

Musical Terms for Grade 5 Theory Examinations

Term	Abbreviation	Meaning
a tempo		in time
aber		but
accelerando	accel	gradually getting faster
ad libitum	ad lib	at choice
adagietto		rather slow
adagio		slow
affettuoso		tenderly
affrettando		hurrying
agitato		agitated
alla	al	in the style of
alla breve		with a minim beat
alla misura		in strict time
allargando		broadening
allegretto		fairly quick
allegro		fast
allegro assai		very fast
allegro moderato		moderately fast
amabile		amiable, pleasant
amore		love
amoroso		loving
andante		at a walking pace
andantino		slightly faster than andante or slightly slower than andante
ansdruck		expression
anima		spirit
animando		becoming more lively

animato		animated, lively
anime		animated, lively
appassionato		with passion
assai		very
assez		enough
attacca		go immediately to next section
ausdruck		expression
avec		with
ben		well
bewegt		with movement, agitated
breit		broad, expansive
bravura		skill, brilliance
brio		with vigour
calando		getting softer, dying away
cantabile		in a singing style
cantando		singing
cedez		yield, relax the speed
come		as, similar to
comodo		at a comfortable speed
con, col		with
crescendo	cresc	gradually getting louder
da capo	DC	repeat from beginning
dal segno	DS	repeat from S sign
deciso		with determination
decrescendo	decresc	gradually getting quieter
delicato		delicate
diminuendo	dim	gradually getting quieter
dolce		sweet, soft
dolente		sad, mournful
dolore		grief
doloroso		sorrowful

doppio movimento		twice as fast
douce		sweet
ed	e	and
egal		equal
ein		a, one
einfach		simple
en dehors		prominent
en pressant		hurrying
en retenant		holding back, slowing a little
energico		energetic
espressivo		expressive
estinto		as soft as possible, lifeless
et		and
etwas		somewhat, rather
facile		easy
feurig		fiery
fine		the end
forte	f	loud
fortepiano		loud, then immediately soft
fortissimo	ff	very loud
forza		force
fröhlich		cheerful, joyful
fuoco		fire
geschwind		quick, nimble
giocoso		playful, merry
giusto		propert, exact
grandioso		grandly
grave		very slow, solemn
grazioso		graceful
immer		always
incalzando		getting quicker

innig		heartfelt, sincere
joyeux		joyful
lacrimoso		sad
lamentoso		lamenting
langsam		slow
largamente		broadly
larghetto		rather slow
largo		slow and stately
lebhaft		lively
legato		smoothly
legerement		light
leggiero		light, nimble
lent		slow
lento		slow
l'istesso		the same
loco		at normal pitch, cancels an 8va
lunga		long
lunga pausa		long pause
lusingando		coaxing, in a sweet and coaxing style
ma		but
maestoso		majestic
mais		but
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
misura		measure

mit		with
moderato		moderate speed
modere		at a moderate speed
moins		less
molto		very much
morendo		dying away
mosso		movement
nicht		not
niente		nothing, silence
nobilmente		nobly
non		not
ohne		without
ossia		or, alternatively
perdendosi		dying away
pesante		heavy
peu		little
piacevole		pleasantly
piangevole		plaintive, in the style of a lament
pianissimo	pp	very quiet
piano	p	quiet
piu		more
plus		more
pochettino	poch	rather little
poco		a little
possibile		possible
presser		hurry
presto		fast, faster than allegro
prima volta		first time
prima		first
primo		first
quasi		as if, resembling

ralentir		slow down
rallentando	rall	gradually getting slower
retenu		held back
rinforzando	rf, rfz	reinforcing
risoluto		bold, strong
ritardando	ritard, rit	gradually getting slower
ritenuto	rit	held back
ritmico		rhythmically
rubato		with some freedom of time
ruhig		peaceful
sans		without
scherzando		playfully, joking
schnell		fast
seconda volta		second time
seconda		second
secondo		second
segue		go straight on without stopping
sehr		very
semplice		simple, plain
sempre		always
senza		without
senza misura		in free time
sforzando	sf	forced, accented
sforzato	sfz	forced, accented
simile	sim	in the same way
smorzando		dying away in tone and speed
sonoro		resonant, with a rich tone
sopra		above
sostenuto		sustained
sotto		below
staccato	stacc	detached

stringendo	gradually getting faster
subito	suddenly
süss	sweet
tanta	so much
tempo	speed, time
teneramente	tenderly
tenerezza	tenderly
tenuto	held
tosto	swift, rapid
tranquillo	calm
traurig	sad
tres	very
tristamento	sorrowful
triste	sorrowful
troppo	too much
un	one
une	one
und	and
veloce	swift
vif	lively
vite	quick
vivace	lively, quick
vivo	lively, brisk
voce	voice
volante	flying, fast
voll	full
wenig	little
wieder	again
zart	tender, delicate
ziemlich	moderately
zu	to, too

