

Grade One

Requirements

- The notes, signs and terms from the music presented for the examination.
- All requirements from the previous level.
- Knowledge of time signatures and the definition of a triplet.

Examples, Questions and Answers

Example 1

- Q.1 What is this?
- Q.2 What does it mean?
- Q.3 What is this?
- Q.4 What does it mean?
- Q.5 What is this?
- Q.6 What does it mean?
- Q.7 What is this?
- Q.8 What does it mean?
- Q.9 What part of the drum kit do we play for this note?

Example 2

The image shows a musical staff with a 4/4 time signature. The top staff contains a series of eighth notes with stems, grouped into four sets of two. The bottom staff contains a series of quarter notes. Labels 'Q.1&2', 'Q.3', and 'Q.4->o' point to the first, third, and fourth groups of eighth notes respectively.

- Q.1 What kind of note is this?
- Q.2 What is its value?
- Q.3 What part of the drum kit do we play for this note?
- Q.4 What does this symbol mean?

Time Signatures

A time signature is two numbers written one above the other at the start of a piece of music. The top number tells you how many beats are in each bar. The bottom number tells you the type of note that counts as one beat.

A given bar can have any combination of notes and rests, provided they add up to the number and type of beats specified by the time signature.

The number '4' at the bottom means quarter-note (or crotchet) beats. '2' at the bottom means half-note (or minim) beats. Here are some example time signatures:

$\frac{2}{4}$ = Two $\frac{1}{4}$ -note beats per bar.

$\frac{3}{4}$ = Three $\frac{1}{4}$ -note beats per bar.

$\frac{4}{4}$ = Four $\frac{1}{4}$ -note beats per bar.

$\frac{2}{2}$ = Two $\frac{1}{2}$ -note beats per bar.

Triplets

A triplet is three notes played in the time of two notes of the same kind.

For example, a triplet of three eighth notes is played in the same time that two eighth notes would normally take (i.e. a quarter note).

The symbol for a triplet is the number '3' written above or below the group of notes, e.g. 