

# Letter names

## Credo Theory of Music training programme

### GRADE 1

By S. J. Cloete

L.1



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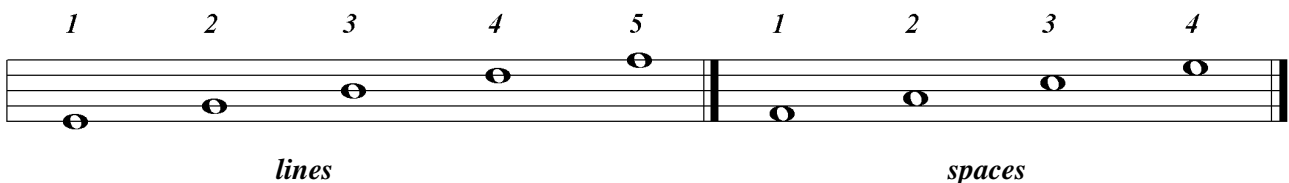
After you have completed this module, you will be able to write and identify notes in the treble and bass clefs.

In Theory of Music, you will learn how to write music. This is very important, because you will then be able to understand what you are playing. Maybe later you will even want to compose (write) your own little songs!

### 1. STAVE (UK) OR STAFF (US).

Music is written on a stave (or staff), which consists of **five lines** and **four spaces**. We count the lines and spaces from the **bottom up**, and not the other way round. The **bottom line** is the **first line** and the **bottom space** is the **first space**. Note heads are oval in shape, and not round.

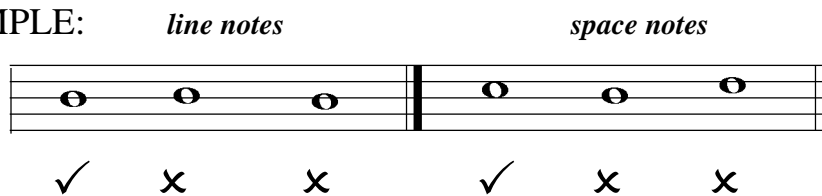
EXAMPLE:



Each of these notes is called a **semibreve (whole note)**.

When you write a note, it is important that it is written neatly **on the line** or **in a space**. If it is written on the line, the line should run **exactly through the middle** of it. If it is written in a space, it should not overlap the line above or below.

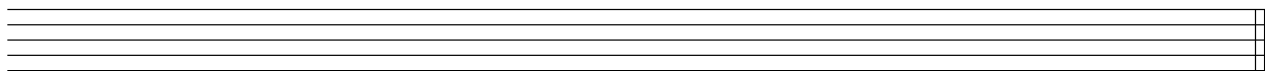
EXAMPLE:



Badly written notes or untidy work will affect your marks in the examination!

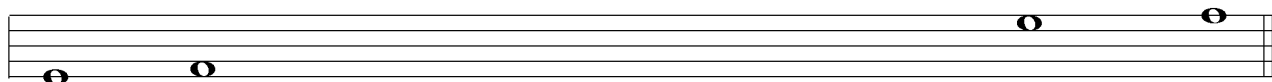
**Ex. 9/1**

**WRITE FIVE NOTES ON DIFFERENT LINES AND FOUR NOTES IN DIFFERENT SPACES ON THE STAVE BELOW. USE SEMIBREVES.**



**Ex. 9/2**

**WRITE A SEMIBREVE ON EVERY LINE AND IN EVERY SPACE BETWEEN THE GIVEN NOTES:**



**2. PITCH (UK) OR SOUND (US).**

Some notes have a high sound and others have a low sound. We say they **differ in pitch**. The sound of a note is **fixed**. It can fade away, but it cannot go up or down by itself.

Go to the piano. Play a few notes high up to the right of the keyboard. These are **high notes**. Flutes and violins also play high notes. Now play a few notes to the left on the keyboard. These are **low notes**. Men sing low notes and the big double-bass plays low notes. You can now see that all notes **do not have the same pitch**. They differ in pitch.

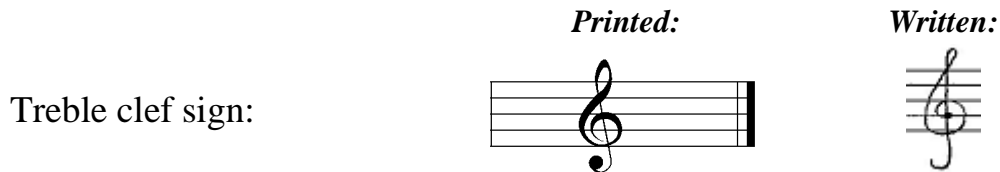
### 3. CLEFS.

A clef is a sign written at the beginning of the stave to help indicate the pitch of the notes. You are now going to learn the names of two clefs, namely the **treble clef** and the **bass clef**.

It is important to write these clef signs in exactly the right way and to know why they need to be written in this way.

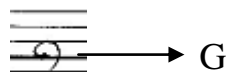
#### 3.1 THE TREBLE CLEF (UK) OR G CLEF (US).

The **treble clef** or **G clef** notes appear more to the **right of the keyboard** and are usually played with the **right hand**. The treble clef is for the **higher notes**.



The music for the highest female voice, namely a soprano, is written in this clef.

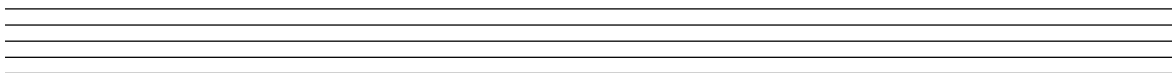
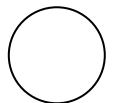
This sign must start with a little spot and a loop around the **second line, G**:



The treble clef is called the **G clef**, because it establishes the second line, G.

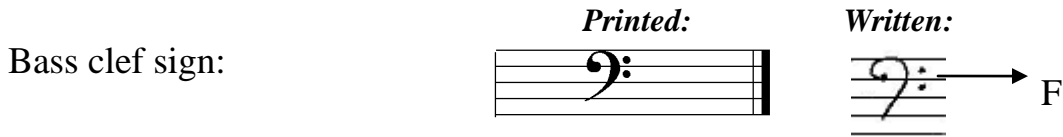
#### Ex. 10/1

WRITE SIX TREBLE CLEF SIGNS ON THE FOLLOWING STAVE:



### 3.2 THE BASS CLEF (UK) OR F CLEF (US).

The **bass clef** or **F clef** notes appear more to the **left of the keyboard** and are usually played with the **left hand**. The bass clef is for **lower notes**.

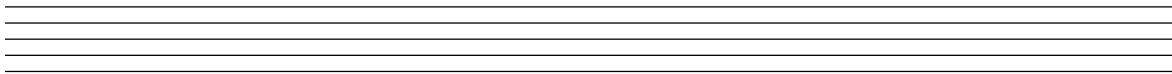
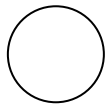


This sign must start with a little spot on the **fourth line, F**. The two dots are placed neatly **on either side of the fourth line, in the spaces**.

The bass clef is called die **F clef**, because it establishes the fourth line F.

#### Ex. 11/1

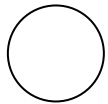
WRITE SIX BASS CLEF SIGNS ON THE FOLLOWING STAVE:



#### Ex. 11/2

WHICH LINE IS FIXED (ESTABLISHED) BY THE:

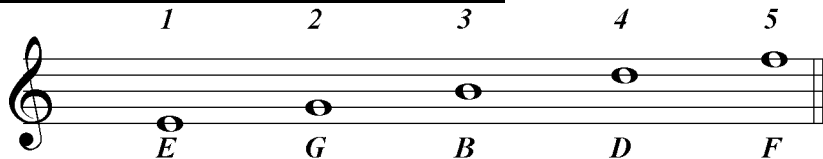
- 1 treble clef - Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 bass clef - Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



### 4. LETTER NAMES OF LINES AND SPACES IN THE TREBLE CLEF.

Each line and each space has a **letter name**. Only the first seven letters of the alphabet are used, namely A, B, C, D, E, F, G, which then repeats.

#### 4.1 LINE NOTES IN THE TREBLE CLEF.



An easy way to remember them is by learning the following sentence:

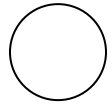
1<sup>st</sup>            2<sup>nd</sup>            3<sup>rd</sup>            4<sup>th</sup>            5<sup>th</sup>  
**"Every      Good      Boy      Deserves      Food"**

Ask your music teacher to show you where these notes are on your instrument. Learn the sentence well, and then do the following exercises:

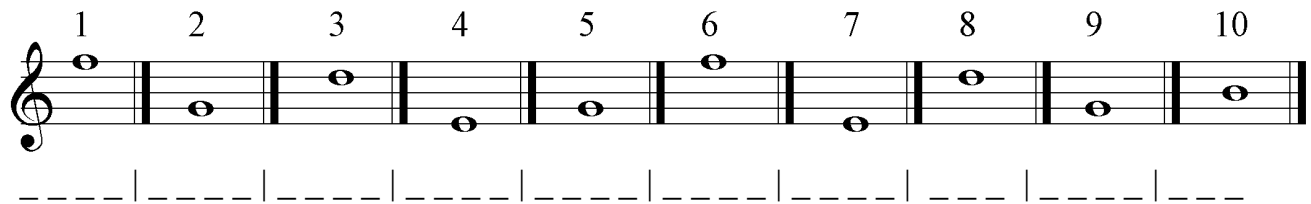
**Ex. 12/1**

**PLAY THE FOLLOWING NOTES ON YOUR INSTRUMENT AND THEN WRITE THE LETTER NAME UNDER EACH NOTE:**

EXAMPLE: 



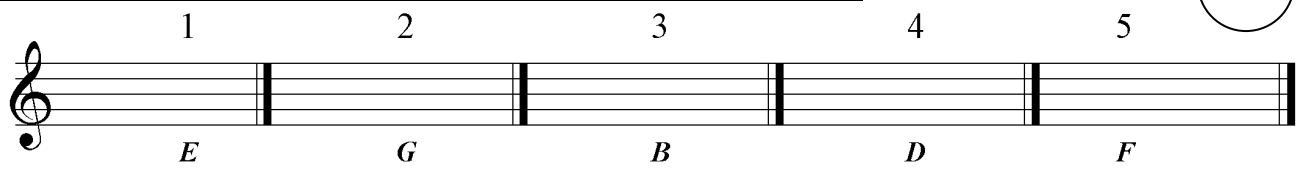
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



**Ex. 12/2**

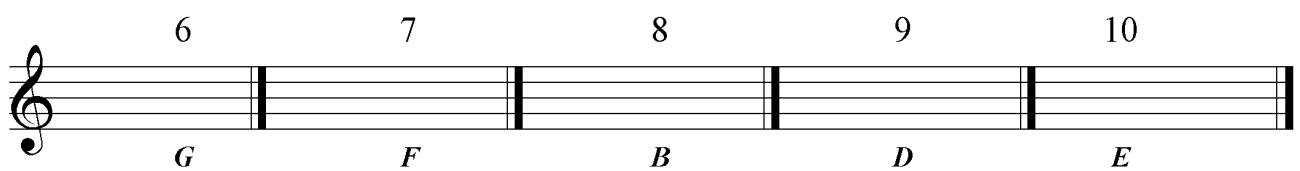
**WRITE THE REQUIRED SEMIBREVES ON LINES:**

1 2 3 4 5

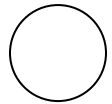


*E G B D F*

6 7 8 9 10

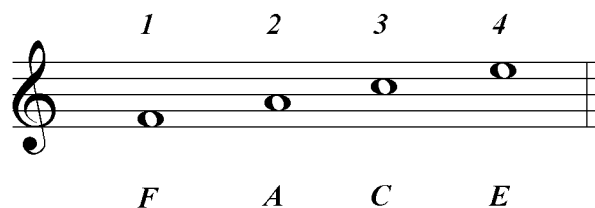


*G F B D E*



**4.2 SPACE NOTES IN THE TREBLE CLEF.**

1 2 3 4

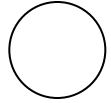


*F A C E*

These notes are easy to remember, because they spell **FACE**. Ask your music teacher to show you where the notes are on your instrument. Learn the sentence well and then do the following exercises:

**Ex. 13/1**

**PLAY THE FOLLOWING NOTES ON YOUR INSTRUMENT AND THEN WRITE THE LETTER NAME UNDER EACH NOTE:**

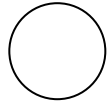


1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8

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**Ex. 13/2**

**WRITE THE REQUIRED SEMIBREVES IN SPACES:**



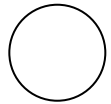
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8

*F      C      A      E      C      F      E      A*

Do the following exercises in which **line notes** or **space notes** are required.

**Ex. 13/3**

**WRITE LETTER NAMES:**



1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8

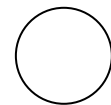
-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----

9      10      11      12      13      14      15      16

-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----

**Ex. 13/4**

**WRITE THE FOLLOWING SEMIBREVES:**



1      2      3      4

*B on a line      F in a space      E on a line      D on a line*

5                                  6                                  7                                  8

*A in a space                  G on a line                  E in a space                  C in a space*

**5. LETTER NAMES OF LINES AND SPACES IN THE BASS CLEF.**

**5.1 LINE NOTES IN THE BASS.**

1                  2                  3                  4                  5

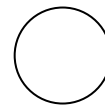
*G                  B                  D                  F                  A*

**LEARN: "Gary      Bax      Does      Funny      Acts"**

Ask your music teacher to show you where the notes are on your instrument.  
Learn the sentence well, and then do the following exercises:

**Ex. 14/1**

**PLAY THE FOLLOWING NOTES ON YOUR INSTRUMENT AND THEN WRITE THE LETTER NAMES UNDER EACH NOTE:**



1                  2                  3                  4                  5                  6                  7                  8

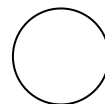
-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

9                  10                  11                  12                  13                  14                  15                  16

-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

**Ex. 14/2**

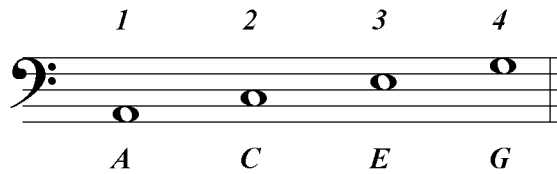
**WRITE THE REQUIRED SEMIBREVES ON LINES:**



1                  2                  3                  4                  5

*G                  B                  D                  F                  A*

## 5.2 SPACE NOTES IN THE BASS.



**LEARN: "All Cows Eat Grass"**

Ask your music teacher to show you where the notes are on your instrument.  
Learn the sentence well, and then do the following exercises:

### Ex. 15/1

**PLAY THE FOLLOWING NOTES ON YOUR INSTRUMENT AND THEN WRITE THE LETTER NAME UNDER EACH NOTE:**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

A musical staff in bass clef with eight notes: A, C, E, G, A, C, E, G. Below the staff are eight dashed lines for writing letter names.

### Ex. 15/2

**WRITE THE REQUIRED SEMIBREVES IN SPACES:**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

A musical staff in bass clef with eight empty spaces. Below the staff are the letter names: C, E, G, E, A, G, C, E. To the right of the staff is a large empty circle.

Do the following exercises in which **line notes** or **space notes** are required.

### Ex. 15/3

**WRITE LETTER NAMES:**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

A musical staff in bass clef with eight notes: A, C, E, G, A, C, E, G. Below the staff are eight dashed lines for writing letter names. To the right of the staff is a large empty circle.



**Ex. 16/1**

**WRITE THE FOLLOWING SEMIBREVES:**

1                      2                      3                      4

*A on a line                      A in a space                      B on a line                      E in a space*

**Ex. 16/2**

**PLAY THE FOLLOWING NOTES ON YOUR INSTRUMENT AND THEN WRITE THE LETTER NAME UNDER EACH NOTE:**

1              2              3              4              5              6              7              8

9              10              11              12              13              14              15              16

**Ex. 16/3**

**WRITE THE REQUIRED SEMIBREVES ON LINES OR IN SPACES:**

1              2              3              4              5              6              7              8

*E              B              F              G              A              F              D              C*

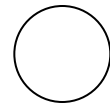
9              10              11              12              13              14              15              16

*E              D              B              A              E              C              A              D*

**Ex. 16/4**

**PLACE THE CORRECT CLEF IN FRONT OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING NOTES:**

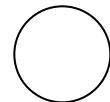
EXAMPLE:



1	2	3	4	5	6
C	G	A	A	E	C
7	8	9	10	11	12
E	G	F	B	D	B

**Ex. 17/1**

**WRITE SEMITONES ON DIFFERENT PITCHES.**

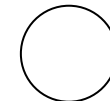


EXAMPLE:

1	2	3	4
E E	G G	F F	A A

**Ex. 17/2**

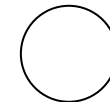
**WRITE THE CORRECT LETTER NAME UNDER EACH OF THE FOLLOWING NOTES:**



1	2	3	4	5	6
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Ex. 17/3**

**NAME THE NOTES TO FIND THE HIDDEN WORD. MARK ✓ THE BOX NEXT TO THE CORRECT ANSWER:**



BRAN

BEEF

BEAD



You have now completed the module on **letter names**. Learn the **summary** on the next page. Cut it out and place it in your "**Summary File**" for safekeeping. When you are ready, ask your teacher for the **module test** on **letter names**.

\* \* \*



## SUMMARY

# Letter names

Credo Theory of Music training programme

GRADE 1

By S. J. Cloete

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**CLEFS:** Always look at the clef first before doing any exercise.



G clef / treble clef



F clef / bass clef

**LETTER NAMES:****Treble clef:**

Lines: 1 2 3 4 5  
 "Every Good Boy Deserves Food"

Spaces: 1 2 3 4  
 "FACE"

**Bass clef:**

Lines: 1 2 3 4 5  
 "Gary Bax Does Funny Acts"

Spaces: 1 2 3 4  
 "All Cows Eat Grass"

\* \* \*