

C. SIMPLE AND COMPOUND METRES

1. The upper figure in a compound time signature can be either 6, 9 or 12. So any time signature in which the upper figure is 6, 9 or 12 is compound time (with dotted note beats.) All other time signatures are simple time (in which the beat is not a dotted note). So 5/4 is simple time, while 6/4 is compound time:

In 5/4 the beats are crotchets, and each beat can be divided into two quavers.

In 6/4 the beats are dotted minims, and each beat can be divided into three crotchets.

2. Indicate whether each of these time signatures is *simple* or *compound* time:

12/8 3/16 9/2 7/4 10/8

3. The word *metre* is used to describe the number of beats in a bar:

Time signatures in which there are two beats to a bar are said to be in *duple* metre.

Time signatures in which there are three beats to a bar are said to be in *triple* metre.

Time signatures in which there are four beats to a bar are said to be in *quadruple* metre.

Time signatures in which there are five beats to a bar are said to be in *quintuple* metre.

4. In simple time, metre is shown as follows:

Duple time signatures have upper figure 2 (2/2, 2/4, 2/8, 2/16).

Triple time signatures have upper figure 3 (3/2, 3/4, 3/8, 3/16).

Quadruple time signatures have upper figure 4 (4/2, 4/4, 4/8, 4/16).

Quintuple time signatures have upper figure 5 (5/2, 5/4, 5/8, 5/16).

5. Indicate whether each of these simple time signatures is *duple*, *triple*, *quadruple* or *quintuple* metre:

4/8 2/16 3/2 4/4 5/4

6. In compound time, quintuple metre is not used. Metre is shown as follows:

Duple time signatures have upper figure 6 (6/2, 6/4, 6/8, 6/16).

Triple time signatures have upper figure 9 (9/2, 9/4, 9/8, 9/16).

Quadruple time signatures have upper figure 12 (12/2, 12/4, 12/8, 12/16).

7. Indicate whether each of these compound time signatures is *duple*, *triple* or *quadruple* metre:

6/8 9/16 6/4 12/2 9/8

8. All metres can be described as either simple or compound *and* duple, triple or quadruple:

A simple time signature with 2 beats to a bar (2/2, 2/4, 2/8, 2/16) is in *simple duple metre*.

A compound time signature with 2 beats to a bar (6/2, 6/4, 6/8, 6/16) is in *compound duple metre*.

A simple time signature with 3 beats to a bar (3/2, 3/4, 3/8, 3/16) is in *simple triple metre*.

9. What would be the metre of a time signature with 5 crotchet beats to a bar?

10. A compound time signature with 3 beats to a bar (9/2, 9/4, 9/8, 9/16) is in *compound triple metre*.

What would be the metre of a time signature with 4 dotted minim beats to a bar?

11. Here is a list of time signatures in which the beats can be divided into quavers. (The beats, then, are crotchets or dotted crotchets.) Fill in the missing time signatures.

	<i>Duple</i>	<i>Triple</i>	<i>Quadruple</i>
Simple	2/4		
Compound		9/8	

12. Describe the metre of these time signatures (e.g. *compound triple*, *simple quintuple*):

9/8 5/4 12/16
 4/2 6/16 5/8