



# Urmston Grammar Sixth Form – Transition Work Music Department



## **A Level Music Theory Transition Work**

- A. **Music genres familiarisation**
- B. **Score preparation**
- C. **Aural Practice**
- D. **Theory Practice – 5 Tasks (work to hand in, in September)**

## **A. Music genres familiarisation**

### **Task**

Please spend some time listening to the music in these playlists. You should be familiar to some extent with the styles on the Rock and Pop playlist and there are some fantastic songs.

Rock and Pop Playlist:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/07zdOFsrWfdYc6d7t2PmMH>

The set works are;

Haydn's Symphony 104 in D major

Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4

Debussy's Nuages

Poulenc's Trio for Oboe and bassoon, 1<sup>st</sup> Movement

Set works Playlist:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4Hfo4geGLJ2qsyqkHTf4ot>

## **B. Score preparation**

Please purchase a copy of the set work scores. If your parents/carers need financial assistance with this, please contact me directly

[Haydn](#)

[Mendelssohn](#)

[Debussy](#)

[Poulenc](#)

## C. Aural Practice

### Task

Please spend some time keeping up your aural skills and practising chord and interval identification

Go to the website <https://tonedear.com/ear-training/chord-identification>

Ensure the settings are as below:

Toned Ear: Ear Training   Home   Exercises ▾   How to practice   For teachers   Android & iOS App   Contact Me

### Chord Identification Quiz

In this exercise, you will hear a chord. Your goal is to identify the type of chord that you heard. For best results, practice a little bit every day.

If you are a teacher and would like to use this exercise and others like it in the classroom, check out [ToneSavvy](#), the for-teachers version of this website.

**Chords**  

You can always add or remove individual chords later.

**Inversions**

- Root position
- 1st inversion
- 2nd inversion
- 3rd inversion

**Questions**  

Leave as 0 for never-ending quiz

Practice identifying major, minor, augmented and diminished chords.

Once these are accurate, try changing the “chords” settings to include different chords, or change the inversion.

Go to the website <https://tonedear.com/ear-training/intervals>

Ensure the settings are as below:

### Intervals Quiz

In this exercise, you will hear two notes in sequence. Your goal is to identify the interval between the two notes. For best results, practice a little bit every day.

If you are a teacher and would like to use this exercise and others like it in the classroom, check out [ToneSavvy](#), the for-teachers version of this website.

**Intervals**  

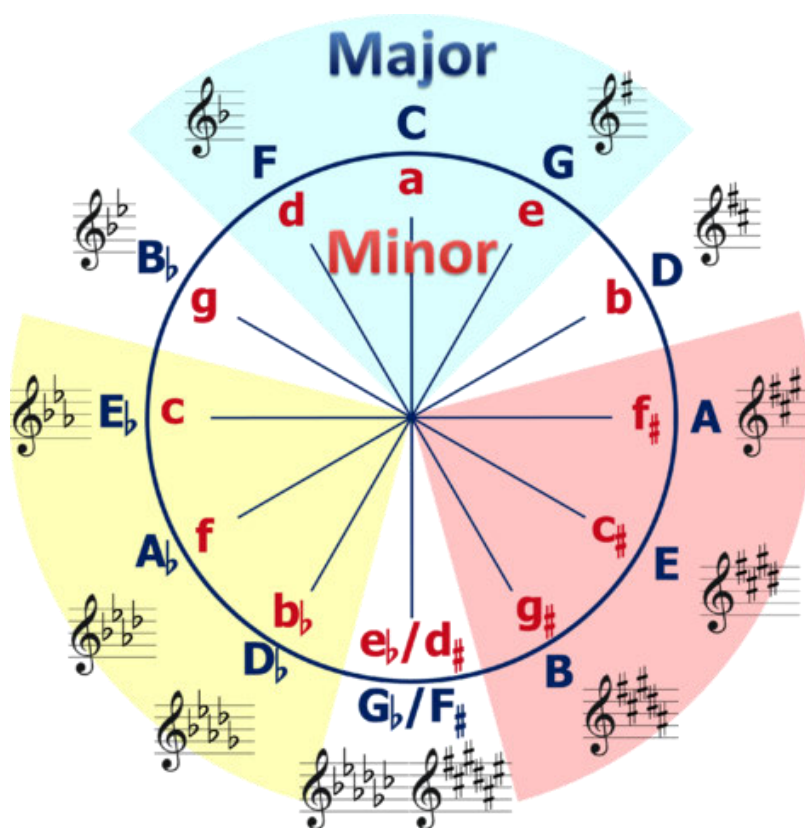
You can always customize the intervals after starting the quiz.

**Questions**  

Leave as 0 for never-ending quiz

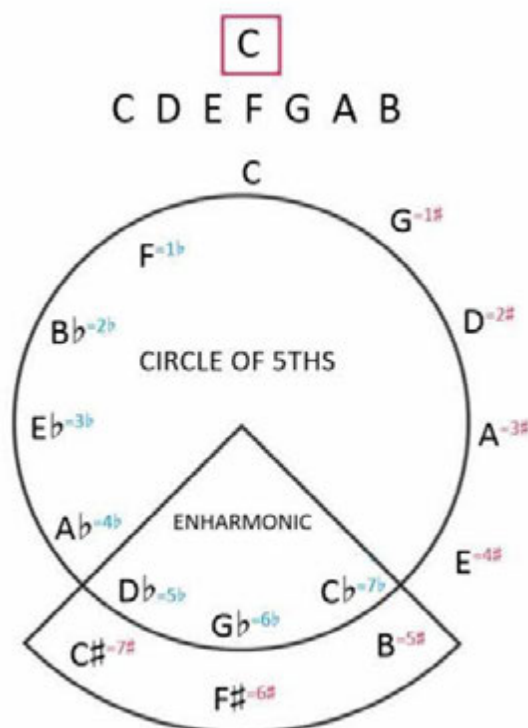
## D. Theory Practice (work to hand in, in September)

### The Circle of Fifths



#### MAJOR FLAT SCALES

- F**  
F G A B $\flat$  C D E F
- B $\flat$**   
B $\flat$  C D E $\flat$  F G A B $\flat$
- E $\flat$**   
E $\flat$  F G A $\flat$  B $\flat$  C D E $\flat$
- A $\flat$**   
A $\flat$  B $\flat$  C D $\flat$  E $\flat$  F G A $\flat$
- D $\flat$**   
D $\flat$  E $\flat$  F G $\flat$  A $\flat$  B $\flat$  C D $\flat$
- G $\flat$**   
G $\flat$  A $\flat$  B $\flat$  C $\flat$  D $\flat$  E $\flat$  F G $\flat$
- C $\flat$**   
C $\flat$  D $\flat$  E $\flat$  F $\flat$  G $\flat$  A $\flat$  B $\flat$  C $\flat$



ORDER OF #: F C G D A E B  
ORDER OF  $\flat$ : B E A D G C F

#### MAJOR SHARP SCALES

- G**  
G A B C D E F $\sharp$  G
- D**  
D E F $\sharp$  G A B C $\sharp$  D
- A**  
A B C $\sharp$  D E F $\sharp$  G $\sharp$  A
- E**  
E F $\sharp$  G $\sharp$  A B C $\sharp$  D $\sharp$  E
- B**  
B C $\sharp$  D $\sharp$  E F $\sharp$  G $\sharp$  A $\sharp$  B
- F $\sharp$**   
F $\sharp$  G $\sharp$  A $\sharp$  B C $\sharp$  D $\sharp$  E $\sharp$  F $\sharp$
- C $\sharp$**   
C $\sharp$  D $\sharp$  E $\sharp$  F $\sharp$  G $\sharp$  A $\sharp$  B $\sharp$  C $\sharp$

The Circle of Fifths shows you the relationship between Major and Minor keys and their key signatures. Rapid modulations through the circle (Either going down in fifths or Down in fifths) was very popular in the **harmonically explorative music of the Baroque**.

In the Classical period, initially composers kept harmonic movement more simple to allow for more expression in their melodies (motivic development).

They did, however, use modulations to change the expressive quality of their pieces, and use modulated keys to contrast and develop their melodic material. In **Sonata Form**, which is a crucially important Symphonic structure from the Classical period, the different sections are defined by and all link to specific harmonic progressions.

**Wow Moment 1.** If you pick any key (e.g. D) the Primary harmony chords for that key are the two letters on either side (e.g. G and A)

**Wow Moment 2.** Enharmonic keys have the same sounding note but different flats/sharps (e.g. Gb major and F# major)

### Task One

You must know, or commit to memorising the order of sharps and flats (the same thing but backwards).

Mnemonic Devices



Sharps

Father Charles Goes Down And Ends Battle

F C G D A E B

Battle Ends And Down Goes Charles Father

Flats



STAVE'N'TABS

You can choose your own method or mnemonic, or make up your own one.

Mnemonic Devices

BEAD - Greatest Common Factor

Before Eating A Doughnut,  
Get Coffee First



STAVE'N'TABS

Mnemonic Devices

Father Christmas Gave Dad An Electric Blanket

Fat Cats Go Down Alleys  
Eating Birds

Fat Chicks Go Dancing At Ed's Bar



STAVE'N'TABS

### Task Two

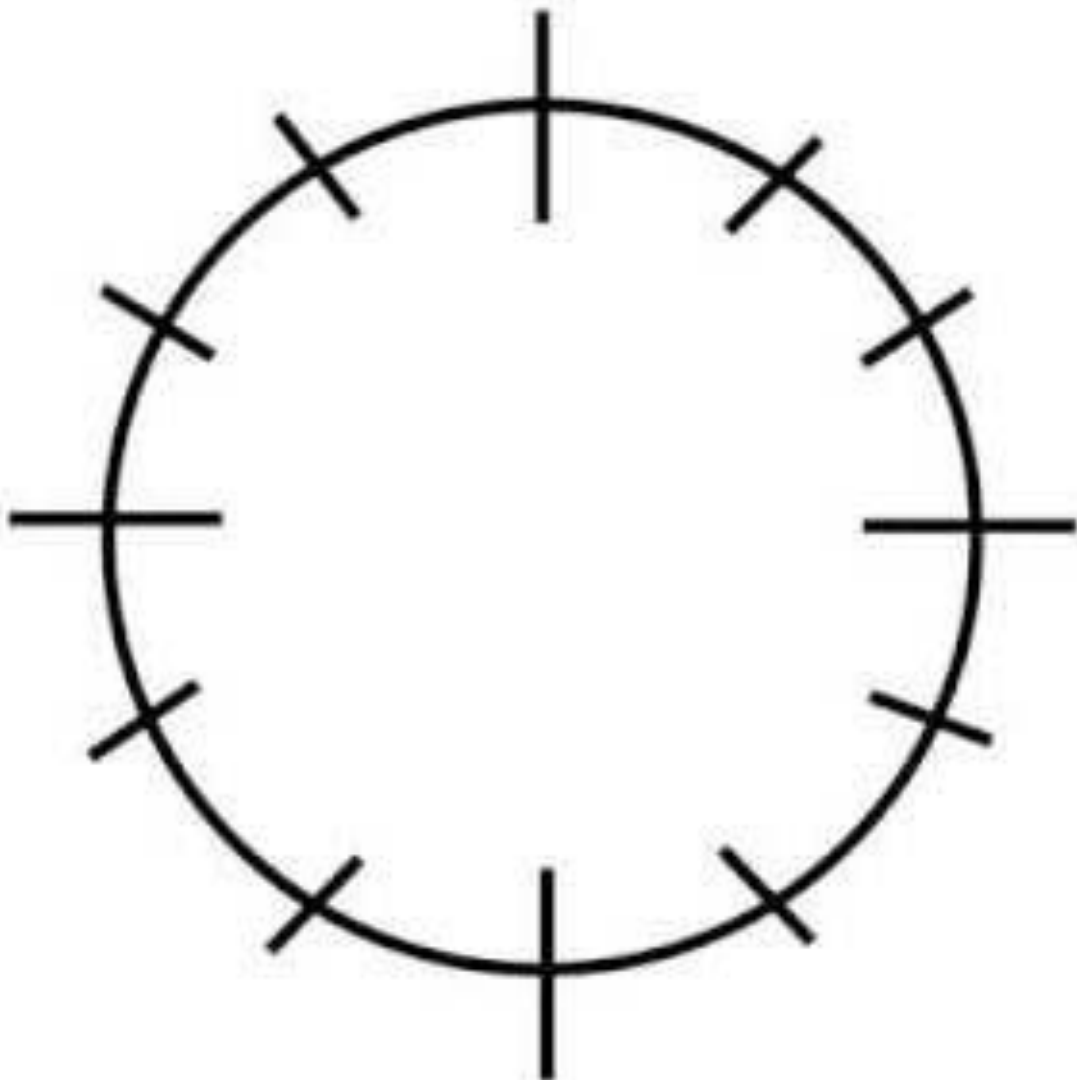
Please spend some time recalling how to build a circle of fifths, from your own grade 5 theory work and notes, to using youtube to freshen up your knowledge.

If you subscribe to Ms Langham's Youtube channel she has an A-Level theory playlist with some videos on the Circle of Fifths, and you should watch these to help your understanding.

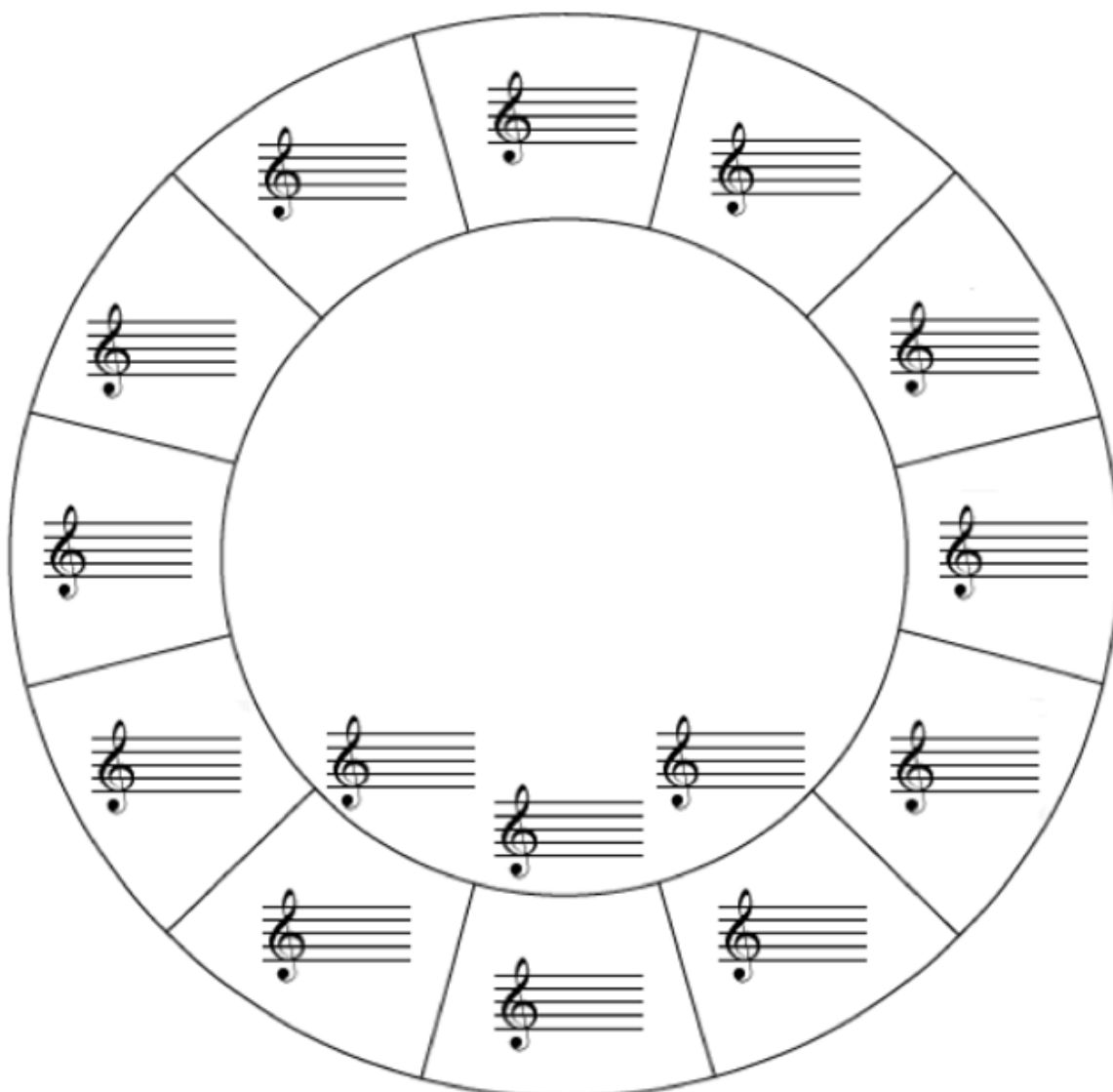
### Task Three

Practise writing out a Circle of Fifths – complete these pages to hand in please.

1. Look at the clockface below.
2. Write the words 'sharps' on the right and 'flats' on the left.
3. Write the words 'major' on the outside and 'minor' on the inside
4. Write in your 'sharp' major keys starting with C at the top, going down the right side, going up 5 notes at a time – Charles Goes Down and Ends Battle
5. Write your 'flat' major keys starting with F going down the left side, going down a fifth each time, (same thing as up 4 notes at a time.) Stick a b sign next to all except F.



6. Write out all this AGAIN on the circle on this page.
7. Add in your sharps for your key signatures on the right. Start with a # on the F line, then following the same phrase Charles Goes Down and Ends Battle
8. Write in your flats for your key signatures on the left. Start with a b on the B line, then following the same phrase backwards Battle Ends and Down Goes Charles
9. Work out minor keys by counting down three notes from the major key
10. Add sharps or flats to the minor keys if they appear in the key signatures





**Task Four**

Practise 1

Date:

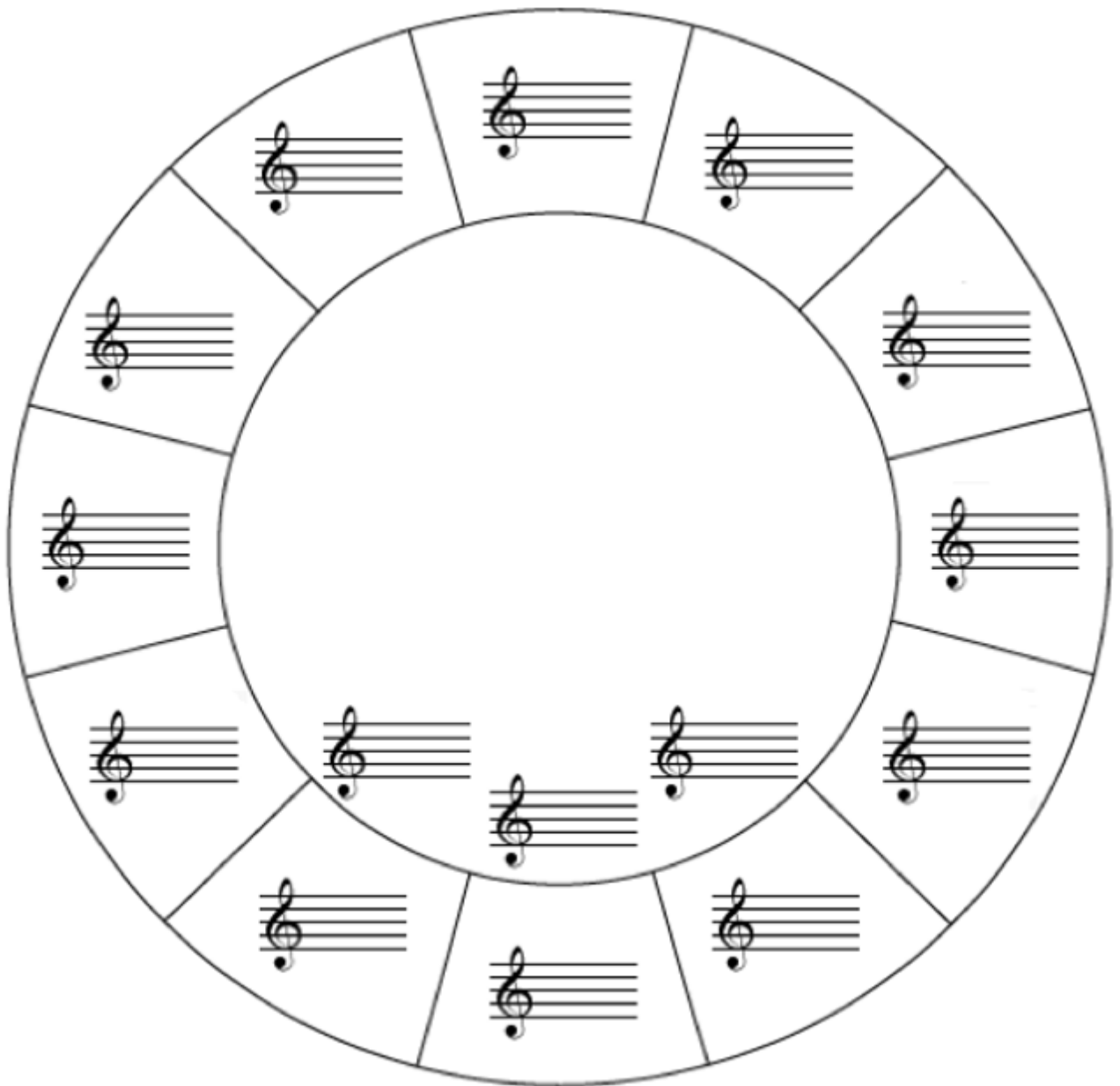
Time to complete:



Practise 2

Date:

Time to complete:



### **Task Five**

Please complete the free online course which is the equivalent to grades 1-3 of ABRSM theory and some other musical skills. It takes a total of 8 hours but you can do it in stages and it saves your progress.

[Theory Task link](#)

You should bring the certificate of completion in September.