

## Musical Terms for Grade 3 Theory Examinations

Term	Abbreviation	Meaning
a tempo		in time
accelerando	accel	gradually getting faster
ad libitum	ad lib	played freely
adagietto		rather slow
adagio		slow
agitato		agitated
alla	al	in the style of
alla breve		with a minim beat
allargando		broadening
allegretto		fairly quick
allegro		fast
amore		love
amoroso		loving
andante		at a walking pace
andantino		slightly faster than andante or slightly slower than andante
animato		animated, lively
appassionato		with passion
assai		very
attacca		go immediately to next section
avec		with
ben		well
bravura		skill, brilliance
brio		with vigour
calando		getting softer, dying away
cantabile		in a singing style

col		with
con		with
crescendo	cresc	gradually getting louder
da capo	DC	repeat from beginning
dal segno	DS	repeat from S sign
deciso		with determination
decrescendo	decreasc	gradually getting quieter
delicato		delicate
diminuendo	dim	gradually getting quieter
dolce		sweet, soft
dolente		sad, mournful
dolore		grief
doloroso		sorrowful
e		and
ed		and
energico		energetic
espressivo		expressive
estinto		as soft as possible, lifeless
fine		the end
forte	f	loud
fortepiano	fp	loud, then immediately soft
fortissimo	ff	very loud
forza		force
fröhlich		cheerful, joyful
geschwind		quick, nimble
giocoso		playful, merry
grave		very slow, solemn
grazioso		graceful
largamente		broadly
larghetto		rather slow
largo		slow and stately

legato		smoothly
leggiero		light, nimble
lento		slow
loco		at normal pitch, cancels an 8va
ma		but
maestoso		majestic
marcato		emphatic, accented
marziale		in a military style
mässig		at a moderate speed
meno		less
mesto		sad
mezzo		half
mezzo forte	mf	moderately loud
mezzo piano	mp	moderately quiet
mit		with
moderato		moderate speed
modere		at a moderate speed
molto		very much
morendo		dying away
mosso		movement
moto		movement
niente		nothing, silence
non		not
pesante		heavy
peu		little
pianissimo	pp	very quiet
piano	p	quiet
piu		more
poco		a little
presto		fast, faster than allegro
prima volta		first time

prima		first
primo		first
ralentir		slow down
rallentando	rall	gradually getting slower
risoluto		bold, strong
ritardando	ritard, rit	gradually getting slower
ritenuto	rit	held back
ritmico		rhythmically
rubato		with some freedom of time
scherzando		playfully, joking
scherzoso		playfully, joking
seconda		second
seconda volta		second time
secondo		second
secondo volta		second time
semplice		simple, plain
sempre		always
senza		without
sforzando	sf	forced, accented
sforzato	sfz	forced, accented
simile	sim	in the same way
sonoro		resonant, with a rich tone
sostenuto		sustained
staccato	stacc	detached
stringendo		gradually getting faster
subito		suddenly
tanto		so much
tempo		speed, time
tempo comodo		at a convenient speed
tenuto		held
tranquillo		calm

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triste	sorrowful
trastamente	sorrwful
troppo	too much
vivace	lively, quick
vivo	lively, brisk
voce	voice
volante	flying, fast
volta	time

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