Now that you are really good at reading and playing chords, it's time to recognise those chords when you see them broken up into a pattern. This is important because so many pieces have broken chord patterns, especially in the bass part.

Try the two patterns below. In each example there is a block chord followed by the same chord broken into a pattern.

'Broken chord' pattern (in G major):



'Oom-Cha-Cha-Cha' pattern (in C major)



In the examples below you'll be playing the patterns without the block chords! Look through each example before you play and try to figure out which chord each bar/pattern is based on. Check the time signature AND the key before you begin. (C, G or F major)



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a purple key sticker!!!



Level 1

Try a different rhythm and melody every few days, but make sure you don't practise and memorise them... the idea is to sight-read! Your teacher might also like to hear one or two in your piano lesson.

3a. Clap:



3b. Play:



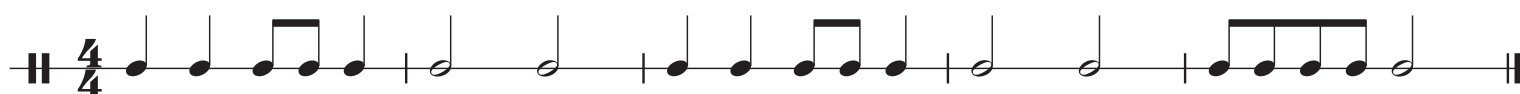
4a. Clap:



4b. Play:



5a. Clap:



5b. Play:



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a red key sticker!!!



4a. Clap:



4b. Play:



5a. Clap:



5b. Play:



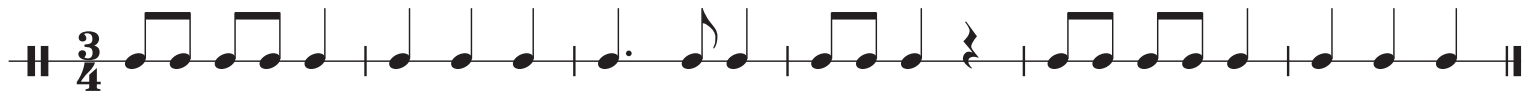
6a. Clap:



6b. Play:



7a. Clap:



7b. Play:



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

Try this section a couple of times, and if it keeps going well, you can collect a pink key sticker!!!



3a. Clap:



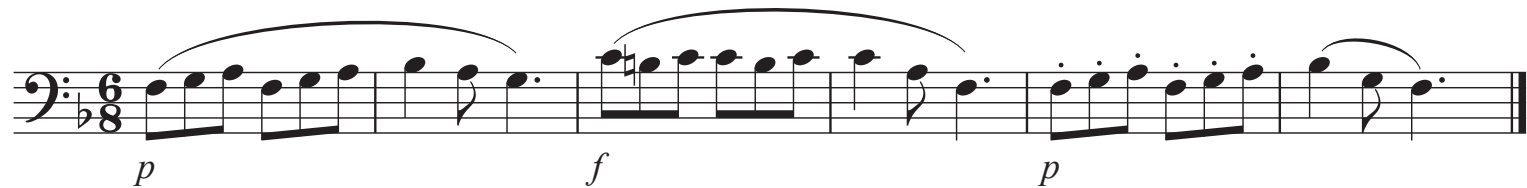
3b. Play:



4a. Clap:



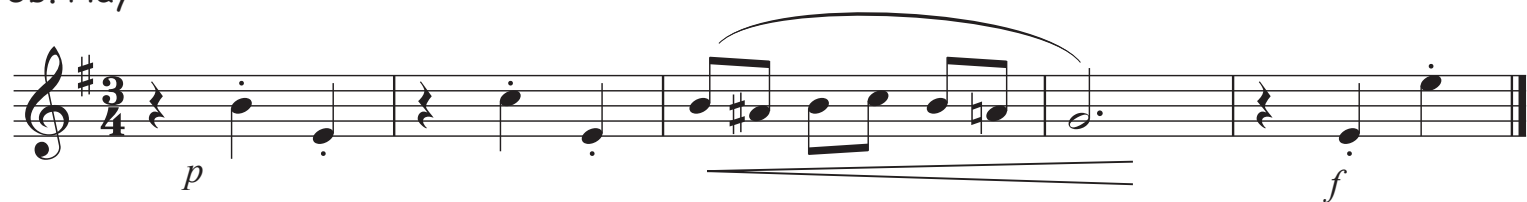
4b. Play:



5a. Clap:



5b. Play:



6a. Clap:



How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞
 More on the next page!

Section 5: Sight-read a Piece

In each of these pieces there is a right hand melody and left hand block chords. For this level they are all in C major or A minor. Choose a different piece to try every time you practise, but **do not memorise these pieces** - they are for sight reading!

Before playing each piece, go through this checklist **with your hands in your lap**:

- ★ Look through the rhythm of the right hand. Are there any tricky bits?
- ★ Check the rhythm of the left hand. There may be some rests or ties.
- ★ Check the key signature and the last note, and watch for accidentals.
- ★ Does the melody move by steps or skips or both? Are there any leaps or intervals?
- ★ What is the LH chord sequence?
- ★ What is the starting position and the first note?

It might take you a minute or two to go through the checklist in your head. This is fine because in an exam you will usually be given this amount of time. If you get into a habit of thinking through these things, sight reading becomes much easier!

1.

2.

How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

More on the next page!

Section 5: Sight-read a Piece

You are now extremely good at sight reading and it's time to put all of your skills together. Not only do you have to read rhythm, melodic patterns and chord patterns all in a certain key, you also have to include **DYNAMICS** and **ARTICULATION** when playing hands together!

This is quite tricky, so to make it a bit easier in this level, each piece is notated twice. For example, 1b is exactly the same as 1a but with dynamics and articulation added.

Take your time to check all the usual things before you play the first version. Then have a quick check of the added details in the second version. Good luck!

1a.

1b.

2a.

2b.

How do you think you went on this page? Your rating: 😊 😐 😞 Teacher rating: 😊 😐 😞

More on the next page!

Level 1: TEST (no peeking)

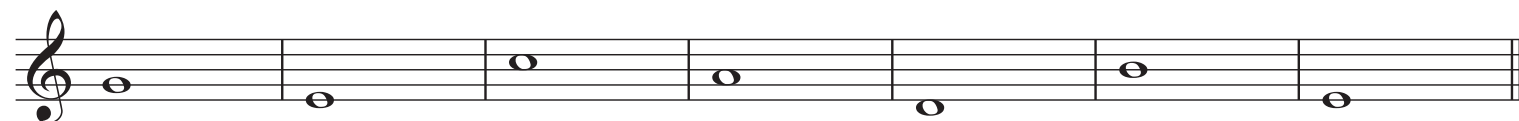


Make sure you have collected all of your red keys before your teacher gives you this test.

1. Clap this rhythm. Check the time signature and count in one bar before you start.



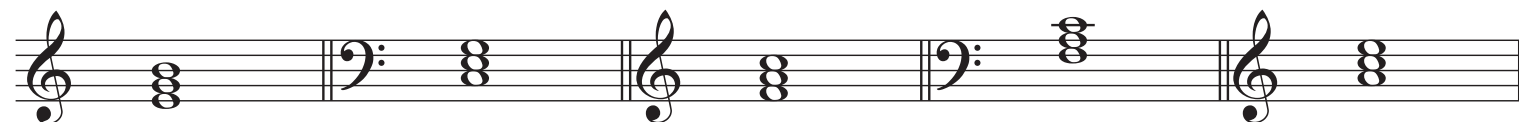
2. Play these notes.



3. Play these melodic patterns. Check the FIRST note and the pattern in each bar.



4. Play these chords with either left hand (for bass clef) or right hand (for treble clef)



5. Clap the rhythm and then play the melody. Use the longer notes to look ahead!

Clap:

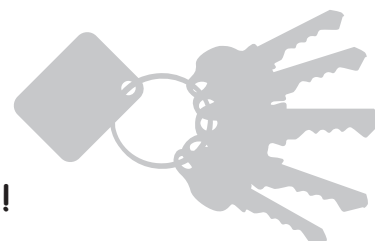


Play:



CONGRATULATIONS!

You've passed Level 1 - you can collect your red key ring sticker!!!

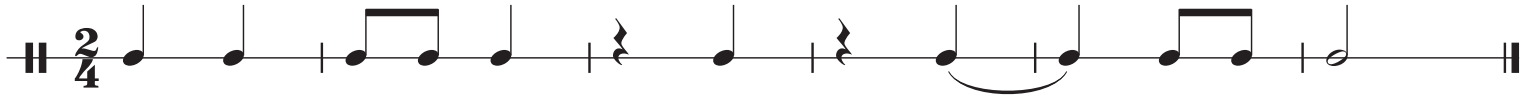


Level 2: TEST (no peeking)

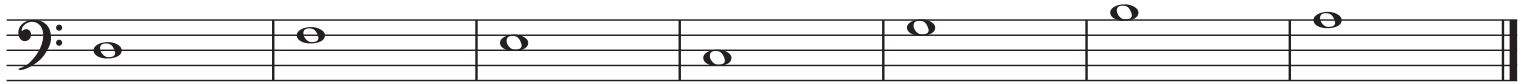


Make sure you have collected all of your dark blue keys before you take this test!

1. Clap this rhythm. Count in one bar before you start.



2. Play these notes.



3. Play these melodic patterns. Check the FIRST note and the pattern of each bar.



4. Play these chords with your left hand.



5. Clap the rhythm then play the melody. When you are playing longer notes, look ahead to see what's coming next. Also, check the key carefully before you play.



CONGRATULATIONS! You've passed Level 2.
You can collect your dark blue key ring sticker!!!

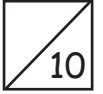


Level 10: TEST (no peeking)

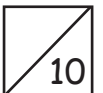


Make sure you have been through all five sections and have all of your rainbow keys before you take this test. Ask your teacher to give you a mark out of 10 for each question.

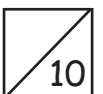
1. Clap the rhythm then play the melody.



2. Play these notes.



3. Play these intervals.



4. Play this chord pattern with your left hand.



5. Play this piece hands together.

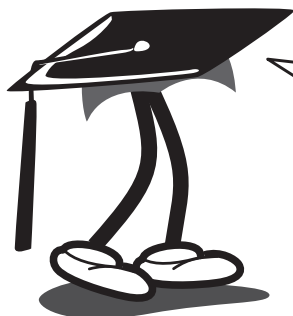


How did you go? Score:

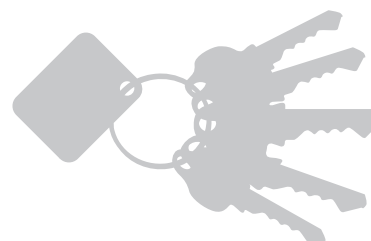


If you scored less than 40, it's a good idea to go through some or all of the sections again.

If you scored 40 or more...



CONGRATULATIONS!
 You've Blitzed Level 10
 - you can collect your final
RAINBOW key ring sticker!!!



WELL DONE!!! That's the last level. You've now finished Book 1, and you can officially sight read extremely well. Hope you've had fun along the way... now on to Book 2! 😊