SECOND GRADE THEORY

There are a number of theory books available that will cover the following points.

1. Music Theory Made Easy (for AMEB) Grade 2 – Lina Ng

2. How to Blitz Theory Grade 2 – Samantha Coates

3. Essential Music Theory Grade 2 – Gordon Spearritt

4. Master Your Theory Grade 2 – Dulcie Holland

5. Grade 2 Theory – AMEB

KEYS AND SCALES

• Recognize and be able to write the scales listed with / without key signatures.

• All scales may be written for 1 or 2 octaves.

• Know the position of tones and semitones.

Major C, G, D, A, F   **Minor** A, E, D

INTERVALS

• Recognize and be able to write all diatonic intervals above the tonic in the keys of C, G, D, A and F Major.

• Recognize and be able to write all diatonic intervals above the tonic in the keys of A, E and D Minor.

• The above intervals will be in the treble.

• State the quality (i.e. perfect, major or minor) as well as quantity.

CHORDS

Write the tonic triad in root position for the following keys in treble or bass:

Major C, G, D, A, F   **Minor** A, E, D

TIME AND RHYTHM

Rest	Name	Value	Equal To
	semibreve rest or whole bar rest	4	
	dotted minim	3	
	minim rest	2	
	crotchet rest	1	
	quaver rest	½	
	semiquaver rest	1/4	

TIME SIGNATURES

2 Simple Duple Time
4 2 crotchet beats per bar

3 Simple Triple Time
4 3 crotchet beats per bar

4 Simple Quadruple Time
4 4 crotchet beats per bar
Common Time **(C)**

6 Compound Duple
8 6 Quaver beats per bar

RHYTHM PATTERNS

Simple Time Signatures

Compound Time Signatures

TRANSPOSITION

- Transpose a short melody (no more than 8 bars) in one of the set keys using note values specified into another key that is set for this grade. Only accidentals involving the leading note (for minor scales only) will be used.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- Show an understanding of simple duple, triple and quadruple time and how it differs to compound duple time.
  The difference between simple and compound time is: Simple time is plain, undotted and divisible by two. Compound time is dotted and divisible by 3.
- Recognize a tune as being binary or ternary and mark its divisions using AB or ABA

CREATIVE

- Accent a couplet by placing an upright line before each accented syllable or word

TERMS FOR SECOND GRADE THEORY

SPEED

- Adagio – slowly
- Andante – at an easy walking pace
- Moderato – at a moderate speed
- Allegro – lively and fast
- Presto – very fast

- Lento – slowly
- Largo – broadly
- Allegretto – moderately fast
- Vivace – lively, spirited
- Vivo – lively, spirited

MODIFICATIONS OF SPEED

- Accelerando (*accel*.) – gradually becoming faster
- Rallentando (*rall*.) – gradually becoming slower
- Ritardando (*ritard*.) – gradually becoming slower
- Ritenuto (*riten* or *rit*.) – immediately slower or held back

- A tempo – return to former speed
- Allargando – becoming broader
- Piu mosso – quicker
- Meno mosso – slower

INTENSITY OF SOUND

- Crescendo (*cresc* or *cres*) – gradually becoming louder
- Decrescendo (*decresc* or *decres*) – gradually becoming softer
- Diminuendo (*dim*.) - gradually becoming softer
- Mezzo forte (*mf*) – moderately loud

- Forte (*f*) – loud
- Fortissimo (*ff*) – very loud
- Mezzo piano (*mp*) - moderately soft
- Piano (*p)* – soft
- Pianissimo (*pp)*- very soft

OTHER TERMS

- Legato – smoothly and well connected
- Staccato – short and detached
- Maestoso – majestic
- Sostenuto – sustained
- Sempre – always
- Poco – a little
- Molto – very

- Senza – without
- Cantabile – in a singing style
- Leggiero – lightly
- Dal segno – from the sign
- Da capo al fine – from the beginning to the word fine
- Mezzo staccato – moderately short and detached

MUSICAL SIGNS

CLEFS

Sign	Name	Meaning
	Treble Clef G Clef	Denotes all notes are at Middle C or above
	Bass Clef F Clef	Denotes all notes are at Middle C or below

RHYTHMIC DEVICES

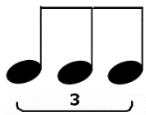| Sign	Name	Meaning
	Triplet	Play 3 notes in the time of 2 (of the same value). Think of it as squishing an extra note into the beat. Usually only seen in Simple Time Signatures (2/4, 3/4, 4/4)
	Duplet	Play 2 notes in the time of 3 (of the same value). Think of it as dragging out the 2 notes so they can cover the missing 3rd beat. Usually only seen in Compound Time Signatures (6/8, 9/8/, 12/8, 6/4)
	Metronome sign	Sometimes seen as MM = (note) (number) this indicates the tempo at which the piece is to be played per minute. For example ♩= 92 means 92 crotchet beats per minute

PITCH

	Flat	Lowers a note by a semitone (half step)
	Sharp	Raises a note by a semitone (half step)
	Natural	Instructs performer to return note to normal pitch

ARTICULATIONS

	Tie	Hold the note for the combined time value
	Slur	Play the notes smoothly and well connected (as in legato)
	Mezzo Staccato	Moderately short and detached. When covering more than one note, it will be a staccato dot covered by a slur
	Staccato	Play short and detached
	Accent	Play the note with more force
	Tenuto	Sometimes called the medium accent, the tenuto tells us to hold the note for its full value
	Marcato	Play the note louder and more forcefully than the accent
	Pause or Fermata	Hold the note for longer

ORNAMENTS

𝄋	Segno Literally meaning "sign"	It is used with Da Segno al Fine to mean play the music again from the sign to the end of the piece. A variation is Da Capo al fine which means play the piece again (from the beginning) until the word "fine".
⌊⋀⌋	Sustained Pedal	Indication for pianists to use the sustaining pedal. The pedal is to be depressed after the note is struck, and then pumped (released and then put back down rapidly).

DYNAMICS

pp	Pianissimo	Very softly
p	Piano	Softly
mp	Mezzo Piano	Moderately softly
mf	Mezzo forte	Moderately loudly
f	Forte	Loudly
ff	Fortissimo	Very loudly
<	Crescendo	Gradually becoming louder
>	Decrescendo or Diminuendo	Gradually becoming softer

KEY SIGNATURES - SHARPS

Count Up 5 Keys	Scale	Notes	Sharps	Key Signature
	C Major	C D E F G A B C	-	-
C D E F **G**	G Major	G A B C D E F# G	1	F#
G A B C **D**	D Major	D E F# G A B C# D	2	F#, C#
D E F# G **A**	A Major	A B C# D E F# G# A	3	F#, C#. G#
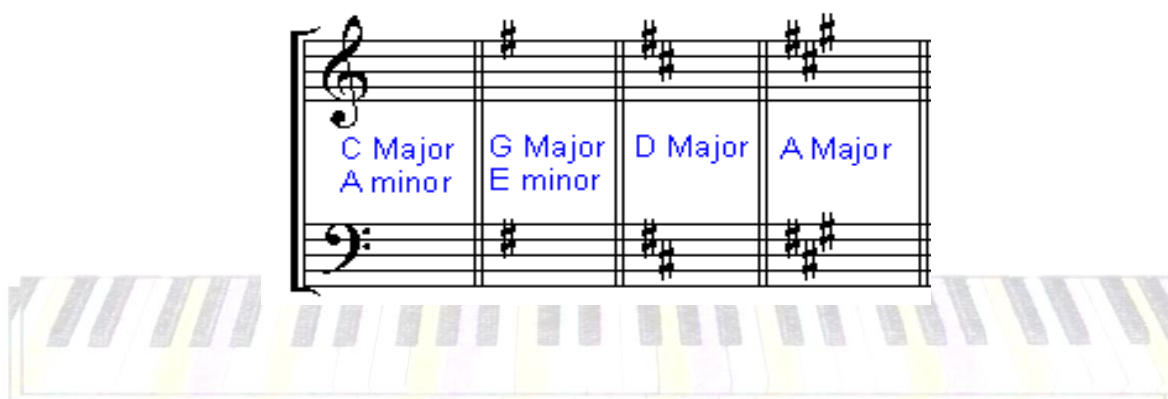
To help remember the **Order of Sharps** use the following saying:

"Farmer Charlie Goes Down And Eats Berries"

|	**F**armer	**C**harlie	**G**oes	**D**own	**A**nd	**E**ats	**B**erries
Major scale	G	D	A	E	B	F#	C#

Don't forget that key signatures are related – count down 3 semitones from the major to find the relative minor scale that has the same key signature. For example G major shares the same key signature as E minor

KEY SIGNATURES – FLATS

Count Down 5 Keys	Scale	Notes	Flats	Key Signature
	C Major	C D E F G A B C	-	-
C B A G **F**	F Major	F G A B*b* C D E F	1	B*b*
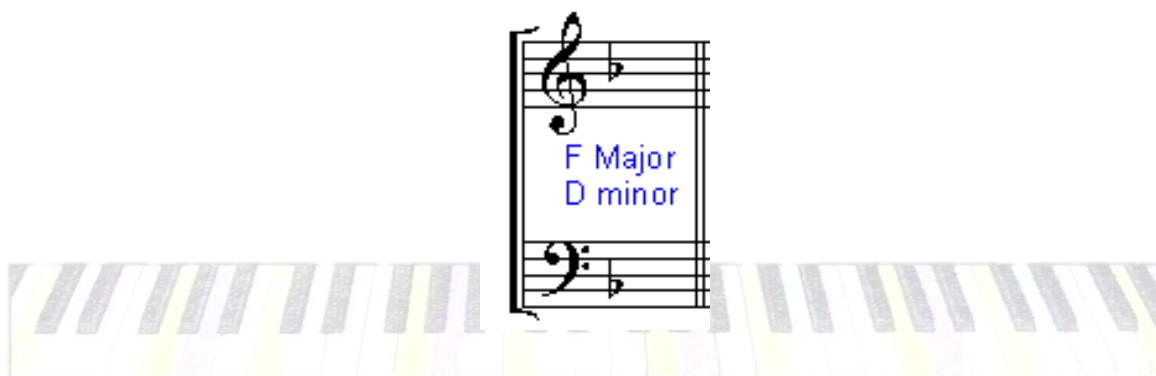
To remember the order of flats go back to:

FARMER CHARLIE GOES DOWN AND EATS BERRIES

The order of the flats is the saying **backwards**

So instead of starting off with "F" for the "Fat", start with the "B" for "Berries"

The new saying may be slightly edited to make more sense

BERRIES EATEN AND DOWN GOES CHARLIE FARMER

	Berries	**E**aten	**A**nd	**D**own	**G**oes	**C**harlie	**F**armer
Major scale	F	Bb	Eb	Ab	D	Gb	Cb