2025.M49

2025L067G1EL

Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2025

Music

Composing

Ordinary Level

Thursday 19 June Afternoon 3:15 - 4:45

100 marks

Examination Number

Date of Birth

For example, 3rd February 2005 is entered as 03 02 05

Centre Stamp

The 2025 examination papers were adjusted to compensate for disruptions to learning due to COVID-19. This examination paper does not necessarily reflect the same structure and format as the examination papers of past or subsequent years.

Instructions

Write your examination number and Date of Birth in the boxes on the front cover.

There are **two** sections in this examination paper.

Section **A**	Melody Composition	40 marks	3 questions
Section **B**	Harmony	60 marks	3 questions

- Answer as follows:

  ◦ one question from Section **A** – Melody Composition

  and

  ◦ one question from Section **B** – Harmony

- Write your answers in blue or black pen. You may use pencil for staff notation.
- Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. There is space for extra work/ roughwork at the end of the booklet. Label any extra work clearly with the question number and part.
- This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.

Section A Melody Composition 40 marks

Answer **one** question only in this section:

Question 1 Continuation of a given opening (40 marks)

or

Question 2 Setting music to a given text (40 marks)

or

Question 3 Composing to a given dance rhythm or metre or form (40 marks)

Question 1 **(40 marks)**
Continuation of a given opening

Answer (a) **and** (b).
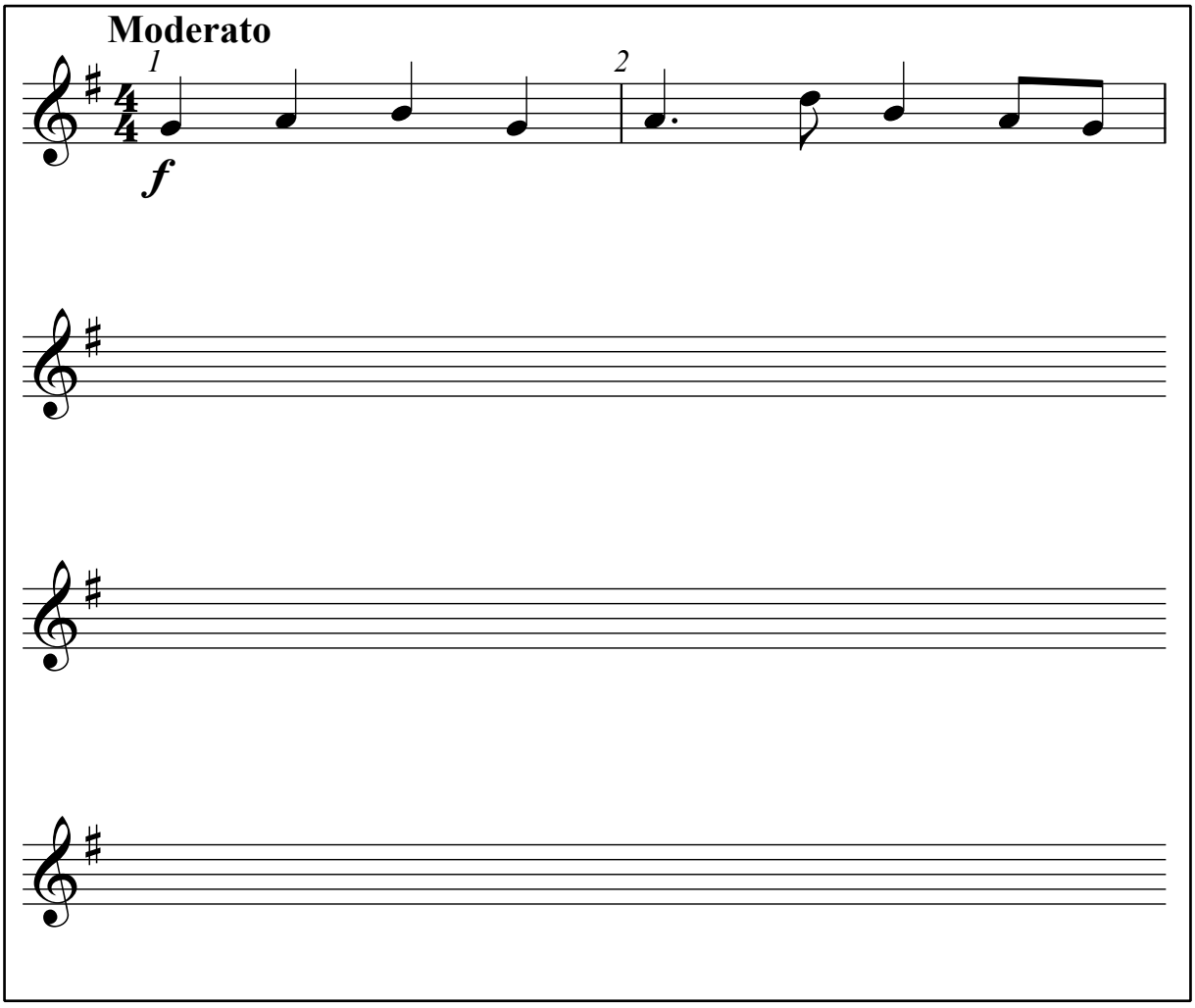
(a)
- Continue the given opening to make an eight-bar melody, ending on the keynote, that is, doh.
- Add appropriate phrasing and expression marks to the melody.
- Choose a suitable instrument for your melody from the following list:

☐ clarinet

☐ violin

☐ descant recorder

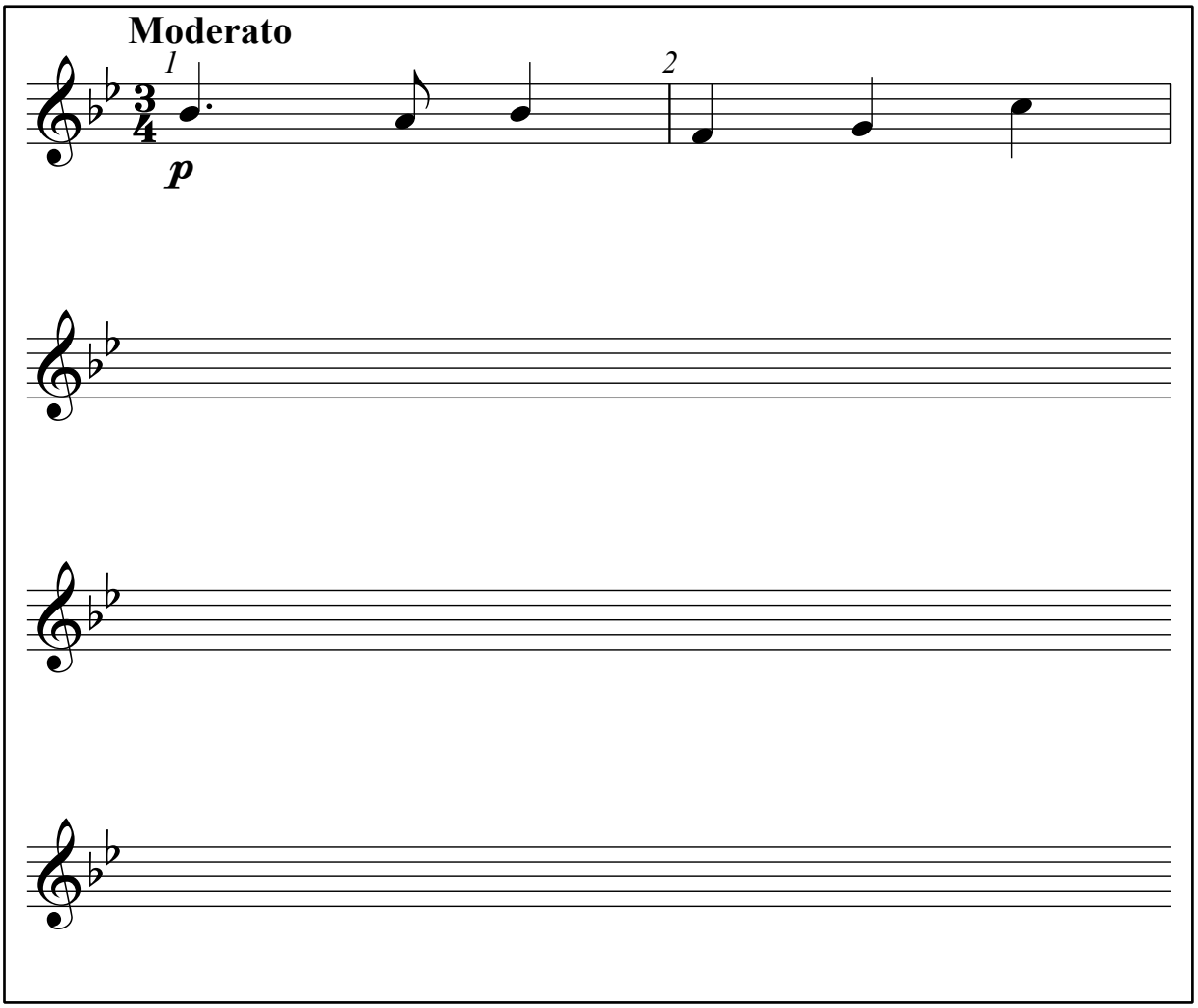
☐ oboe



and

(b) • Continue the given opening to make an eight-bar melody, ending on the keynote, that is, doh.
• Add appropriate phrasing and expression marks to the melody.
• Choose a suitable instrument for your melody from the following list:

- ☐ clarinet
- ☐ violin
- ☐ descant recorder
- ☐ oboe



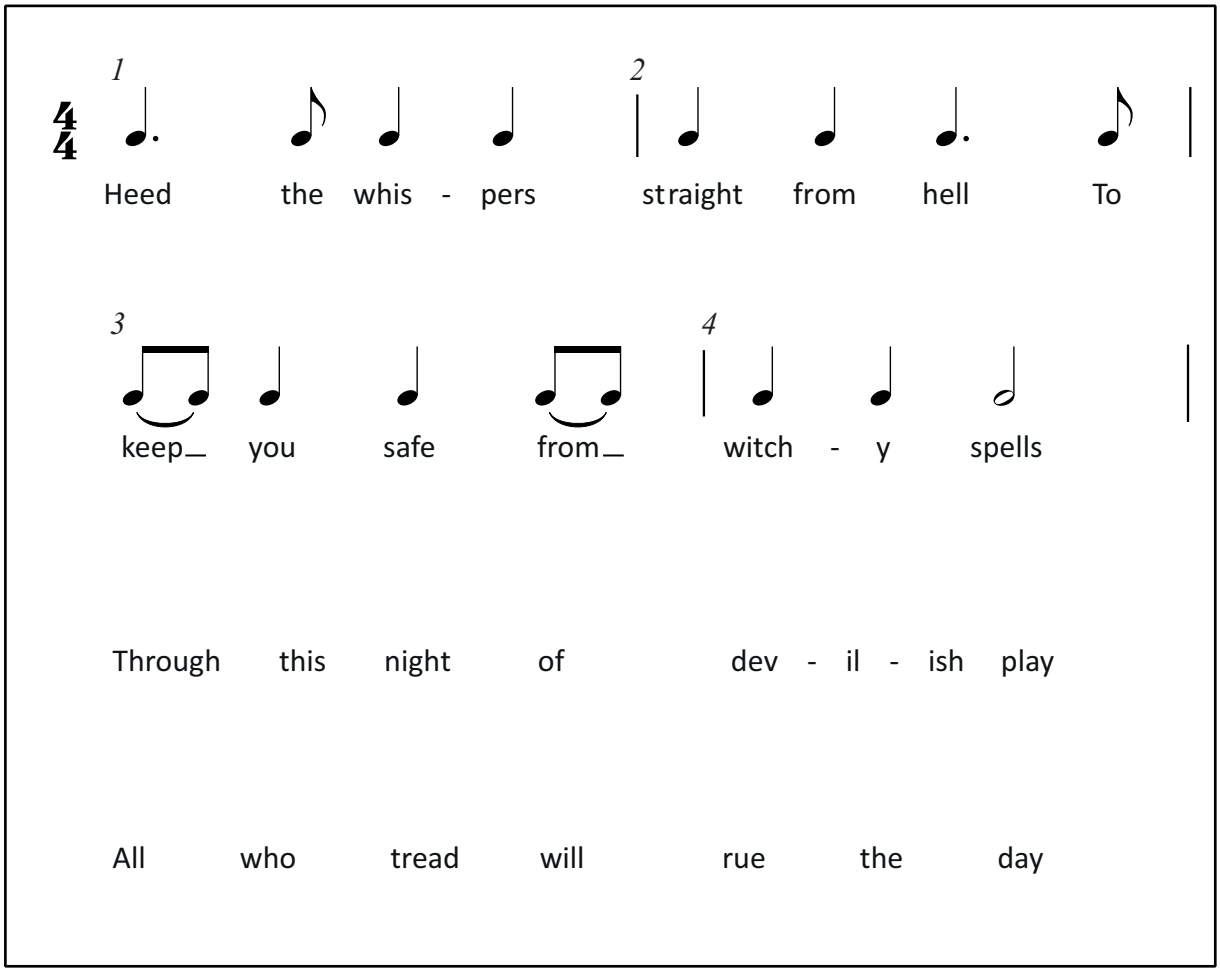
Question 2 **(40 marks)**
Setting music to a given text

Answer (a) **and** (b).
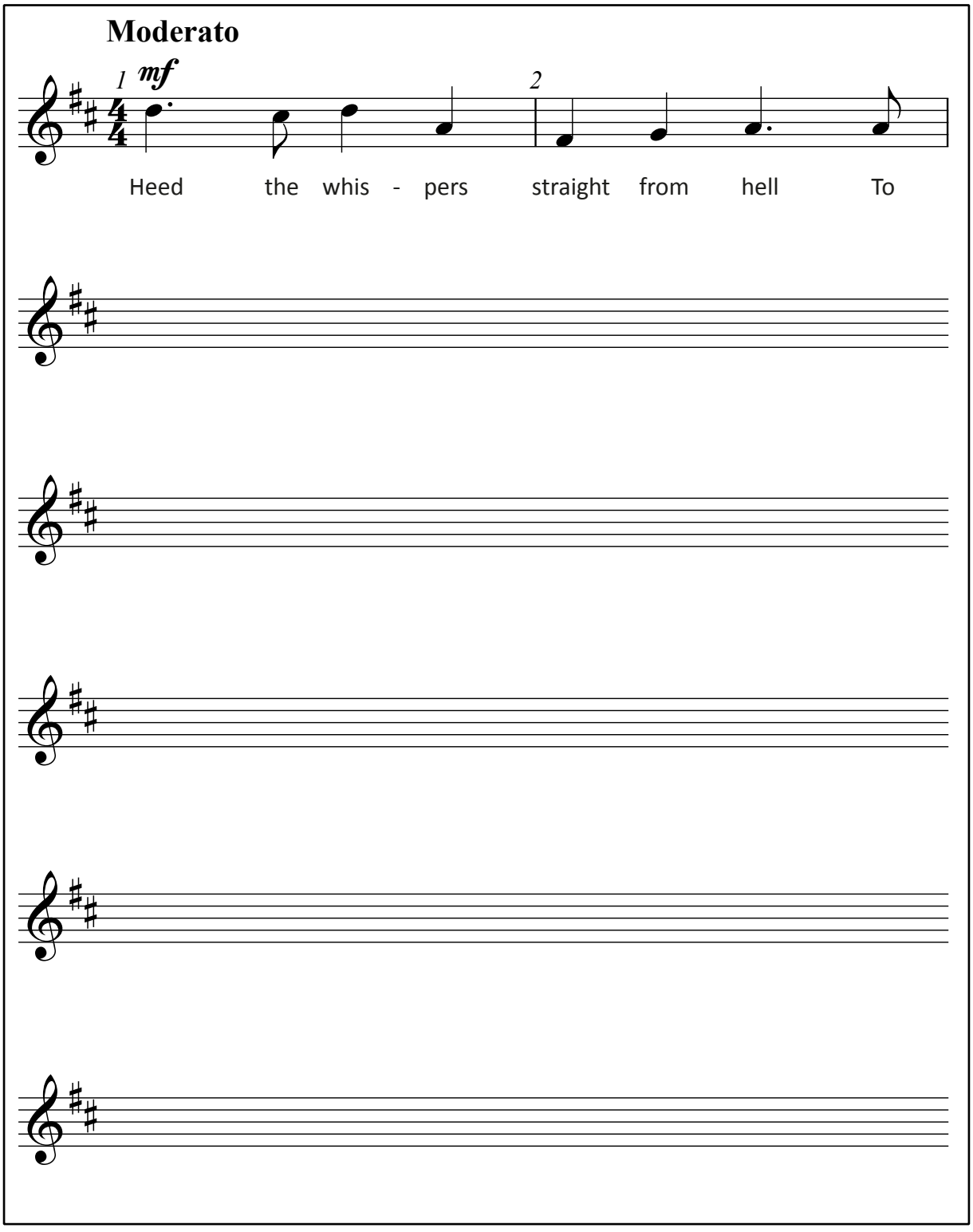
Here is an extract from the poem *Halloween Chills* by Denise M. Cocchiaro.

Heed the whispers straight from hell
To keep you safe from witchy spells
Through this night of devilish play
All who tread will rue the day

(a) • The first two lines have been set to a rhythm. Compose a rhythm to fit the remaining words.



(b)
- Using the rhythm that you composed at (a), continue the opening below to make a melody of eight bars.
- End on the keynote, that is, doh.
- Write the words under the notes.
- Add appropriate phrasing and expression marks to the melody.



Question 3 **(40 marks)**

Composing to a given dance rhythm or metre or form

Answer (a) **and** (b).

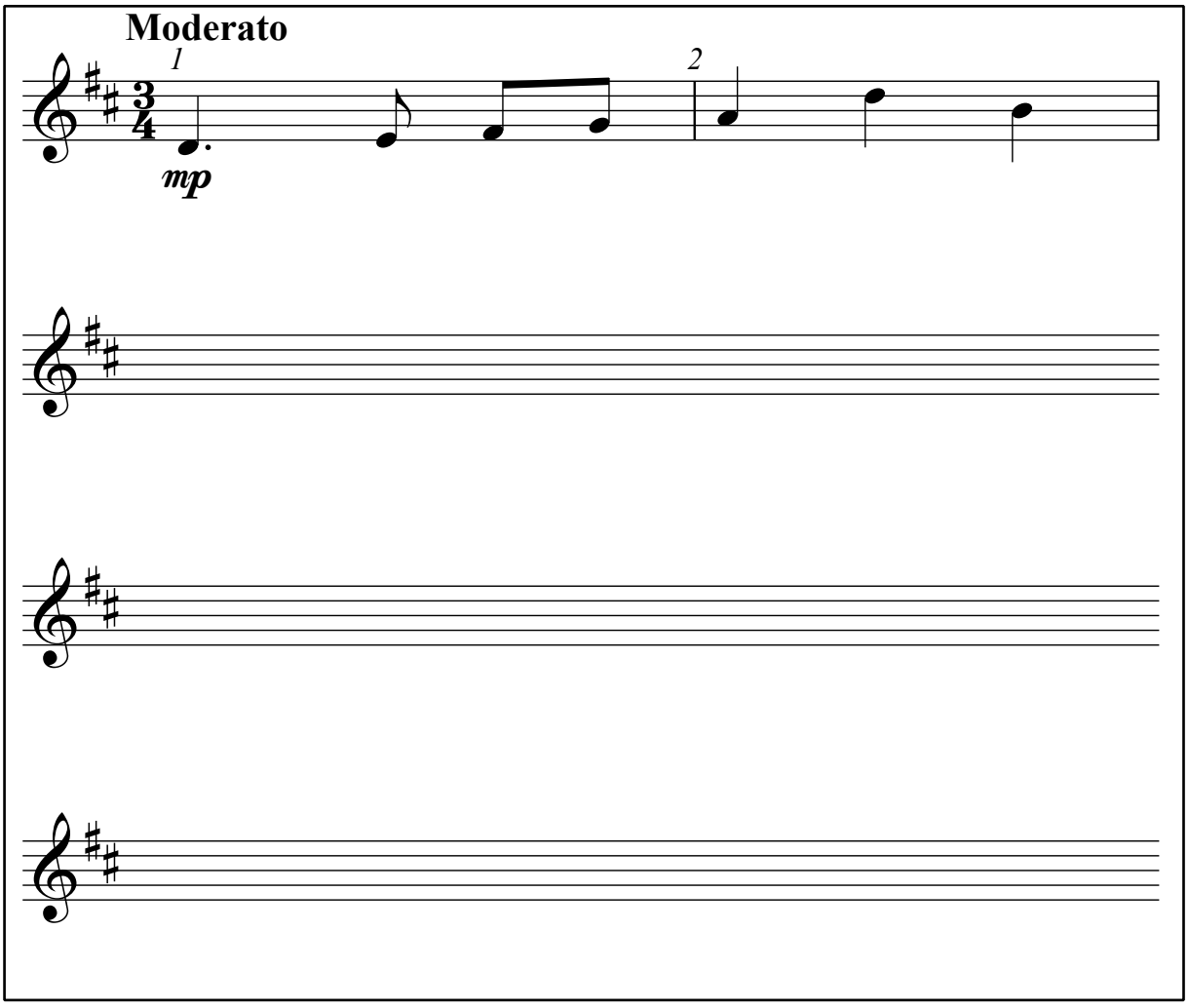
(a)
- Study this opening of a minuet.
- Continue the given opening to make an eight-bar melody, ending on the keynote, that is, doh.
- Add appropriate phrasing and expression marks to the melody.
- Choose a suitable instrument for your melody from the following list:

☐ clarinet

☐ violin

☐ trumpet

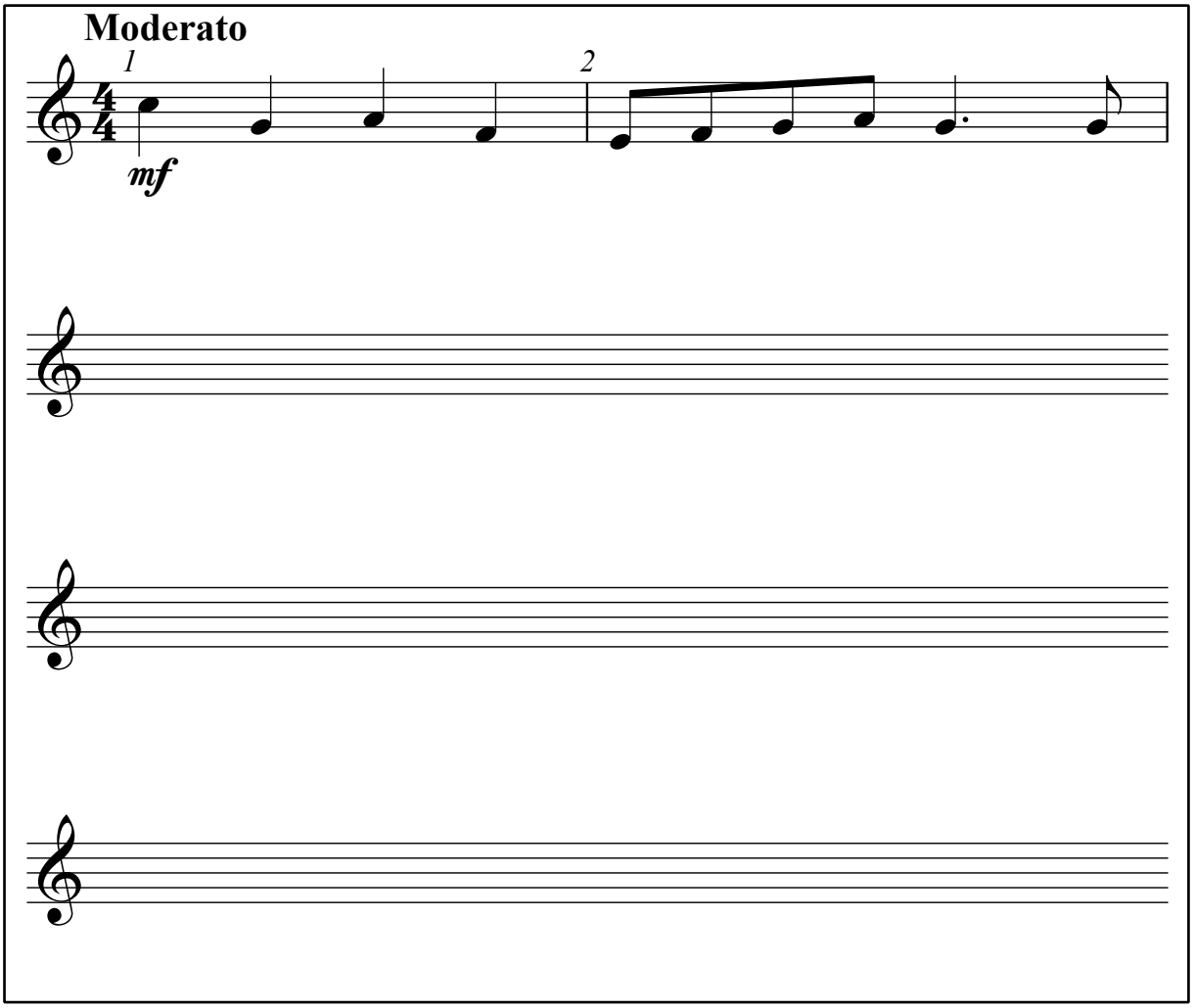
☐ flute



and

(b) • Study this opening of a march.
• Continue the given opening to make an eight-bar melody, ending on the keynote, that is, doh.
• Add appropriate phrasing and expression marks to the melody.
• Choose a suitable instrument for your melody from the following list:

- ☐ clarinet
- ☐ violin
- ☐ trumpet
- ☐ flute



Do not write on this page

Section B — Harmony — 60 marks

Answer **one** question only in this section:

Question 4 Composing melody and bass notes from a set of chords at cadence points (60 marks)

or

Question 5 Adding bass notes and chord indications at cadence points (60 marks)

or

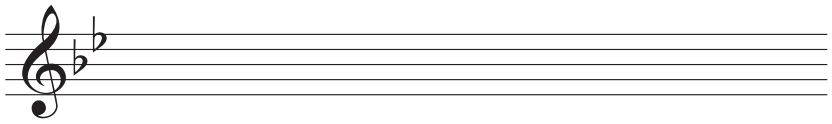
Question 6 Adding descant notes and chord indications at cadence points (60 marks)

Question 4 **(60 marks)**

Composing melody and bass notes from a set of chords at cadence points

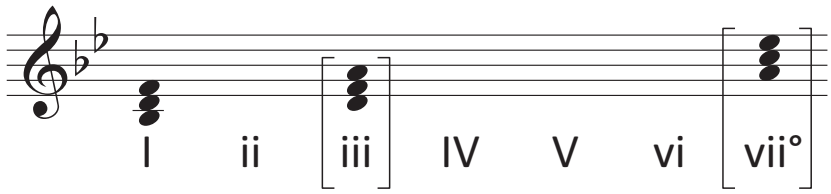
Preparatory work:

- Write out the scale of B♭ major on the stave below.
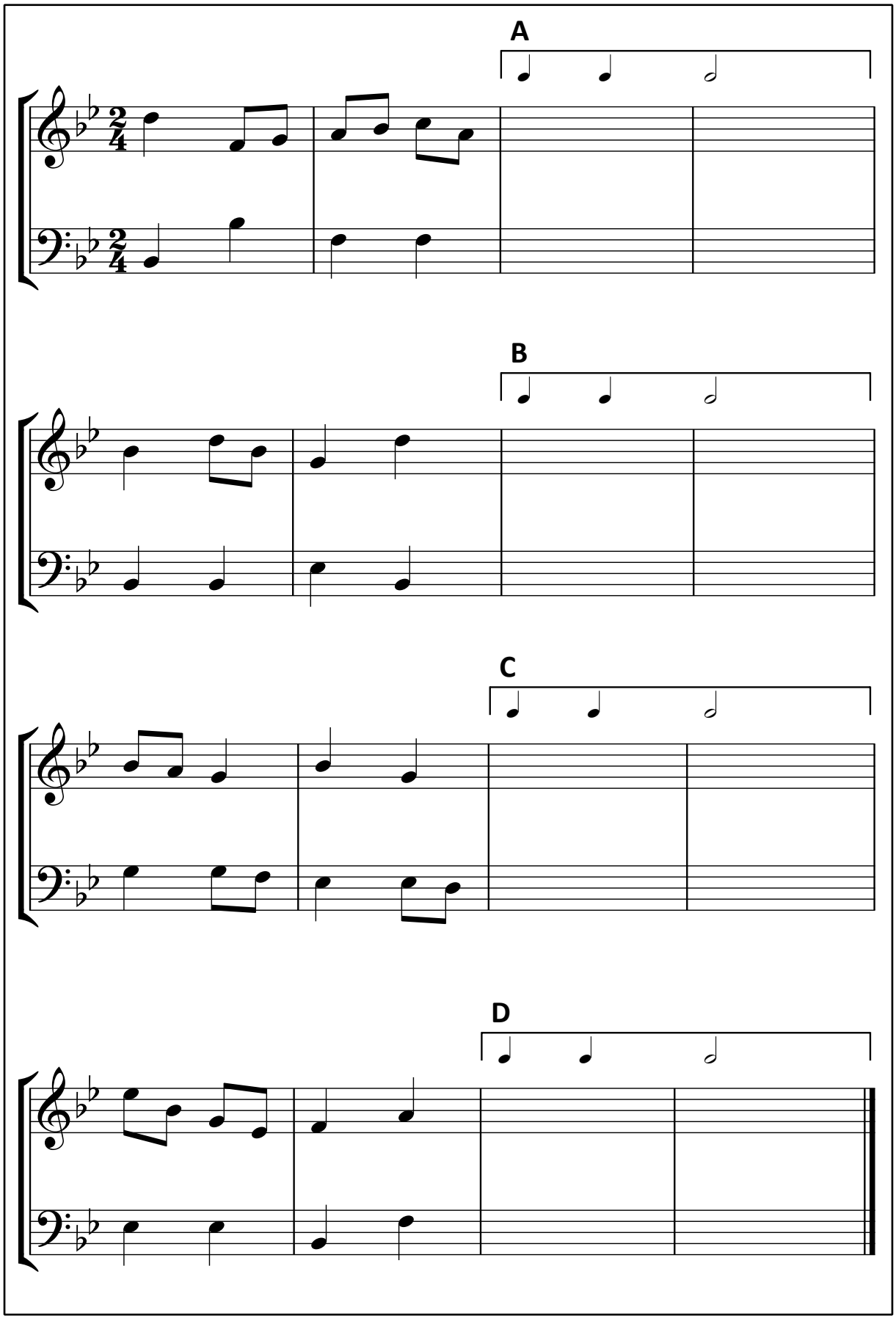


- Plot the chords available in this key (I, ii, IV, V and vi) either in the chord bank grid or on the stave below. The first chord is given.

Notes of chord	F D B♭		A F D				E♭ C A
Chord symbol	B♭		Dm				A°
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°



- Study the piece of music on the following page.
- Using the given rhythms, add melody and bass notes to complete the cadences and approach chords as follows:

(i) At **A**, an imperfect cadence with approach chord (I—IV—V)
(ii) At **B**, a perfect cadence with approach chord (ii—V—I)
(iii) At **C**, an interrupted cadence with approach chord (ii—V—vi)
(iv) At **D**, a plagal cadence with approach chord (vi—IV—I)


A
B
C
D

Question 5 **(60 marks)**

Adding bass notes and chord indications at cadence points

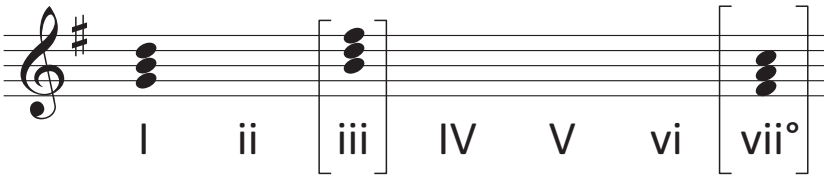
Preparatory work:

- Write out the scale of G major on the stave below.
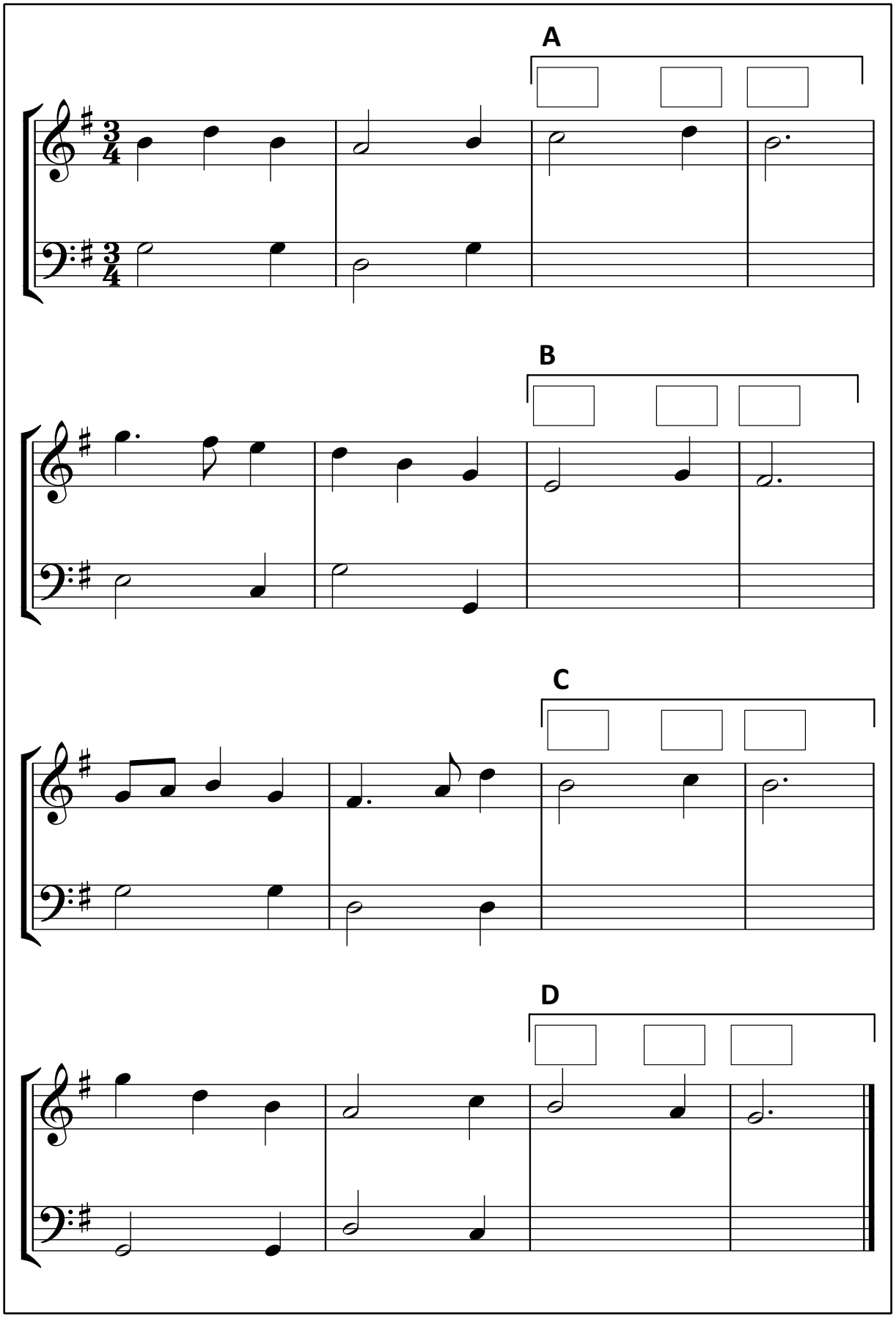


- Plot the chords available in this key (I, ii, IV, V and vi) either in the chord bank grid or on the stave below. The first chord is given.

Notes of chord	D B G		F♯ D B				C A F♯
Chord symbol	G		Bm				F♯°
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°



- Study the piece of music on the following page.
- Add suitable bass notes and chord indications to complete the cadences at **A, B, C** and **D**.
- You may use either chord symbols or Roman numerals, but not both.
- Do not repeat the same chord in adjacent boxes.

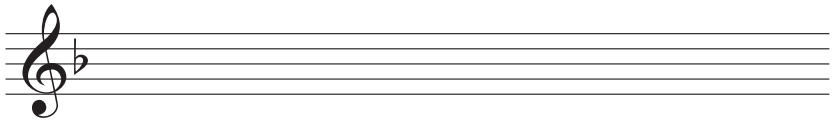

A
B
C
D

Question 6 **(60 marks)**

Adding descant notes and chord indications at cadence points

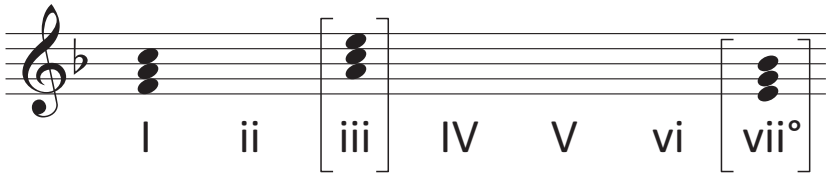
Preparatory work:

• Write out the scale of F major on the stave below.
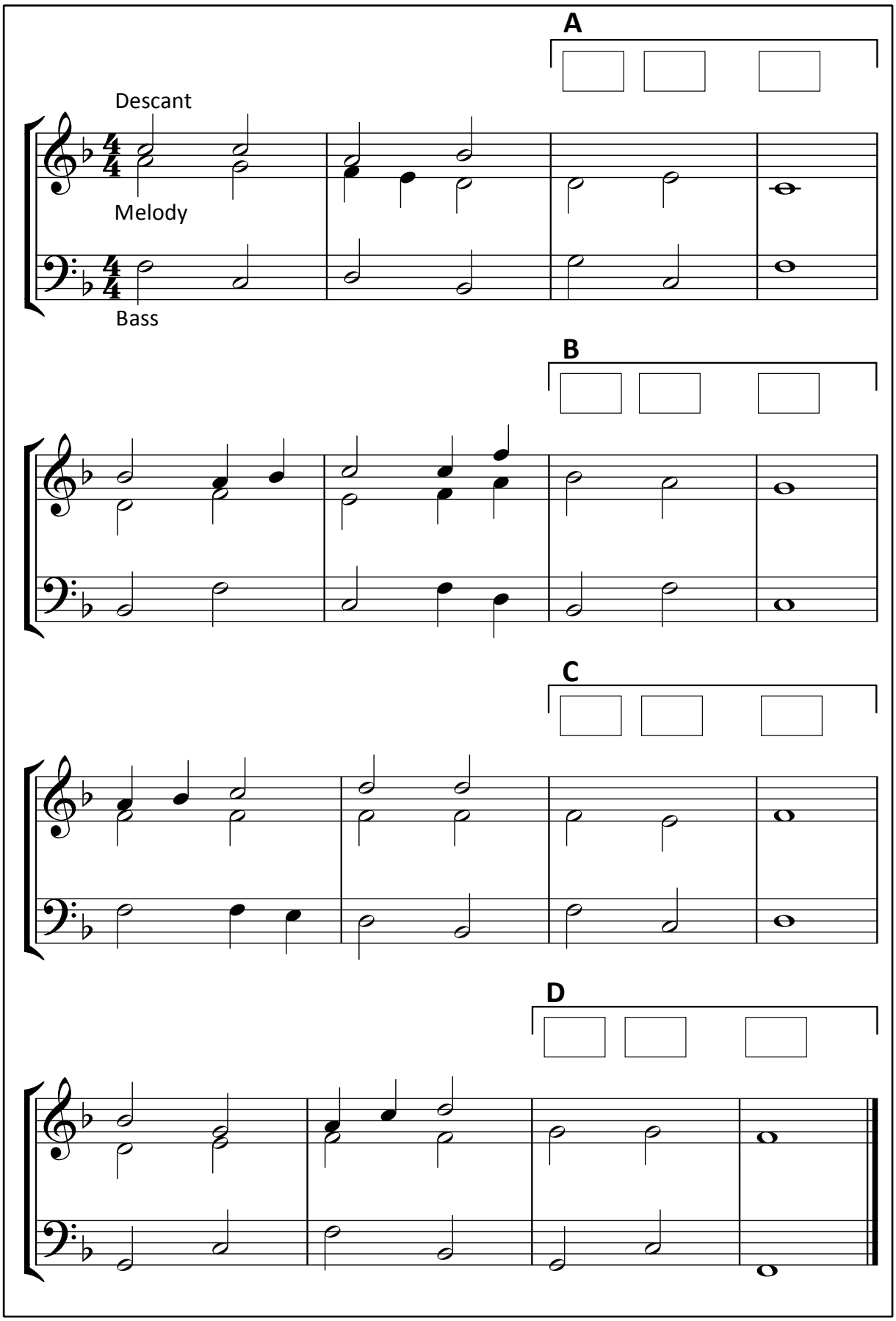


• Plot the chords available in this key (I, ii, IV, V and vi) either in the chord bank grid or on the stave below. The first chord is given.

Notes of chord	C A F		E C A				B♭ G E
Chord symbol	F		Am				E°
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°



• Study the piece of music on the following page.
• Complete the phrase endings by adding suitable chords and descant notes at the cadence points **A, B, C** and **D**.
• You may use either chord symbols or Roman numerals, but not both.


A
Descant
Melody
Bass
B
C
D

Extra work / Roughwork

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