

Cello Grade 1 scales and arpeggios

G major scale (1 octave)

You can play a scale with all of the notes the same length (in quavers).

Scale in even notes:-

♩ = 44

G A B C D E F# G
G G1 G3 G4 D D1 D3 D4

Or it can be played with a long G. Either is fine for the exam.

Scale with long tonic:-

♩ = 44

You will be asked to play these with either separate bows (see above) or slurred. We slur the quavers in groups of two – don't slur the long notes. They have their own separate bow.

G major arpeggio (1 octave)

As well as scales, you will be asked for arpeggios. Arpeggios (or broken chords) are when the notes of the chord are played one after the other rather than at the same time, like a guitar or piano would do. Arpeggios are not slurred on Grade 1.

♩ = 44

G B D G D B G
G G3 D D4 D G3 G

D major scale (1 octave)

Scale in even notes:-

♩ = 44

D E F# G A B C# D
D D1 D3 D4 A A1 A3 A4

Or scale with a long tonic (long D):-

♩ = 44

D major arpeggio (1 octave)

♩ = 44

D F# A D A F# D
D D3 A A4 A D3 D

C major scale (2 octaves)

C Major is a 2 octave scale. This means that instead of using 8 notes and going from one C to the next C, you need to play 15 notes and go to the next C after that. Watch out on the D and A string. It uses F and C naturals, so you will use your 2nd finger on the D and A string instead of your 3rd.

Scale in even notes:-

♩ = 44

C D E F G A B C D E F G A B C
3 C C1 C3 C4 G G1 G3 G4 D D1 D2 D4 A A1 A2

Scale with a long tonic (long Cs):-

♩ = 44

C major arpeggio (2 octaves)

C E G C E G C G E C G E C
 C C3 G G4 D1 D4 A2 D4 D1 G4 G C3 C

A natural minor (1 octave)

Up until now, we have been looking at the major scales. These have the same pattern of tones and semitones (fingers that are far apart and fingers that are close together) and this creates a “happy-sounding” major scale.

Minor scales have a different pattern of tones and semitones, creating a “sad” sound. Have a play and listen – can you hear the sad sound?

Look out for the F natural – 2nd finger on the D string.

Scale in even notes:-

♩ = 44

A B C D E F G A
 G1 G3 G4 D D1 D2 D4 A

Scale with long tonic (long A's):-

♩ = 44

A minor arpeggio (1 octave)

♩ = 44

A musical staff in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are G1, C4, E4, A4, E4, C4, and G1. The notes are connected by a thick line, indicating they are part of a single arpeggiated chord. The notes are placed on the following lines of the staff: G1 on the first line, C4 on the second line, E4 on the third line, A4 on the fourth line, E4 on the third line, C4 on the second line, and G1 on the first line. The staff ends with a double bar line.

A	C	E	A	E	C	A
G1	G4	D1	A	D1	G4	G1